



2012 Legislative Agenda



Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women Official Sign On Form

AGENDA

The following initiatives were selected by the MLAW membership and Board of Directors to be the Official MLAW Agenda for 2012. Summaries of each bill are on the next page:

- Sex Crimes—Fondling During a Burglary
- Healthy Maryland Initiative
- Health Benefits Exchange Act of 2012
- Put Harriet Tubman in Statuary Hall
- First Degree Assault—Strangulation
- Housing: Source of Income

SIGN ON TO SUPPORT THE AGENDA!

We need you to support the Agenda! Supporting the Agenda is free and your name and/or your organization's name adds clout to our strong coalition. Also, there is no charge to sign on as a supporter! Simply complete the bottom portion and return this form to MLAW by January 16, 2012. Please list your name or your organization's name EXACTLY as you would like it to appear in printed materials and on our website. Only the name will appear in the printed materials, not contact information. Submit a separate form for EACH individual or group signing on. Copy this form and use as many as you need—distribute to your colleagues, membership, friends — anyone who supports MLAW! You may also sign on if you or your organization only support some issues on the Agenda. A disclaimer to this effect will appear in the final printed version of the Agenda.

YOUR INFORMATION

Supporter's Name (Individual or Group) _____

Contact Person (for Organizations) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

SUBMIT ONE FORM FOR EACH GROUP OR PERSON SIGNING ON.

By Fax: 410-321-0462

By mail: MLAW, 305 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 201, Towson, MD 21204

Email: Email the requested information to admin@mdlegagenda4women.org

All sign-ons must be received NO LATER than JANUARY 16, 2011.

We cannot guarantee that your name will be published if received after this date.

MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR WOMEN SYNOPSIS OF LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

SEX CRIMES—FONDLING DURING A BURGLARY

Most sex crimes in Maryland are treated with additional seriousness when committed in conjunction with a burglary in the first, second, or third degree. Sex crimes involving touching of genitals or breasts during a burglary are not. This bill would recategorize 4th degree sex offenses committed during a burglary as 3d degree offenses, thereby fixing a loophole in Maryland sex crimes law.

HEALTHY MARYLAND INITIATIVE

A proposal to increase Maryland's cigarette tax by one dollar per pack and also raise the tax on other tobacco products such as cigars and smokeless tobacco. This would build on past success and continue to save lives by reducing tobacco use, particularly among young people. The proposal would also raise tens of millions of new dollars to be used for critical health care and public health needs that will help many thousands of uninsured women, men and children.

HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE ACT OF 2012

Legislation passed in 2011 to establish the fundamentals of a key building block of health care reform - the Health Benefit Exchange. In 2012, a second round of legislation is required to put in place additional elements to ensure Marylanders gain access to affordable, comprehensive and high-quality health care.

PUT HARRIET TUBMAN IN STATUARY HALL

This legislation authorizes replacement of Maryland's statue of John Hanson in the U.S. Capitol (each state has 2 statues) with a statue of Harriet Tubman, an icon in United States history. This would be the 10th statue of a woman and the first of an enslaved person in the collection.

FIRST DEGREE ASSAULT—STRANGULATION

This bill seeks an amendment to the first degree assault statute by adding the term strangulation as a specific prohibited act. Research indicates that strangulation is especially dangerous to victims of domestic violence and is frequently a precursor to homicide of domestic violence victims.

HOUSING: SOURCE OF INCOME DISCRIMINATION

The bill would amend Maryland's Fair Housing law to include source of income as a protected class. Source of income, as defined in the bill, includes child support, alimony, pension benefits, and housing vouchers, each of which disproportionately affects women.