

Legislative Highlights

I continue to focus my legislative and leadership efforts to help working families, improve education, and create jobs. Here are some highlights:

★ **CHILD CARE:** H.R. 1492, the Child Care Access and Refundability Expansion (Child CARE) Act – My bill would help families with the ever-increasing cost of child and dependent care. In Maryland and across the country, working families are struggling to cope with child care expenses that are one of the biggest financial burdens they face, exceeding costs for housing, transportation, and food. Access to affordable, safe, and high-quality child care is a necessity.

★ **EDUCATION:** H.R. 2371, the Broadening Opportunities Through Education Act and H.R. 2521, the REAL Act – I introduced these bills as a comprehensive education package that aims to reduce significantly high school dropouts and also restores college Pell Grant eligibility to prisoners to help with reentry and to reduce recidivism.



Rep. Edwards visits the Freetown Head Start in Pasadena, Maryland, to learn about its early childhood learning programs.

★ **NASA:** As Ranking Member of the Space Subcommittee, I worked in partnership with Subcommittee Chairman Stephen Palazzo (MS-4) on the bipartisan NASA Authorization Act of 2015, H.R. 810, which passed the House by voice vote.

★ **MONEY OUT OF POLITICS:** As Chair of the Democracy for All Task Force and the first Member to introduce a constitutional amendment after the Citizens United decision, my House colleagues and I worked closely with Senator Tom Udall (NM) in developing and introducing H.J. Res. 22, the Democracy for All Amendment, to get money out of politics.

★ **POLICY PRIORITIES:** I was chosen by Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (CA-12) to replace former Rep. George Miller as Co-Chair of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee for the Democratic Caucus. We held a panel discussion on domestic violence and guns, and have several other panels and policy ideas under development.

WWW.DONNAEDWARDS.HOUSE.GOV

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Mark Your Calendar

Below are several events still coming up in 2015. Please visit www.donnaedwards.house.gov or call 301-516-7601 for the most up-to-date information or if you have any questions.

October 10

College & Career Fair & Forum

Annapolis High School
2700 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD

November 7

Coffee Conversation

American Legion Post 275
8201 Martin Luther King Jr Highway
Glen Arden, MD

November 6

Veterans History Project Reception

Joint Base Andrews
The Courses at Andrews
4442 W. Perimeter Road
Andrews AFB, MD

2014/2015 Casework Summary

	2014	2015*
Total constituent requests for assistance	762	396
Total Cases Closed	974	401
\$ Recovered or Saved	\$2,408,867	\$1,426,298

*As of August 21, 2015

This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.

Look for Congresswoman Edwards on YouTube, Facebook, & Twitter!



@repdonnaedwards



facebook.com/Congresswoman-Donna-F-Edwards



youtube.com/user/RepDonnaEdwards



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A legislative update from the office of Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards

for Maryland's 4th Congressional District



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877 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd.
Ritchie Court Office Bldg.
Suite 101
Severna Park, MD 21146
410-421-8061 *main*
301-516-7608 *fax*

Rep. Edwards with National Honor Society inductees at Central High School, Capitol Heights, Maryland, where she discussed the importance of affordable education.

Constituent Success Stories

My office is here to assist you with a variety of federally related constituent services. Please visit my website for a full list of federal issues. While each case is different and I cannot guarantee a positive outcome, here are some of the success stories constituents have shared.

Immigration

I was diagnosed with a form of Leukemia and would need a bone marrow transplant. Doctors said my sister, Grace, who is a citizen of Cameroon, would be a good match. After her visitor visa was denied, I reached out to Congresswoman Edwards' office for assistance. They helped me apply for humanitarian parole for my sister to come to the United States and worked with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to clarify my situation after the U.S. embassy in Cameroon thought the documents were fakes. Thankfully, Grace was allowed to come to the United States and I want to show my appreciation and thanks to you and the entire staff.

— *Mercy Nkesi, Hyattsville*



Mary Heitger-Marek's mother.

Veterans Benefits

My father was a wartime veteran, and after he passed away, my mother's income decreased by 80 percent. Even after moving in with us, her income didn't cover her medications, medical supplies, and basic living expenses. I filed a claim with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in November, only to be told by the VA in January that they never received the claim. I contacted Congresswoman Edwards' office, and they helped me prepare a congressional inquiry to the VA. Within a few weeks, my mother received all of my father's VA benefits that she was entitled to, including back-pay benefits. This money allowed us to handicap fit our house and for her to pay for her much-needed medications, supplies, and basic living expenses. During this time of grief, it was a relief to be able to reach out to my congresswoman and receive a much-needed helping hand. My family will forever be grateful to Congresswoman Edwards and her staff for their diligence and attention to our situation.

— *Mary Heitger-Marek, Annapolis*

Federal Employees

Earlier this year, I left employment at a federal agency with plans to return to a previous employer. This company provides contractor support for the federal agency I left, and my top secret security clearance was an essential requirement for this career move. The federal agency would not transfer my clearance, nor would they explain their reasoning for their refusal. As a result, I faced the very real scenario of losing my home due to loss of income. The help that Congresswoman Edwards' office provided not only helped me get back to work, but it prevented me from losing my home and becoming homeless.

— *Tom Schillo, Odenton*

Donna's Community Events

Hosted IRS Briefing on ACA

Small business owners attended "Understanding IRS Filing Requirements under the Affordable Care Act," where IRS representatives shared information about how the ACA's tax provisions affect individuals, families, businesses, insurers, tax-exempt organizations, and government entities.

6th Annual STEM Forum

My 6th Annual STEM Forum on Capitol Hill featured NASA Administrator Charles F. Bolden, Jr. as the keynote speaker before 150 area middle and high school students, educators, and STEM enthusiasts. Representatives from government agencies, industries, and nonprofits offered strategies to help young people enter and stay in the STEM fields.

Childcare Roundtable

I organized a roundtable with parents, child care providers, and other caregivers to hear their experiences firsthand and discuss the urgent need for affordable, quality child care. We discussed my Child Care Access and Refundability Expansion Act, which would make child care more affordable to meet one of the largest financial burdens facing families.

Returning Citizens Roundtable

On July 7, I brought together stakeholders at the federal, state, and local levels to discuss efforts to raise awareness and initiatives to address issues related to employing formerly incarcerated persons.

Rep. Edwards with a student at a Bowie State University Summer Camp highlighting the importance of STEM education.

VETS Count: Day of Service

My 2nd Annual VETS COUNT Day of Service helped veterans meet with and get their questions answered by a variety of experts, discuss their claims and appeals, register for eBenefits, and open new claims with the veteran representatives. Over 15 employers from the government and private sector were also on hand to do on-the-spot interviews for potential jobs.

Nonprofit Forum

Over 200 people attended my 6th Annual Nonprofit Forum this year at Severna Park High School. Attendees heard from nonprofit, government, foundation, and corporate leaders with diverse perspectives, experiences, and backgrounds to develop winning strategies to strengthen lives and communities.

Women-Owned Small Business Forum

Over 180 women attended this year's forum at First Baptist Church of Glenarden. Experts shared strategies on how to access government and corporate contracts, win traditional bank loans and alternative funding, and sell goods and services to the federal government. The entrepreneurs left with actionable items and new contacts to help grow their businesses.



Helpful Resources

HOUSING

Federal Agencies:

Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Fannie Mae)
www.fanniemae.com
1-800-732-6643

Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac)
www.freddiemac.com
1-800-373-3343

Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
www.hud.gov
1-800-569-4287

VETERANS SERVICES

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
www.va.gov
1-800-827-1000

VA Beneficiary Pension Benefits
1-877-294-6380

Veterans Benefits Administration Education (GI Bill)
1-888-442-4551

Veterans Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255

IMMIGRATION SERVICES

United States Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS)
1-800-375-5283
www.uscis.gov

SENIOR SERVICES

Federal Agencies:

Social Security Administration Hotline
1-800-772-1213

National Elder Abuse Hotline
1-800-677-1116

HCFA, Medicare Hotline
1-800-633-4227

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

MD Dept. of Energy Assistance
1-800-352-1446

MD Public Service Commission
410-767-8000

Dept. of Social Services (Prince George's) 301-209-5000
(Anne Arundel) 410-269-4500

Dept. of Family Services (Prince George's) 301-265-8401
(Anne Arundel) 410-222-6785

Social Security Office (Prince George's) 1-800-772-1213
(Anne Arundel) 1-888-840-0684

Individuals w/ Disabilities
410-767-3660

Health Departments (Prince George's) 301-883-7879
(Anne Arundel) 410-222-7095

Domestic Violence (Prince George's) 301-265-8423
(Anne Arundel) 410-757-8300

Internship Highlight

"This summer I had the opportunity to intern in Congresswoman Edwards' Anne Arundel district office, and it was an amazing experience! I took constituent calls, wrote congressional inquiries, attended briefings, and got to go to Capitol Hill. I learned more about Congress than I thought possible and found my calling in public service."

— *Alex McGrath*