



MID SESSION REPORT 2018

Dear Friend,

We are almost at the half-way mark of the 2018 Session and I thought I would share with you some of my bills that are currently working their way through the legislative process.

First and foremost, I am the **Senate sponsor** of the **Maryland Metro Funding Act**. One of the most important bills being introduced in the General Assembly this year in terms of economic investment, **Senate Bill 277** establishes a bondable, dedicated funding source to provide the much needed capital investment for our struggling fifty year old D.C. Metro system, currently the only transit system of its size in the Nation that does not have a dedicated funding stream. The result has been a poor bond rating, major service delays, line closures and derailments. An added level of complexity in the negotiations is that Virginia and D.C. must also pass similar legislation that mirrors Maryland's financial commitment. The public hearing for the bill was held last Wednesday and you can watch the hearing [here](#). To accompany the Metro Funding Act, I have also introduced two Metro reform bills that will strengthen the system's governance structure and oversight. A reliable Metro system is a necessity for the economic stability and growth of our region. I will do everything in my power to work with the Governor and my counterparts in Virginia and D.C. to get this bill passed.

This Wednesday, the Finance Committee, of which I am a member, will hold a public hearing on **Senate Bill 1011 - Protect Maryland Health Care Act of 2018**. I am the **lead sponsor** and look forward to explaining why this innovative response to recent action in the U.S. Congress to weaken the Affordable Care Act is critically important to stabilizing Maryland's fragile individual insurance market and getting recent premium increases under control. The bill seeks to incentivize Marylanders, particularly young healthy people, to purchase health insurance and stay in the insurance pool, thus lessening cost spikes for all Marylanders. If you wish to follow the progress of the bill as it moves through the legislative process, you can visit the Maryland General Assembly website [here](#).

As the **lead sponsor** in the Senate of the **Rape Survivor Family Protection Act**, I am pleased to announce that Governor Hogan signed this bill into law last week. The bill allows a rape victim who is impregnated as a result of a rape to petition the court to terminate the parental rights of the rapist. The bill passed unanimously in the House and the Senate after multiple years of failed attempts. My understanding is that one young rape survivor is already taking advantage of this new law.

I will continue to send you periodic updates on other bills that I sponsor this Session as they move through the General Assembly. As always, I value your input and if you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at Brian.Feldman@senate.state.md.us or call me in Annapolis as [301-858-3169](tel:301-858-3169). You can also follow me on  and .

Sincerely,