

JHEANELLE WILKINS
Legislative District 20
Montgomery County

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Ways and Means Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 350
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3493 · 301-858-3493
800-492-7122 Ext. 3493
Fax 410-841-3445 · 301-858-3445
Jheanelle.Wilkins@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

April 29, 2020

Dear Governor Hogan:

Thank you for your leadership during these difficult times and the proactive actions you have taken to save countless lives.

As you know, the global pandemic has strained household budgets and driven many of our neighbors toward financial ruin. Nearly 300,000 Marylanders have filed for unemployment insurance, and many more are struggling to pay their bills. The coronavirus will continue to unleash economic hardship on millions of Marylanders for months and years to come. Bold action is necessary to mitigate this financial devastation.

We therefore urge you to implement aggressive housing relief measures, such as cancelling rent and mortgage payments for businesses and residents affected by COVID-19. We applaud your implementation of eviction and foreclosure moratoria, but this is not enough to protect Maryland residents. Even after life starts to return to normal, many Marylanders will not be able to pay the rent or mortgage payments owed or accumulated during the crisis. You must act now to prevent a wave of evictions and foreclosures.

Residents should not have to shoulder the financial burden alone, and your actions can help reduce the compounding effect of this crisis. In addition to rent and mortgage cancellation, we urge you to take executive action to require renewal of expiring leases, prohibit rent increases and late fees, and require that landlords negotiate reasonable, long-term payment plans. Finally, the undersigned urge the creation of a robust housing relief fund for renters and homeowners alike.

The enormous financial burden of paying for housing costs should not be disproportionately borne by residents – renters and homeowners – least capable of sustaining the housing market and going up against the powerful entities lobbying the federal government for relief.

Thank you again for your aggressive suite of executive orders. Marylanders are now counting on bold action to keep them afloat.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Wilkins', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins, District 20

Delegate Gabriel Acevero, District 39

Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, District 13

Delegate Heather Bagnall, District 33

Delegate Darryl Barnes, District 25

Delegate Erek Barron, District 24

Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, District 32

Delegate Lisa Belcastro, District 11

Delegate Harry Bhandari, District 8

Delegate Regina T. Boyce, District 43

Delegate Tony Bridges, District 41

Delegate Lorig Charkoudian, District 20

Delegate Nick Charles, District 25

Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield, District 19

Delegate Bonnie Cullison, District 19

Delegate Debra Davis, District 28

Delegate Eric Ebersole, District 12

Delegate Jessica Feldmark, District 12

Delegate Diana Fennell, District 47A

Delegate Wanika Fisher, District 47B

Delegate Andrea Fletcher Harrison, District 24

Delegate Shaneka Henson, District 30

Delegate Terri Hill, District 12

Delegate Julian Ivey, District 47A

Delegate Carl Jackson, District 8

Delegate Michael Jackson, District 27B

Delegate Dr. Jay Jalisi, District 10

Delegate Mary Lehman, District 21

Delegate Robbyn Lewis, District 46

Delegate Brooke Lierman, District 46

Delegate Lesley Lopez, District 39

Delegate David Moon, District 20

Delegate Nick Mosby, District 40

Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr, District 17

Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnk, District 21

Delegate Kirill Reznik, District 39

Delegate Mike Rogers, District 32

Delegate Sheila Ruth, District 44B

Delegate Emily Shetty, District 18

Delegate Stephanie M. Smith, District 45

Delegate Jared Solomon, District 18

Delegate Vaughn Stewart, District 19

Delegate Jen Terrasa, District 13

Delegate Veronica Turner, District 26

Delegate Alonzo T. Washington, District 22

Delegate Melissa R. Wells, District 40

Delegate Nicole Williams, District 22

Delegate Karen Lewis Young, District 3A