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WDC Weekly Update – Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Events, Advocacy, Community Events

President's Message

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- [Tom Perez, former DNC Chair: Voting Rights in America: Sustaining Democracy in Challenging Times](#)
- [WDC Committee Reports](#)
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Save the Dates

- April 29 with Fiona Hill
- May 31 with Rep. John Sarbanes

WDC Committee Updates

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HELP WANTED!

WDC is looking for a technology-savvy Communications Advocacy Co-Chair to lead an effort to communicate our advocacy activities to members and non-members via our website and social platforms. This will include developing online forms and routine updates.

Contact JoAnne Koravos, Advocacy Chair, joanne.koravos@gmail.com



From the President

Greetings WDC Community--

Finally! Spring is here, the state legislative session is winding down, our new President is delivering real relief to families across the US, and WDC is continuing to inform and engage our community. WDC works for equity where women and their families live and work. That means racial, social, and economic equity. These values determine the issues and legislation we focus on, before our State legislature and County Council. This session our Senators and Delegates faced scores of bills on the health and well-being of families and children in Maryland and Montgomery County, and on racial and social equity. WDC has supported bills in each one of our [2021 advocacy priority areas](#).

This week I want to focus on Maryland's efforts in criminal justice, public safety, and police reform. The General Assembly is close to passing several landmark bills that will elevate the State of Maryland from close to last place to a national model for criminal justice and police reform. They include:

SB494/HB409- **The Juvenile Restoration Act** is WDC's highest-priority criminal justice reform bill. This bill abolishes juvenile life without parole sentences in Maryland and permits individuals incarcerated as juveniles to seek a "second-look" resentencing hearing after serving 20 years. The bill passed the Senate under the floor leadership of Judicial Proceedings Chair and D20 Senator Will Smith. On the floor, Smith masterfully fought off 10 weakening amendments proposed by the Republican opposition, and the bill passed on Third Reader on March 18. It now goes to the House Judiciary Committee for consideration. Also on March 18, WDC hosted a powerful panel specifically on the need for this bill. It was a riveting, moving program and is on WDC's [YouTube channel](#).

SB202/HB3 - **Correctional Services - Parole - Life Imprisonment** removes the Governor from the parole process for those with life sentences. Maryland is one of just three states that still allow the governor the final word in parole for lifers, and it is past time to end this politicized misuse of parole power. HB3 has passed the House and SB202 has passed the Senate. Now the bills will go to the conference committee to reconcile differences between the House and Senate versions. Fingers crossed!

HB670 - **Police Reform and Accountability Act of 2021** is a groundbreaking omnibus bill introduced by House Speaker Adrienne Jones for comprehensive police reform. That bill has passed the House, and the Senate passed a package of bills, **Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021**, which were sent en masse to the House for consideration. Time will tell what a final reform bill will look like!

Finally, I am glad to report that the repeal of our Confederate-era state song *Maryland, My Maryland* passed the House (HB0667), unanimously passed the Senate (SB0008), and hopefully will soon be signed by the Governor. Dedicated WDC members spent years advocating for this change. Congratulations to all who worked on this issue!

WDC continues to track and actively support many other relevant bills. If you are a member and want to sign up for our popular Advocacy Alerts please contact Advocacy Chair [JoAnne Koravos](#). If you aren't a member please join us! Become part of our community of informed, engaged, and effective members: [click here](#)!

Stay engaged --and stay masked!
Diana Conway
WDC President



Tom Perez
Thursday, April 15, 1 pm
*Voting Rights in America: Sustaining
Democracy in Challenging Times*

<http://bit.ly/wdc-april-15>
[www. WomensDemocraticClub.org](http://www.WomensDemocraticClub.org)

Voting Rights in America: Sustaining Democracy in Challenging Times

When: Thursday, April 15, 1-2 pm with Tom Perez, former DNC Chair.

RSVP, [click here.](#)

[Register Here](#)



Save the Dates for These WDC Events!

- April 29, 1 pm, with Fiona Hill, "Threats to American Democracy -- Internal and International."
- May 31, with Rep. John Sarbanes, "For The People Act: Voter Suppression, Dark Money and the Filibuster"

WDC Committee Reports



The WDC Advocacy Committee recently released an [Advocacy Alert](#) calling on close to 400 members of the advocacy alert team to reach out to the House members who worked so tirelessly to pass the **Police Reform and Accountability Act of 2021**. If you are a member of WDC consider doing the same. If you aren't a member of WDC please [join](#) the organization and sign up for our Advocacy Alerts!

[View the Advocacy Alert](#)

Advocacy Update!

We are working for you! WDC has been very active advocating for issues impacting women and their families. Members of the WDC Advocacy Committee are identifying and researching legislation that is aligned with the [Club's stated advocacy priorities for 2021](#).

To date WDC has submitted written or oral testimony on the following [bills](#) being considered by the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis. Stay tuned for more updates as the 2021 Session progresses. Members can sign up for timely Advocacy Alerts delivered directly to your inbox with calls-to-action to contact your lawmakers on important legislation. Become a member and sign up to receive WDC Advocacy Alerts!

Contact [JoAnne Koravos](#), Advocacy Chair, to learn more.

To read about a specific bill, enter the Bill Number (e.g., HB0123) [here](#).

WDC has submitted written and/or oral testimony for the following bills. [Click here](#) for details.

Women's History Month

Advocate for a Marshall Plan for Working Women!!

...nevertheless she persisted

By Ginger Macomber, WDC Advocacy Committee

As a member of the Women's Democratic Club you can celebrate Women's History month by advocating for policies that support Working Women—especially mothers. Here's how.

It is no secret that women have been the hardest hit by the COVID 19 pandemic. During the pandemic, women have disproportionately been responsible for keeping their families safe, while juggling work schedules, fulltime childcare, and home schooling. Many women have reached their breaking point. Since the pandemic started, more than 2 million women have dropped out of the labor force - a rate four times that of men. Many more have cut back on their work hours. By some estimates, women's labor force participation is now no better than it was twenty years ago. When women earn less, a family's standard of living declines, family savings disappear, and a women's future retirement income drops.

We need policies that support working women and their families like other industrialized countries. We also need policies that will help women re-enter the workforce after this pandemic ends - policies like paid family leave, affordable childcare, and pay equity - all long standing priorities of our Women's Democratic Club.

Below are three actions you can take right now! Let's all honor the women who came before us and fought so hard for our rights, by fighting for women's economic rights today.

1. In January, fifty prominent women signed an open letter to President Biden calling for a **Marshall Plan for Moms**. Many prominent men joined them. Some of the plan's elements are included in President Biden's COVID relief bill, but longer-term solutions are needed. You can read about this call for a Marshall Plan and **sign the Marshall Plan for Moms petition** [here](#).

2. Congresswoman Grace Meng (NY) has introduced [H.Res. 121](#) and Senators Amy Klobucher (MN) and Tammy Duckworth (IL) have introduced [S.Res. 87](#) **Marshall Plan for Moms**. These Resolutions call on the United States to implement a Marshall Plan for Moms to revitalize and restore mothers to the workforce, that includes passing legislation that establishes paid family leave, rebuilds the childcare industry, ends child poverty and hunger, invests in quality education, increases the minimum wage to \$15/hour, and provides access to mental health support for mothers. None of our Montgomery County Congressmen or Senators have co-sponsored these Resolutions.

Email Senator Van Hollen and thank him for his support:

- Senator Chris Van Hollen: <https://www.vanhollen.senate.gov/contact/email>

Email Senator Cardin and ask him to add his name as a co-sponsor of S.Res. 87 Marshall Plan for Moms.

- Senator Ben Cardin: <https://www.cardin.senate.gov/contact/>

- Congressman David Trone: <https://trone.house.gov/contact>
- Congressman Jamie Raskin: <https://raskin.house.gov/contact/email>
- Congressman John Sarbanes: <https://sarbanes.house.gov/contact>

3. At the State level, an important bill - the **Time to Care Act** -- ([HB0375](#) and [SB0211](#)) -- is being considered by the applicable House and Senate Committees. The Time to Care Act will establish an insurance fund pool to provide up to twelve weeks of paid leave to an individual who is taking leave to care for a newborn or newly adopted child, a family member with a serious health condition, themselves if they have a serious health condition, or a military service member who is next-of-kin or has a specified need because of the military deployment of a family member. WDC has already submitted testimony, but it **is not too late to make your voice heard and urge a favorable vote for the Time to Care Act bills**. For Committee contact information, [click here](#).

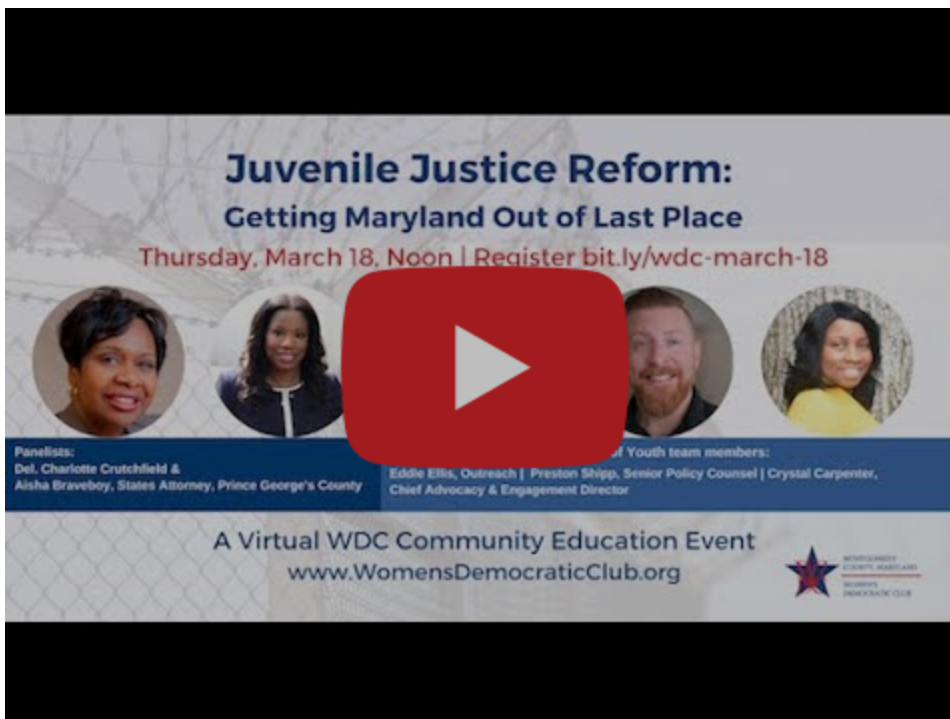
WDC [Advocacy Alert](#) HB0375 & WDC [Advocacy Alert](#) SB0211



A WDC Community Education Event

Juvenile Justice Reform: Getting Maryland Out of Last Place

[View on YouTube](#)



Community Events



Montgomery County Democratic Party

Events Calendar, [click here](#).

MCNOW Celebrates Women's History Month

Wednesday, March 24, 5:30-7:00 pm, MCNOW "Favorite Woman in History" Happy Hour

Questions or RSVP to info@mcmdnow.org

Facebook event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/544729689807138>

Please join us for a District 20 Crossover Update

Thursday
March 25th, 2021
6:30 - 8:00pm



(Left to Right)

Senator William Smith -- Delegate Lorig Charkoudian -- Delegate David Moon -- Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins

RSVP: bit.ly/D20Crossover

District 20 Crossover Update

March 25, 6:30-8:30 pm

RSVP: <https://bit.ly/D20Crossover>

Marylanders Rise Up for ERA

Monday, March 29, 7-8:30 pm

Free virtual event

Maryland leaders who are representative of organizations and communities across the state

host **Marylanders Rise Up for ERA, A Call to Action to Make Equal Rights Happen NOW!**

Register now at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/marylanders-rise-up-for-era-tickets-143777503383>

Bethesda-Cherry Chase Democratic Breakfast Club

Guest speaker will be Dr. Raymond Crowel, Director of Montgomery County's Department of Health and Human Services, lead agency for the County's response to Covid-19

Monday, April 5, 7:30 am, informally opening at 7:15

To register, contact BCCDBC Chairman John Keller at keller.john@gmail.com

The MoCo Public Libraries will recognize Women's History Month throughout the month of March. A series of seven speaker-events will examine women's history, slavery, voting rights, the Equal Rights Amendment, employment, and more. For information on individual events, [click here](#) and type "women's history" into the "search box."

**Democratic Club of Leisure World**

April 8, 6:30 pm -- Rep. John Sarbanes, author of [HR1/S1 "For the People Act,"](#) to broaden voter access, clean up campaign finance, create strong ethics reforms and more.

May 13, 6:30 pm -- Annual "Report from Annapolis" with our D19 State Senator and Delegates

For information, please contact Jane Corona jane.e.carona@gmail.com.

**Event Calendars**

[WDC](#) • [Community](#) • [WNDC](#) • [MCDCC](#) • [MDDEMS](#)

Community

[MoCo Covid-19 Information Portal](#)

[Where to Volunteer In Response to COVID-19](#)

Find Our Past Speakers on YouTube! [Click here.](#)

[Join Our Members Only Facebook Group](#)

[Questions? Email WDC@womensdemocraticclub.org](#)



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WDC has gone **GREEN** by using electronic communications.

Please continue to receive WDC event notices and news and do not unsubscribe.

Replies to this update will be sent to

wdc@womensdemocraticclub.org

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