

Monday, July 28, 2008

EMBARGOED UNTIL:
Monday, July 28, 2008, 10 a.m.

Progressive Md. Educ. Fund Releases 2008 Legislative Scorecard

Scorecard shows mixed results in General Assembly for Maryland's working families

Silver Spring, MD. The Progressive Maryland Education Fund (PMEF) released today its annual legislative scorecard rating numerically the performance of individual General Assembly legislators on issues of importance to Maryland working families during the 2007 special legislative session and the 2008 regular session.

The scorecard, its methodology, and an explanation of the votes it scores are available at www.Pmef.org.

The scorecard tracks votes (and avoidance thereof) as well as effort on nine key bills affecting working families considered by the General Assembly over the past 12 months. The most important bills included the historic progressive income tax overhaul as well as the health care coverage expansion accomplished during the November 2007 special session; and voluntary, public funding of campaigns, which the Senate killed during the 2008 regular session.

“Overall, the 2007 special legislative session saw some major advances for working families in terms of income tax fairness and expansion of access to health care,” said Sean Dobson, PMEF’s Executive Director. “Unfortunately the regular session that followed shortly thereafter was a disappointment. Gov. O’Malley pushed bills helpful to working families, but our scorecard does not score the Governor, it only scores legislators. And sadly the Democrat-controlled General Assembly killed nearly every pro-worker bill not part of the Governor’s formal agenda.”

Bearing in mind that 100 is the best possible score a legislator can earn and 0 the worst, here are some of the notable patterns that emerged from data:

Overall average score: 66
House of Delegates average score: 68
Senate average score: 63

Democratic average score: 83
Republican average score: 24

Senate Democratic average: 80
House Democratic average: 84
Senate Republican average: 22
House Republican average: 23

PMEF designated as “**2008 Champions of Working Families**” the lawmakers with the five highest scores. The **champions in the Senate were:**

Title	Last Name	District	Party	Score	
Senator	Pinsky	22	D	97	(tied 1st)
Senator	Robey	13	D	97	(tied 1st)
Senator	Rosapepe	21	D	97	(tied 1st)
Senator	Frosh	16	D	96	(tied 2nd)
Senator	Jones	44	D	96	(tied 2nd)
Senator	Raskin	20	D	96	(tied 2nd)
Senator	Garagiola	15	D	94	(tied 3rd)
Senator	Madaleno	18	D	94	(tied 3rd)
Senator	Peters	23	D	94	(tied 3rd)
Senator	Pugh	40	D	94	(tied 3rd)
Senator	Gladden	41	D	93	(tied 4th)
Senator	Lennett	19	D	93	(tied 4th)
Senator	King	39	D	91	

And the **2008 Champions of Working Families in the House** were:

Title	Name	Dist	Party	Score	
Delegate	Hucker	20	D	99	
Delegate	Hixson	20	D	98	(tied 2nd)
Delegate	Manno	19	D	98	(tied 2nd)
Delegate	Lee	16	D	97	(tied 3rd)
Delegate	Turner	13	D	97	(tied 3rd)
Delegate	Olszewski	6	D	96	(tied 4th)
Delegate	Bobo	12B	D	96	(tied 4th)
Delegate	Braveboy	25	D	96	(tied 4th)
Delegate	Frush	21	D	96	(tied 4th)
Delegate	Kaiser	14	D	96	(tied 4th)
Delegate	McIntosh	43	D	96	(tied 4th)
Delegate	Mizeur	20	D	96	(tied 4th)
Delegate	Ramirez	47	D	96	(tied 4th)
Delegate	Ross	22	D	96	(tied 4th)
Delegate	Barve	17	D	95	(tied 5th)
Delegate	Clagett	30	D	95	(tied 5th)
Delegate	Conway	38B	D	95	(tied 5th)
Delegate	Glenn	45	D	95	(tied 5th)
Delegate	Gutierrez	18	D	95	(tied 5th)
Delegate	Holmes	23B	D	95	(tied 5th)
Delegate	Jones	10	D	95	(tied 5th)
Delegate	Waldstreicher	18	D	95	(tied 5th)
Delegate	Montgomery	14	D	95	(tied 5th)
Delegate	Niemann	47	D	95	(tied 5th)
Delegate	Taylor	14	D	95	(tied 5th)

PMEF singled out the five lowest-scorers in both chambers as “**2008 Champions of Wealthy Special Interests**” – i.e., the lawmakers who most consistently opposed an opportunity agenda for working families. **Senators** earning this dubious distinction were:

Title	Name	Dist	Party	Score	
Senator	Greenip	33	R	11	(tied 1st)
Senator	Simonaire	31	R	11	(tied 1st)
Senator	Harris	7	R	15	
Senator	Colburn	37	R	20	(tied 3rd)
Senator	DeGrange	32	D	20	(tied 3rd)
Senator	Haines	5	R	20	(tied 3rd)
Senator	Jacobs	34	R	20	(tied 3rd)
Senator	Mooney	3	R	20	(tied 3rd)
Senator	Brinkley	4	R	24	(tied 4th)
Senator	Kittleman	9	R	24	(tied 4th)
Senator	Edwards	1	R	29	(tied 5th)
Senator	Glassman	35	R	29	(tied 5th)
Senator	Munson	2	R	29	(tied 5th)
Senator	Stoltzfus	38	R	29	(tied 5th)

And in the House, the 2008 Champions of Wealthy Special Interests were

Title	Name	Dist	Party	Score	
Delegate	Boteler	8	R	3	(tied 1st)
Delegate	Dwyer	31	R	3	(tied 1st)
Delegate	Miller	9A	R	3	(tied 1st)
Delegate	O'Donnell	29C	R	3	(tied 1st)
Delegate	McConkey	33A	R	7	
Delegate	Aumann	42	R	11	(tied 3rd)
Delegate	Frank	42	R	11	(tied 3rd)
Delegate	Jennings	7	R	11	(tied 3rd)
Delegate	Krebs	9B	R	11	(tied 3rd)
Delegate	McComas	35B	R	11	(tied 3rd)
Delegate	Shewell	5A	R	11	(tied 3rd)
Delegate	Smigiel	36	R	11	(tied 3rd)
Delegate	Bates	9A	R	14	(tied 4th)
Delegate	Stocksdale	5A	R	14	(tied 4th)
Delegate	Impallaria	7	R	19	(tied 5th)
Delegate	Kach	5B	R	19	(tied 5th)

“In sum, legislators accomplished a lot for working families during the 2007 special session, but the 2008 regular session was disappointing,” said Elbridge James, a PMEF board member. “PMEF will be watching lawmakers closely in the 2009 session to see if they will do right by working families by passing legislation to raise wages, expand health care, improve public schools, and limit the undue clout of wealthy special interests.”

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