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EMBARGOED UNTIL:

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Progressive Md. Educ. Fund Releases 2009 Legislative Scorecard

General Assembly performs slightly better for working families in 2009 versus 2008

PMEF names best and worst lawmakers on working-family issues

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's working families during the 2009 legislative session.

The scorecard tracks votes (and avoidance thereof) as well as effort on nine key bills affecting working families considered by the General Assembly. The scorecard, its methodology, and an explanation of the votes it scores are available at www.Pmef.org.

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 this year's scorecard:

Overall average score: 67
Senate average score: 60
House of Delegates average score: 70

Democratic average score: 86
Republican average score: 16

Senate Democratic average: 80
House Democratic average: 88

Senate Republican average: 18
House Republican average: 16

“The General Assembly as a whole scored on average slightly higher this year (67) than last year (66), an increase driven by improvement among Democrats in the House of Delegates, who raised their average score from 84 last year to 88 this year,” explained PMEF’s Rion Dennis, who compiled this year’s scorecard. “The Senate Democratic average of 80 was identical to its average score last year. The overall Republican average score decreased noticeably, from 24 last year to 16 this year.”

PMEF designated as "**2009 Heroes of Working Families**" the lawmakers with a score of 95 or higher. “A score of 90 or higher means you are a true friend of working families,” explained Dennis. “But if you score 95 or higher, you are a hero – an exceptionally effective legislator who fights hard and skillfully each day for regular voters and against the special interests.”

The 2009 Heroes of Working Families in the Senate were:

Title	Name	District	Jurisdiction	Party	2009 Score
Senator	Jamin B. (Jamie) Raskin	20	Mont. Co.	D	98
Senator	David C. Harrington	47	Prince George's	D	97
Senator	Richard S. Madaleno, Jr.	18	Mont. Co.	D	96
Senator	Michael G. Lenett	19	Mont. Co.	D	96
Senator	George W. Della, Jr.	46	Balt. City	D	96
Senator	Norman R. Stone, Jr.	6	Balt. City	D	95
Senator	Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.	27	PG/Calvert	D	95

The 2009 Heroes of Working Families in the House of Delegates were:

Title	Name	District	Jurisdiction	Party	2009 Score
Delegate	Roger Manno	19	Mont. Co.	D	98
Delegate	Cheryl D. Glenn	45	Balt. City	D	98
Delegate	Sheila E. Hixson	20	Mont. Co.	D	97
Delegate	Tom Hucker	20	Mont. Co.	D	97
Delegate	Todd L. Schuler	8	Balt. Co.	D	96
Delegate	Adrienne A. Jones	10	Balt. Co.	D	96
Delegate	Jon S. Cardin	11	Balt. Co.	D	96
Delegate	Elizabeth Bobo	12B	Howard Co.	D	96
Delegate	Anne R. Kaiser	14	Mont. Co.	D	95
Delegate	Karen S. Montgomery	14	Mont. Co.	D	95
Delegate	C. William (Bill) Frick	16	Mont. Co.	D	95
Delegate	Susan C. Lee	16	Mont. Co.	D	95
Delegate	Heather R. Mizeur	20	Mont. Co.	D	95
Delegate	Tawanna P. Gaines	22	Prince George's	D	95
Delegate	Justin D. Ross	22	Prince George's	D	95
Delegate	Joanne C. Benson	24	Prince George's	D	95

Delegate	Veronica L. Turner	26	Prince George's	D	95
Delegate	Samuel I. Rosenberg	41	Balt. City	D	95
Delegate	Maggie McIntosh	43	Balt. City	D	95
Delegate	Jolene Ivey	47	Prince George's	D	95
Delegate	Victor R. Ramirez	47	Prince George's	D	95

Each year, PMEF singles out the five lawmakers in each chamber with the lowest scores as “**The Champions of Special Interests**” – i.e., the lawmakers who most consistently opposed an opportunity agenda for working families. Due to a high number of tie scores this year, PMEF is forced to give this dubious distinction to eight Senators and ten Delegates. **The 2009 Senate Champions of Special Interests were:**

Title	Name	District	Jurisdiction	Party	2009 Score
Senator	Alex X. Mooney	3	Fred. Co.	R	0
Senator	Larry E. Haines	5	Carroll/Balt. Co.	R	3 (tied 2nd lowest)
Senator	Andrew P. Harris	7	Balt./Harf. Cos.	R	3 (tied 2nd lowest)
Senator	Bryan W. Simonaire	31	Anne Arundel	R	3 (tied 2nd lowest)
Senator	Janet Greenip	33	Anne Arundel	R	3 (tied 2nd lowest)
Senator	Nancy Jacobs	34	Harf./Cecil Cos.	R	3 (tied 2nd lowest)
Senator	Richard F. Colburn	37	Eastern Shore	R	3 (tied 2nd lowest)
Senator	J. Lowell Stoltzfus	38	Eastern Shore	R	3 (tied 2nd lowest)

The 2009 House Champions of Special Interests were:

Title	Name	District	Jurisdiction	Party	2009 Score
Delegate	Richard K. Impallaria	7	Balt./Harf. Cos.	R	3 (tied for worst)
Delegate	J. B. Jennings	7	Balt./Harf. Cos.	R	3 (tied for worst)
Delegate	Joseph C. Boteler III	8	Balt. Co.	R	3 (tied for worst)
Delegate	Gail H. Bates	9A	Howard Co.	R	3 (tied for worst)
Delegate	Warren E. Miller	9A	Howard Co.	R	3 (tied for worst)
Delegate	Anthony J. O'Donnell	29C	Calv./St. Mary's	R	3 (tied for worst)
Delegate	Don Dwyer, Jr.	31	Anne Arundel	R	3 (tied for worst)
Delegate	Steven R. Schuh	31	Anne Arundel	R	3 (tied for worst)
Delegate	Adelaide C. Eckardt	37B	Eastern Shore	R	3 (tied for worst)
Delegate	Susan L. M. Aumann	42	Balt. Co.	R	3 (tied for worst)

“This scorecard is the best tool available to enable Maryland’s working families to tell which General Assembly legislators side with them and which side with special interests,” said PMEF’s Executive Director Sean Dobson. “Our door canvassers will distribute this scorecard to tens of thousands of Marylanders statewide; our organizers will distribute it to audiences at every community meeting they attend; we will feature it prominently on our website and those of our allies; and Progressive Maryland will e-blast it repeatedly to its listserve of 25,000 subscribers.”

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