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*The Senate of Maryland*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

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Dear Colleagues:

After much consultation with members of the Senate, it is with pride that I write to introduce the team that will lead our standing committees beginning in January 2019.

**Senator Nancy King** will serve as Chair of the Budget & Taxation Committee, and **Senator Bill Ferguson** will serve as Vice-Chair. Senator King serves as Chair of the Education, Business & Administration Subcommittee and as Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Youth and Families and the Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight. She is also a member of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education. She is widely recognized as one of the Senate's leading voices for women and children, and she is respected for her fairness, thoughtfulness, and balanced approach to policymaking. Senator Ferguson serves on the Education, Business & Administration Subcommittee and as Chair of the Executive Nominations Committee. During the debate on HB 1783 of 2018, he demonstrated an exceptional ability to debate a complex and controversial issue in a manner that showed respect to his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

**Senator Paul Pinsky** will serve as Chair of the Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee, and **Senator Shirley Nathan-Pulliam** will serve as Vice-Chair. Senator Pinsky serves as Vice-Chair of the Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee, and he is a member of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education and the Commission on Climate Change. He is one of Maryland's most outspoken advocates for protecting our environment and preserving our natural resources. While Senator Pinsky and I have had our policy disagreements over the years, I have always respected his intellect and work ethic – two traits which will serve him well as a committee chair. Senator Shirley Nathan-Pulliam had a long career in the House of Delegates before joining the Senate in 2015. An immigrant and a nurse, she is a champion for strengthening our healthcare delivery system and eliminating health disparities.

**Senator Delores Kelley** will serve as Chair of the Finance Committee, and **Senator Brian Feldman** will serve as Vice-Chair. Senator Kelley serves as Vice-Chair of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, Vice-Chair of the Executive Nominations Committee, and in a wide range of national and state leadership positions. A former professor and dean, she served on the Finance Committee for nearly two decades, and has a deep understanding of healthcare financing and delivery, insurance regulation, and other issues that come before the committee. Senator Kelley is a tireless advocate for Maryland's seniors. Senator Feldman serves as Chair of the Health Subcommittee and previously served as Chair of the Transportation Subcommittee. He distinguished himself as a regional leader in the push to stabilize and reform the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, working closely with business leaders and transportation advocates to pass an historic bill this year.

**Senator Bobby Zirkin** will continue to serve as Chair of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, and **Senator Will Smith** will serve as Vice-Chair. During his four years as Chair, Senator Zirkin has shown a deep commitment to setting politics aside and working across party lines in order to get policy right. He shepherded the landmark Justice Reinvestment Act through the Senate, and continues to keep us focused on public safety issues. Senator Smith, in addition to his service to the people of Maryland, serves in the U.S. Naval Reserve, where he has received the national defense service medal and the global war on terrorism service medal. He earned his B.A. and J.D. from the College of William and Mary and his M.A. from Johns Hopkins University. He is an intellectual powerhouse in the tradition of great Montgomery County Senators like Brian Frosh, Jamie Raskin and Chris Van Hollen.

Two thousand five hundred years ago, the philosopher Heraclitus of Ephesus observed that everything changes and nothing stands still. His observation resonates as we prepare for the 2019 Legislative Session. Seven of our eight chairs and vice-chairs are moving into new roles. They will bring new priorities and different styles to their work. One constant, though, is that we are all committed to doing the right thing for the state and our constituents, and our shared commitment to public service will guide all of the decisions we make in the upcoming term.

Our diversity is our strength. As the State has grown more diverse, I have worked to make room at the table for capable leaders regardless of their race, color, religious creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or age. I have done my best to promote hardworking public servants from all walks of life, and we can all be proud that this leadership team reflects the growing diversity of the Senate.

The leadership appointments announced in this email are the only ones we will make before the general election. With six to eight seats in play, we will not know enough about the composition of the chamber to determine the allocation of seats between the political parties, and whether there are additional vacancies on committees. Therefore, we will not announce subcommittee leadership or committee membership until after the general election.

Before I close, I want to recognize the outstanding members of leadership who will not be returning to the Senate in January. Chairmen Ed Kasemeyer, Joan Carter Conway, and Mac Middleton, Vice-Chairs Rich Madaleno and John Astle, and President Pro Tem Nathaniel McFadden served their districts and the State of Maryland with distinction. To many of us, they were more than colleagues – they were friends. We are grateful for their contributions and their sacrifices.

It is an honor to serve with you, and I look forward to working with this leadership team and each of you to make meaningful progress in 2019.

Yours Very Truly,



Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.

TVMM/rpa