

June 25th

For immediate release

Ocean City, Maryland

Delegate Geraldine Valentino-Smith (D-Prince George's) has received the Legislator of the Year award from the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association. This award recognizes the success of Delegate Valentino-Smith in successfully sponsoring several bills during the 2014 legislative session that enhance public safety and protect crime victims. This legislation includes:

HB957 – Impaired Driving – Repeat Offenders – Penalties increases the penalties for repeat offenders of certain drinking and drugged driving statutes.

HB352 – Peace Orders and Protective Orders – Penalties – Second or Subsequent Offenses enhances protection for victims of domestic violence by removing the distinction between the two types of orders for the purpose of penalizing repeat offenses.

HB286 – Criminal Law – Use of Handgun in Crime of Violence or Felony – Statute of Limitations helps get violent criminals off the street by increasing the time that prosecutors have bring charges for crimes involving the use of a handgun.

HB1245 – Crime Victim and Crime Victim's Representatives – Electronic Notification protects the rights of crime victims by authorizing the development of protocols for electronic notification of victims or their representatives under the new Maryland Electronic Courts (MDEC) system.

"I'm truly honored to receive this award," said Delegate Valentino-Smith. "I look forward to working with the State's Attorneys and other public safety advocates to continue to pass legislation that improves the lives of everyone in our state."

Steven Kroll, Executive Director of the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association, said "Geraldine Valentino-Smith has earned the right to be our Legislator of the Year. Without her work, our bills would not pass."