



# Howard County Council

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## COUNCILMEMBERS

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Jon Weinstein, Vice Chairperson  
District 1  
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District 3  
Mary Kay Sigaty  
District 4  
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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Council Chairperson Calvin Ball Receives 2015 Public Health Legislator of the Year Award

*Ellicott City, MD (March 1, 2016)* – Last night, Howard County Council Chairperson Calvin Ball was presented with the Michaeline R. Fedder Award for Public Health Legislator of 2015 by the Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA) at the Health Night in Annapolis reception.

This award is given annually to a local, state or national legislator who over the past year has shown consistent commitment to improving the public's health in Maryland. According to MdPHA, Dr. Ball did so by sponsoring, passing, and then securing a veto-override for CB-17, an act that makes healthier food and drink options more widely available on county property and in programs serving county youth. Initiatives like this reduce long term risks of heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes.

"We are thrilled to honor Dr. Ball with this year's MdPHA Fedder Legislator of the Year Award," said MdPHA Board Member Rebecca Rehr. "He has dedicated his time in public service to protecting public health and we are lucky to have leaders like him in Maryland."

Dr. Ball, who in 2006 became the youngest Council Member ever to be elected Chairperson, is now serving in his 4<sup>th</sup> term as Council Chairperson. He is a strong legislative leader and advocate for health and wellness initiatives. In 2008, Dr. Ball co-hosted Howard County's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Men's Health Fair, which promoted health and fitness awareness to the men of Maryland. Dr. Ball is also the former chair of the Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities, where he championed health equity.

"I am humbled to be the recipient of such a prestigious award," said Dr. Ball. "I will not back down when it comes to giving our children healthy choices."

In addition to being recognized for his work in overriding the veto for CB-17, Dr. Ball has a long line of legislative and leadership victories that have improved and lengthened the lives of Howard County citizens. He was influential in the passage of Howard County's Clean Indoor Air Act, which made all workplaces, public places, restaurants and bars smoke free. He also pushed for additional funding to create and maintain Healthy Howard, the County's innovative and award winning health care access program for the uninsured.

"This past summer, we joined 35 organizations and more than 1,000 individuals to demonstrate our support for CB-17 to provide healthy vending options in our public spaces," said Nikki Highsmith Vernick, president and CEO of the Horizon Foundation. "We join our partners in congratulating Dr. Ball on this well-deserved award, as he is a true champion for public health and has helped Howard County be a leader on important issues that improve our health and our community."

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In 2013, MdPHA's annual award was named after Michaeline Fedder, Director of Government Relations at the American Heart Association - Mid-Atlantic Affiliate. Fedder is a staunch advocate of public health issues in Maryland: making Maryland a smoke-free state, Breanna's Law (making CPR training a high school graduation requirement), increasing physical activity in schools, and decreasing children's use of sugar-sweetened beverages, among others. She is a long-time leader of MdPHA and served as its President, and the Affiliate Representative to the APHA Governing Council.

Previous recipients of this award include House Speaker Michael E. Busch, Senator Brian Frosh, Senator Shirley Nathan-Pulliam, Delegate Pete Hammen, and Delegate Sandy Rosenberg.

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