

A third-generation Marylander, Ben Cardin has been a national leader on health care, retirement security, the environment and fiscal issues while representing the people of Maryland in the U.S. Senate, and before that in the House of Representatives.

Senator Cardin currently serves as Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He is a senior member of the Environment & Public Works Committee (EPW) and Small Business & Entrepreneurship Committee. He also serves on the Senate Finance Committee (SFC). These assignments have allowed Senator Cardin to promote policies, legislation and programs that help grow our state and national economies and create job opportunities, as well as support small businesses, protect our middle class, and our most vulnerable citizens; maintain clean air and clean water; expand opportunities for public transit and energy independence; protect civil rights; and promote transparency, good governance and the protection of universal human rights.

Senator Cardin is a leading advocate for the Chesapeake Bay, which is the economic, historical and cultural heart of Maryland. Nationally, he is a champion of protecting our clean air and clean water. He has introduced legislation to restore the health of America's great water bodies and is the leading proponent of investing in improvements to America's aging water infrastructure system while preparing it for the impacts of climate change. He also has been a strong defender of the federal workforce and has fought to end the harmful effects of sequestration.

Senator Cardin has a deep interest in foreign affairs and has worked across party lines to further our national security and protect universal human rights. He has fought to ensure that anti-corruption, transparency and respect for human rights are integrated our foreign policy. He has been a Commissioner on the U.S. Helsinki Commission (CSCE) since 1993, serving as Chairman in the 111th and 113th Congress. In 2015, he was named as the Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism, and Intolerance for the 57-nation Organization Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Parliamentary Assembly.

As a member of the Small Business Committee, Senator Cardin was responsible for the extension of increased guarantees and reduced fees in the Small Business Administration's two largest loan programs. Serving as Ranking Member at the start of 2015, he has been working to find better ways to provide access to credit for qualified small businesses, as well as expanding access to contracts for women-owned, minority owned and veteran-owned businesses. He aggressively encourages federal agencies to meet or exceed their modest small business contracting goals.

Senator Cardin believes access to quality, affordable health care should be a right and not a privilege. He continues to be a strong supporter of the *Affordable Care Act*, which brought us closer to that goal. He led the fight for a Patients' Bill of Rights and was responsible for the elevation of the National Institute for Minority Health Disparities at the National Institutes of Health. One of his proudest accomplishments was leading the fight to guarantee access to dental care for children in the Children's Health Insurance Program, following the tragic loss of a 12-year-old Prince George's County boy who died after complications that followed an untreated tooth infection.

Serving as a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee during his first four years in the Senate, Senator Cardin also has developed a reputation for defending civil rights at home and has sought to find a balance between protection of civil liberties and national security. He is the lead sponsor of legislation to prohibit racial profiling by all levels of law enforcement, restore voting rights for former felons, and remove the deadline for ratification of the Equal Right Amendment. He has been a proud cosponsor of the Respect for Marriage Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

From 1987-2006, Ben Cardin represented Maryland's Third Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives and served for 17 years on the Ways & Means Committee. He was a member of the

Maryland House of Delegates from 1967-1986. During his time as Speaker from 1979-1986, he reformed Maryland's property tax system, the school financing formula and the ethical standards for elected officials.