

KATHLEEN KENNEDY TOWNSEND*Lt. Governor
(Democrat)*

Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Maryland's first woman lieutenant governor, has made it her mission to build safe communities across the state through a comprehensive strategy of effective punishment, policing, and prevention. The backbone of the strategy is to create new partnerships between citizens, police, the business and religious communities, and government agencies. To develop and oversee the state's anti-crime efforts, Governor Glendening appointed her as Chair of the Cabinet Council on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, which consists of nine cabinet secretaries and the Attorney General.

Mrs. Townsend spearheaded the establishment of Operation Maryland Cease Fire and the Maryland Community Policing Academy, the first training program of its kind in the nation. The Academy trains police and citizens, shoulder to shoulder, to build the trust necessary to shut down open-air drug markets and make real reductions in crime and fear. Cease Fire is the first state police unit dedicated to targeting illegal gun traffickers. Since its inception in the summer of 1995, the unit has confiscated more than 600 assault weapons and other illegal firearms, and closed a gun store that sold weapons traced to a dozen murders.

Mrs. Townsend also is working to reform the juvenile justice system, ensuring that young offenders are held accountable for their actions. She helped craft and secure passage of administration legislation that expedited the juvenile court process to deliver swifter punishment, required police to notify schools when students are arrested for serious offenses, and doubled to \$10,000 the amount of restitution juveniles or their parents can be ordered to pay victims of their offenses.

Mrs. Townsend and Governor Glendening have strengthened the adult criminal justice system as well, passing legislation to reduce delays in applying the death penalty and announcing a new policy of refusing to grant parole for offenders sentenced to life in prison. Mrs. Townsend also is seeking to expand the use of effective and cost-effective intermediate punishments, such as boot camps, home detention, and mandatory drug treatment, for nonviolent drug-addicted offenders.

Along with key legislators, Mrs. Townsend also led the campaign to tighten Maryland's drunk driving laws, working to pass legislation that makes convictions easier to obtain for motorists caught driving with blood-alcohol levels of .10 or above.

While tough enforcement and punishment are essential, Mrs. Townsend strongly believes that prevention must be an equal priority. Through the Cabinet Council's Task Force on Youth Citizenship



and Violence Prevention, she is developing initiatives to improve character education, remove disruptive students from classrooms, expand after-school activities to keep children busy and off the streets, reduce the impact of negative messages in the mass media, and encourage greater parental responsibility for the behavior of their children.

Mrs. Townsend also has launched, along with Attorney General J. Joseph Curran, a full-scale inquiry into the adequacy of the state's efforts to combat domestic violence. The Family Violence Council will develop and implement the strongest possible system of laws, policies, and coordinated community programs to protect victims, hold abusers accountable, and break the cycle of violence between generations.

Before her election, Mrs. Townsend served as Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the U.S. Department of Justice, responsible for a billion-dollar budget to support local law enforcement and establish community policing programs around the country.

Committed to providing quality education for all citizens, Mrs. Townsend has taught at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC), at Essex and Dundalk Community Colleges, and at the University of Pennsylvania. She was the first Executive Director of the Maryland Student Service Alliance, a public-private partnership she founded with the State Department of Education to inspire young people to serve their communities. Under her leadership, Maryland became the first state to require that all high school students perform community service. The Alliance also launched Civic Works, an urban service corps which puts young adults to work while teaching critical job skills.