

ing Maryland's progress in this area by working in partnership with local government to revise building codes to encourage growth and investment in existing neighborhoods. Governor Glendening has taken his passion for the environment to the national level, serving as Chair of the National Governors' Association Natural Resources Committee.

**Governor's Commitment to Public Safety.** Working with Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Governor Glendening has focused on making Maryland neighborhoods and communities safe and secure. With innovative programs such as community policing and HotSpots, and one of the strongest anti-gun violence measures in the nation, the crime rate in Maryland is decreasing nearly twice as fast as the national average. After successfully defeating the powerful gun lobby, Handgun Control, Inc. recognized the Governor for his work supporting the Maryland Gun Violence Act of 1996. Sarah and James Brady were on hand to make the presentation. The Governor intends to further secure the safety of Maryland's families and children by spearheading an effort to require every handgun sold in Maryland to have features making it childproof.

**Governor's Commitment to Job Creation.** Governor Glendening has worked tirelessly to keep casino gambling out of Maryland. He recognizes that a strong economy is what creates good-paying, family-supporting jobs for Marylanders. During his tenure, Governor Glendening worked aggressively with the Maryland General Assembly to reduce or eliminate 15 separate taxes, including the first reduction in Maryland's personal income tax rate in 30 years. As a result, Maryland saw its job creation rate rise from 44th in the nation in 1994 to 16th in 1998. Over that same time period, welfare rolls decreased by more than 62%, with 141,420 Marylanders moving from dependency to self-sufficiency.

**Governor's Commitment to Public Health.** The health of Marylanders has been a critical issue for Governor Glendening. During his time in office, the Governor has worked with the Legislature to pass both a comprehensive Patients' Bill of Rights and an innovative plan that provides access to health care for pregnant women and children in working families. In addition, the Governor has been a leading anti-tobacco advocate, working with the General Assembly to raise cigarette taxes to reduce teen smoking. Most recently, he unveiled a plan to use Maryland's share of the national tobacco settlement to make the State a leader in anti-smoking programs and anti-cancer research. In 1996, Governor Glendening was honored by the American Medical Association with the Nathan Davis Award for his commitment to improve public health in Maryland.

**Governor's Commitment to an Inclusive Society.** Throughout his career in public service, Governor Glendening has never forgotten his roots. He continues to bring the values of equality, opportunity, and inclusion to the decision-making table. His judicial appointments, and selection of cabinet secretaries and senior staff members reflects this deep and abiding commitment to the value of diversity. In 1998, Governor Glendening received the Furman Templeton Award from the Baltimore Urban League for his solid record of appointing African Americans, women, Hispanics, and other minorities to the judiciary and upper levels of State government. In Governor Glendening's continuing fight for fairness and inclusion, he also received the Breslau-Goldman Award from the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington for his dedication to social justice.