



MARYLAND BUSINESS FOR RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT

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Biennial business study shows MD Congressional delegation measures poorly compared to other states...but Al Wynn improves greatly

Maryland Business for Responsive Government (MBRG) has released its evaluation of the business voting records of Maryland's Congressional Delegation. Please visit https://secure.mbrg.org/members/pdf/for_record_06.pdf to view the publication. To request free copies of the 2006 *For the Record*, simply email info@mbrg.org.

Every two years since 1990, Maryland Business for Responsive Government (MBRG) has published *For the Record*. The MBRG *composite score* derives from the average of the combined scores of four nationally known business organizations: *National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)*, *U. S. Chamber of Congress (USC)*, *National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)*, and *Business & Industry Political Action Committee (BIPAC)*. *For the Record* is MBRG's counterpart to *Roll Call*, an annual evaluation of the business voting records of the Maryland General Assembly, now in its 21st year of publication.

The purpose of *For the Record* is to provide Maryland business people with a means to measure the performance of their Congressional delegation on important business legislation as defined by four respected and separate organizations that represent distinctly different business sectors. "*MBRG believes political measurements should be as important for business decision making as the other measurements applied to business activities,*" says MBRG Chairman Terry L. Randall.

For the Record enables business people to compare the performance of Maryland's delegation to all other states, especially those of nearby jurisdictions. Unfortunately, Maryland has not compared favorably to other states for many years. This year Maryland's Congressional delegation ranks fifth from the bottom at 39 percent -- ahead of only four other states: Hawaii at 39 percent, Rhode Island at 29 percent, Vermont at 25 percent, and Massachusetts, last among all 50 states at 16 percent.

The record over the years shows that Maryland legislators who move up to the U.S. Congress score the same in Congress as they did in the state legislature.

One laudable exception occurs this year. Congressman Albert R. Wynn's composite score rose from an average of 20 percent in recent years to 61 percent in 2006 -- receiving 70 percent this year from both NFIB and the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, ranking him third highest in Maryland's ten member delegation.

Congressman Ruppertsberger's score rises from 20 percent in 2004 to 48 percent in 2006 – still a far cry from the level of performance he has led business people to believe he would achieve.

To view the entire study ranking all 535 lawmakers, please visit www.mbrg.org.

MBRG's purpose is to improve the role of business in making public policy through research and education. ###