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## ***Progressive Maryland Endorses Donna Edwards in the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District's Democratic Primary***

**Silver Spring MD.** Progressive Maryland – the state's leading nonprofit advocacy organization for working families – announced today its endorsement of Donna Edwards in the Democratic primary election in the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, which covers most of Prince George's County and eastern Montgomery County.

"Donna Edwards is a lifetime public servant and champion of working families," said Elbridge James, President of Progressive Maryland. "She has successfully lobbied Congress to strengthen laws against domestic violence and in favor of campaign finance reform. As Director of the Arca Foundation, she is a national leader in funding pathbreaking advocacy for working families, above all in raising wages. And in Prince George's County, where she lives, she has been a community leader for Smart Growth. She is a stellar candidate to represent the Maryland's 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives."

"By contrast, the incumbent, Congressman Al Wynn, has disappointed working families repeatedly," said Sean Dobson, the organization's Executive Director. "In the district, he played a leading role in killing the Montgomery County Living Wage bill in the late 1990s. We ultimately passed it a few years later – no thanks to Wynn. He has also played no appreciable leadership role in saving the Prince George's hospital system from bankruptcy."

"Most important, Wynn has cast votes in Congress that do not reflect the progressive values of his district. He was a critical supporter of bankruptcy reform legislation that makes it more difficult for hard working Americans to pay off their debts and benefits the banks and lenders that have given Wynn more than \$50,000 in campaign contributions. He voted for President Bush's energy bill that throws taxpayer dollars at Exxon and other giant oil companies while weakening environmental safeguards. He voted to weaken the Endangered Species Act and against raising car mileage standards. And worst of all, he voted to authorize George W. Bush's war in Iraq. We can't depend on a Congress that keeps voting for the war; we need a Congress that will end it."

Dobson said his organization is touting Donna Edwards to Progressive Maryland's members who live in the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

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*Attached photo shows Progressive Maryland's President Elbridge James at today's press conference, flanked from left to right by PM Board Members Rion Dennis, Dr. Pat Salomon-Rodriguez, and by Executive Director Sean Dobson*