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## **CONGRESSWOMAN DONNA EDWARDS GETS TO WORK FOR THE DISTRICT AND THE COUNTRY ON DAY OF SWEARING-IN CEREMONY**

**Edwards Hard At Work, Casts Three Important Votes On Her First Day As  
Representative For Maryland's 4th Congressional District.**

Washington, D.C. – Minutes after being sworn in as the newest member of the House of Representatives in front of 250 family and friends, Congresswoman Donna Edwards (D-MD) stayed true to commitments made during her campaign. Edwards was already hard at work representing Maryland's 4th Congressional District and the country casting several important votes.

"This was a great first day on the job," said Edwards. "After being sworn in with so many of my family and friends from throughout our congressional district in attendance, I was immediately able to vote on some issues important to those very people and is why they elected me to Congress."

Edwards' first vote as a Representative was for "H.R. 5781 Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act of 2008", which will provide the 1.8 million Federal employees with four weeks of paid parental leave after the birth or adoption of a child. In addition to the four weeks of paid leave, the bill would allow federal employees to use accumulated annual or sick leave to offset the 12 weeks of unpaid leave that is guaranteed under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), and to extend the parental leave period to up to eight weeks. The bill passed the House.

In her second vote, Edwards continued to stay true to her word, voting "No" on the First Amendment of "H.R. 2642 Iraq/Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Bill" for continued funding of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In her third and final vote, Edwards voted in favor of the Second Amendment of the Supplemental, which benefits the 4th Congressional District by:

- Providing for the new GI Bill by fully restoring GI education benefits for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.
- Including 13 additional weeks of extended unemployment benefits for workers who have exhausted the 26 weeks of regular unemployment benefits.
- Allocating \$400 million dollars in funding for NASA and other scientific organizations such as the National Institute of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the Department of Energy.
- Providing \$150 million dollars in additional funding for the Food and Drug Administration, located in the district, to improve their ability to ensure the safety of our food supply and medical products.

As Edwards stated during her swearing-in on the House floor, "I am here with my sleeves rolled up, ready to work, ready to help put Washington back on the side of everyday working people."

In her first day as the newest Representative for Maryland's 4th Congressional District she made good on that promise - voting with veterans, workers and families.