

**WALDORF, MD** – This afternoon, Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) attended a meeting of the Fifth District Women's Network Advisory Committee.

"I was pleased to meet today with women business and community leaders who represent the interests of women throughout the Fifth District," **stated Congressman Hoyer**. "These regular meetings provide a wonderful opportunity for networking and valuable discussions on a range of issues important to our communities. This past year, the Committee worked to identify why women in our communities are struggling – financially and otherwise – and how we can work together to better address their needs. I am proud to work with this outstanding group of leaders to ensure that our society continues to support progress for women in our local communities and throughout our nation."

In 2011, the Women's Network Advisory Committee focused on exploring what community resources are available to women, especially those struggling from the effects of an uncertain economy. Their work provided an analysis of some of the causes responsible for these hard times, including evidence that many of these women had experienced a life-altering event, such as foreclosure, loss of employment, illness, or divorce. Moving forward, the Committee will work to more effectively educate the public on available resources and identify how federal dollars are put to work to assist women and families.