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## 'WHAT SHE DID' — State Delegate blames House leadership for stalling same-sex marriage legislation

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Md. State Del. Jill Carter denies holding up same-sex legislation in the House of Delegates. (I.V. Photo/Stephen Janis)

DENIES NOT SUPPORTING BILL OR HOLDING UP LEGISLATION

*I didn't block the vote.*

— Del. Jill P. Carter

*What she did brings disrepute...*

— Andy Green, opinion editor of the *Baltimore Sun*

By Stephen Janis and Alan Z. Forman

The state delegate who has been blamed for stalling controversial same-sex marriage legislation says the House of Delegates leadership is to blame for the Judiciary Committee's failure to vote.

"I didn't block the vote " Jill Carter (D-41st) told *Investigative Voice* in a telephone interview early Thursday morning. "We

didn't have the votes."

The leadership "didn't take a whip count, she explained, and I know we were at least two votes short" of passage.

"There are a lot of things we haven't voted on yet, and this does not mean I don't support the bill, because I do," she said.

"But the leadership has inaccurately portrayed this as something that has to be done immediately — which is not true."

### CHARGES HOUSE LEADERSHIP WITH BEING 'DISHONEST'

Carter charged the House leadership, specifically Speaker Michael E. Busch (D-30th) with being "dishonest, because the truth is, I saved the bill; we didn't have the votes in committee and we did not have the 71 votes needed on the floor.

"They are lying about me."

Asserting her support for the proposed legislation — which would dramatically alter Maryland's definition of marriage by removing the stipulation that it be "between a man and a woman" — Carter said emphatically: "I am for it and I support it," adding, "It was not necessary to push this bill at breakneck speed.

"If I blame anyone I blame the speaker, because they didn't do a whip count and we didn't have the votes.

"But I did not have a tantrum or throw a fit as was reported" by Baltimore's legacy media. "I was there and I was ready to vote but I knew we didn't have the votes" to pass it, she said.

Carter took exception to a *Baltimore Sun* editorial published Wednesday: "Andy Green never contacted me," she said.

"The story is wrong."

### 'WHAT SHE DID BRINGS DISREPUTE'

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(Andrew Green sits on the editorial board of *The Sun* and describes himself as "the opinion editor," who, the paper says, "has taken the 'know a little bit about everything' approach in his time at The Sun.")

In a "Second Opinion" weblog (preceding *The Sun*'s Tuesday March 1 editorial) titled "Del. Carter's gay marriage tantrum," Green says that "what she did brings disrepute not just on herself but on the entire effort to enact this legislation."

"What she did" was "walk out of a Judiciary Committee voting session Tuesday and demand that legislative leaders fast-track... other issues before she would cast a potentially decisive vote to send the marriage bill to the full House of Delegates for consideration," *The Sun*'s editorial declares, echoing Green's charge that "what she did" has brought disrepute to both herself and the entire same-sex marriage effort.

"I was prepared for a vote but the speaker did not have the votes," Carter declared.

"There were at least two delegates who had concerns and we had to address them."

"I'm going to be honorable and I'm not going to name the delegates," she said.

"But we are probably still two votes short."

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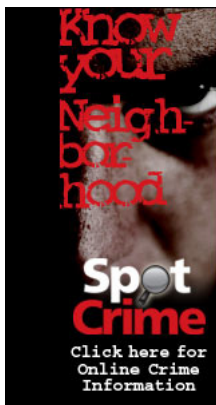
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


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