



The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator

Barbara Mikulski has represented Maryland in the United States Senate since 1986, a strong proponent of science and technology, using her seat on the Senate Appropriations Committee to advance the nation's investment in research and technology, particularly in addressing the issues of humans and environmental health.

As the daughter of a grocery shop owner growing up in the neighborhoods of East Baltimore, Mikulski learned the values of hard work, neighbor helping neighbor, and heartfelt patriotism. Beginning her career as a social worker, her compassion for people led her to activism, organizing communities against a major highway set to run through Baltimore's Fells Point neighborhood—saving the Inner Harbor to become the thriving commercial and residential area it is today. Subsequently, successful runs for Baltimore City Council and U.S. House of Representatives led her to her successful Senate bid in 1986, the first woman Democrat elected to the Senate in her own right.

She has never lost an election, and has never looked back, becoming a leader in the Senate, known as the “Dean of Women,” a mentor to freshman women Senators. Vigilant in her support of protections for the Chesapeake Bay, and one of the early proponents of watershed management, her efforts have helped make the Chesapeake a model of ecosystem management. Incredibly supportive of both NOAA and NASA, Mikulski has been a driving force behind establishing global observation platforms to monitor the Earth's environment. Naturally, it was Barbara Mikulski who led the Congressional call to action after the establishment of the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative. Through her strong belief in science and her outstanding commitment to environmental health, she is a true steward of our ocean planet.