



**For Immediate Release**

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*Brown Calls on Ehrlich to Follow Schwarzenegger's Lead  
Brown Challenges Governor to Support O'Malley/Brown Plan  
to Halt Tuition Increases*

MITCHELLVILLE, MD (January 5, 2006) – Today, Anthony Brown called on Maryland Governor Bob Ehrlich to follow California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in stopping tuition increases at state colleges.

“Governor Schwarzenegger has wisely decided to lend a hand to California students and parents,” said Brown. “I hope that Governor Ehrlich will follow California’s example. After three years of record increases to college tuition on Governor Ehrlich’s watch, it’s time for some real relief.”

On Tuesday, Ehrlich said he was powerless to freeze tuition rates at state colleges and universities. However, on December 28<sup>th</sup> his Republican colleague in California set forth a plan to spend \$141.3 million to stop tuition increases in California higher education. California students would have faced an 8% increase in tuition, but Schwarzenegger’s proposal will leave tuition at its current levels.

This past Monday, Martin O’Malley and Anthony Brown asked Governor Ehrlich to end three years of tuition increases at state colleges and universities. In Maryland, this proposal would cost less than \$15-20 million.

Brown continued, “I call on Governor Ehrlich to adopt the O’Malley-Brown plan for zero-percent increases in tuition at public colleges and universities in Maryland. If California, with a much larger state school system and a smaller per-capita budget surplus, can halt tuition increases, Maryland must follow suit, or risk falling behind.”

On Tuesday, Ehrlich unveiled his plan for higher education funding, but he refused to promise 0% tuition increases. Since Bob Ehrlich took office, he slashed higher education funding by \$120 million which led to a staggering 40% increase in college tuition in Maryland.

According to the non-partisan National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education Maryland was given an “F” for higher education affordability.

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