



March 16, 2006

Dear Governor Ehrlich,

As you must know, over \$120 million has been culled from Maryland's Higher Education budget since 2003, with only a fraction of those funds being replaced. As a result, tuition at Maryland's colleges and universities has skyrocketed -- by over 40% in some cases. These tuition hikes have put a college education out of reach for too many of Maryland's hard working families.

But we know that a college education is essential to success in our increasingly complex and competitive economy.

That is why, over two months ago, Anthony Brown and I proposed a detailed plan to fully fund higher education funding so that we could keep college tuition level for the next academic year.

By taking this prudent action, students all over the state would save on tuition, including savings of \$295 a year for University of Maryland College Park students, savings of \$164 a year for University of Maryland Eastern Shore students and \$104 a year for Coppin State students.

Despite your earlier opposition, I am pleased to see that you now join us in supporting a measure to hold tuition steady for the coming year to help Maryland families meet the sharp tuition hikes.

Given the strain placed on Maryland's hard working families the last few years, we think such a plan is not only the right thing to do -- it is the smart thing to do. Our students, economy and society will all benefit.

Sincerely,

Martin O'Malley