



For Immediate Release

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O'Malley and Brown Release Detailed Plan to Support Maryland's Aging Population

PARKVILLE, MD (January 24, 2006) – Today, Martin O'Malley and Anthony Brown released their plan to support Maryland's aging population. Speaking to a crowd of 125 seniors at Oak Crest Village in Parkville, O'Malley and Brown outlined how Maryland can do better for seniors with new leadership that works for Maryland.

Brown said, “Under the Ehrlich Administration, caring and compassion for our elders has taken a backseat to negligence and indifference ... It’s time for our state government to start taking responsibility for providing older Marylanders with the respect and the opportunities they deserve.”

O'Malley continued, “Senior citizens, like all Maryland citizens, want to see our state move forward. This state, which our seniors have built for us, is strong because of the wise investments past generations have made in our future – in education, in transportation, in healthcare and in safeguarding our environment. As we build toward the future, we must safeguard the legacy of the greatest generation – and continue to call on your service.”

In their remarks, O'Malley and Brown focused on:

- Reaching out to seniors during the transition to Medicare Part D. Nationwide, a recent poll revealed that two-thirds of seniors and their families are confused by the transfer of prescription drug coverage to Medicare Part D, yet Maryland has offered no assistance. Baltimore has stepped forward to fill this gap by setting up a response hotline, creating an electronic follow-up database, and setting aside a reserve fund to make sure no seniors are without their prescriptions.
 - Expanding Baltimore’s successful Experience Corps statewide. Experience Corps is a program developed in Baltimore that connects active seniors with at-risk students in the classroom. Studies have shown that, through their contribution to the community, seniors’ health improves, as well as students’ grades.
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- Preserving seniors' independence. O'Malley and Brown promised to support seniors by safeguarding state and private pensions, expanding tax credits for long-term care insurance, increasing family leave from 12 to 20 weeks, and investing in congregate housing services, which have been under attack during the Ehrlich administration.

The full text of the O'Malley-Brown plan is available on the campaign website at www.martinomalley.com.

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