



**For Immediate Release**

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## *O'Malley and Brown Call on Ehrlich to Halt Tuition Increases*

### *O'Malley and Brown Recommit to Making Higher Education More Affordable for Maryland Families*

COLLEGE PARK, MD (January 2, 2006) – Today, Martin O'Malley and Anthony Brown challenged Governor Ehrlich to halt tuition increases at state-funded colleges. At a press conference with students and their families at the University of Maryland College Park, they called on the Governor to put into effect a 0% increase in next year's tuition. Budget analysts estimate that such an action would cost less than \$15-\$20 million.

Under Bob Ehrlich, tuition at the University of Maryland College Park has already gone up 44%. Governor Ehrlich cut more than \$120 million in state assistance to higher education. The effect has been greater financial burdens on students and their parents. While Ehrlich has cut funding for Maryland institutions of higher learning, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Delaware have all increased funding.

Speaking first, Anthony Brown said, "For the last three years, our governor has closed the door of opportunity in higher education to many in our state."

"Martin O'Malley and I have a different vision for higher education in Maryland. Rather than closing the doors to opportunity, we pledge to reopen them," said Brown. "When we're elected, we will restore the great Maryland tradition that, when it comes to our public colleges and universities, funding must be high and tuition low – and not the other way around."

In announcing the plan, Martin O'Malley said, "We are here today to urge Governor Ehrlich to fully fund education this year."

"Where [Governor Ehrlich] sees a college education as a luxury, we see it, increasingly, as a necessity," said O'Malley. "Where he sees higher education as an expense to be cut, we see it as an investment that will pay dividends."

O'Malley also stated, "In the past, in Maryland, Republicans and Democrats invested in Maryland's future. But under Governor Ehrlich we've ended this tradition of compromise and bipartisan progress."

The small investment could be paid for by using the budget surplus, the rainy day fund, by bringing greater efficiencies to state government, or whatever means the Governor chooses.

O'Malley and Brown have made making college education more affordable a top priority of their campaign.

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