



For Immediate Release
Contact: Rick Abbruzzese
O: (410) 814-4206
C: (410) 790-5002

74 DAYS LATER: MARYLAND STUDENTS FINALLY SEE SOME RELIEF

BALTIMORE, MD (MARCH 16, 2006) – Today, Martin O'Malley sent a letter to Governor Ehrlich thanking him for *finally* coming around to support the idea of a tuition freeze for next year at Maryland's public colleges and universities. Ehrlich's surprising reversal of position comes 74 days and a number of disparaging remarks after Martin O'Malley and Anthony Brown first introduced the idea of holding tuition stable for the upcoming academic year.

“Despite his earlier opposition, I am glad that thousands of college students and their families across Maryland will finally see some relief by Governor Ehrlich's decision to support the idea of holding tuition stable,” said Martin O'Malley. “Our governor should be making it easier for Marylanders to attend college, not pricing our families out of a higher education with unbearable increases in tuition costs.”

On January 2nd, before the legislative session began, O'Malley and Brown called on Governor Ehrlich to ensure enough funding in his budget to halt further tuition increases at state-funded colleges for the upcoming academic year. Under Bob Ehrlich, tuition at the University of Maryland College Park has already gone up a staggering 44% because of his cuts of more than \$120 million in funding for higher education. The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education gave Maryland and “F” in college affordability.

Over the past 74 days since O'Malley and Brown first introduced their plan, Ehrlich and his advisors have repeatedly dismissed what would obviously help thousands of Maryland families and the future of our state. Today Governor Ehrlich is following where Martin O'Malley and the Maryland General Assembly have taken the lead.

On January 3, Bob Ehrlich's spokesperson dismissed the O'Malley-Brown Plan as “hollow campaign rhetoric,” stating that “[O'Malley] doesn't even understand the process.” [Washington Post, 1/3/06]. Later another Ehrlich spokesperson dismissed the idea as an “election-year gimmick.” [Baltimore Sun, 2/22/06]

“It’s ironic that 74 days ago when Martin O’Malley and Anthony Brown joined students and their families and first introduced the idea of a tuition freeze for next year that it was actually Bob Ehrlich that froze up,” said O’Malley campaign manager, Jonathan Epstein. “Nonetheless, I’m glad to see that Bob Ehrlich is again following Martin O’Malley and Anthony Brown’s lead.”

Attached are:

- Quotes from Ehrlich and his Advisors attacking the O’Malley/Brown Plan to provide funding to stabilize higher education in Maryland

(http://www.martinomalley.com/page/file/336abd2dce2c2572f4_0hqmvv1yv.pdf/Press_Release_031606_ATTACHMENT_Ehrlich_on_the_Tuition_Fre%85.pdf)

- The letter that Martin O’Malley sent to Governor Ehrlich today; and

http://www.martinomalley.com/page/file/7c96aae1be9a0db98d_nw78mveoy.pdf/Press_Release_031606_Press_Release_-_Ehrlich_Tuition_Letter.pdf

- The O’Malley/Brown Plan first introduced on January 2nd

<http://www.martinomalley.com/content/387>

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