

ACLU Education Advocate

In This Issue:

10.3.07

- Education Funding At Risk
- The Carroll County Times Editorial:
Thornton needs to be funded

Education Funding At Risk

Don't cut Thornton funds!

Governor O'Malley has publicly stated that he does not plan to fund the mandated inflation increase to education for the next school year, 2008 - 2009. The proposed cut will be a loss of \$29 million for Baltimore City and a loss of \$21 million for Baltimore County; statewide, the cut will be \$187- 207 million. Utilities, health care and salary-related expenses will increase. Without the annual inflation increase, school systems will be forced to cut existing programs and services. This proposed cut comes at a time when education standards are rising and when we know that our students need additional support in the classroom – not less.

Make sure the Governor and your legislators know how important your schools are to you. Your elected officials need to hear from you now that these cuts to education funding are not a “solution” to the fiscal problem.

Please call or email the Governor today!

Governor Martin O'Malley
410-974-3901 (This is a local call from the Baltimore area.)

Ask to leave a message, such as:

“Education funding is important to me and my family. Please fully fund Thornton and the mandated inflation increases for education.”

[Click here to send an email to the Governor, Senate President and Speaker of the House.](#)

The Carroll County Times Editorial: Thornton needs to be funded

Thursday, September 13, 2007

Thornton needs to be funded

Gov. Martin O'Malley's suggestion last week that he may withhold some education funding in order to help balance next year's budget goes against his election year pledge and ignores the fact that it was years of neglect that put Maryland in such a poor educational state in the first place.

O'Malley last week said he might hold back about \$200 million. The money is part of a formula that compensates for inflation. Sen. David Brinkley, R-Carroll, Frederick, said he thought withholding inflation increases was a good idea too.

O'Malley's rhetoric is exactly opposite what it was during the election season, when he campaigned against Republican Gov. Robert Ehrlich and slammed Ehrlich for not fully funding the Thornton education reform plan.

Thornton set out many recommendations, from building requirements to increases in educational spending, in an effort to bring Maryland schools up to par.

Legislators who had a problem with Thornton funding levels should have gotten the recommendations changed back in 2002 when the plan was put forward. At the very least, they should be able to produce evidence now that the environment has changed and that funding isn't needed to keep Thornton on track.

It is good to go back and take another look at budget expenses. And we must always work hard to ensure that we are using limited state budget dollars wisely.

But so far, no one has produced any evidence to suggest that the money isn't needed. Instead, they trot out the same tired rhetoric about how education has seen big increases in spending in recent years.

Those increases were seen as necessary in 2002 because of years of neglect. With the tremendous growth of population in recent years, as well as more and more school dollars being dedicated to fulfilling the federal government's unfunded No Child Left behind mandate, keeping education on an improving track should be a state priority.

[Please click here to access the editorial on-line.](#)

Close Window