



## *ACLU Education Advocate*

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**11.5.07**

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### **ALERT! Will you send an email to help stop education cuts?**

Governor O'Malley has proposed to reduce education funding for next school year, 2007-2008, by \$189 million statewide; for Baltimore City the loss in the first year will be about \$20 million. Dr. Alonso stated at a hearing in Annapolis last week that the BCPSS will be faced with a budget deficit of over \$100 million over the next three years if the State does provide the mandated inflation increases to education funding.

State legislators are meeting this week to make the ultimate decisions about what to do with the Governor's budget proposal. This includes whether or not they will maintain the Governor's education cut - or find a way to keep the "Thornton" promise.

Your action in demanding that education funding be protected is what will make the difference. Otherwise students in Baltimore City and across the state will lose access to educational opportunities such as expanded arts programs and pre-kindergarten along with the potential of having to adjust to even larger class sizes. Many legislators would rather cut education than raise additional revenue.

Contact your legislators now and encourage them to protect education funding! It's simple, click the link below and you will be taken to a webpage that will allow you to email legislators with just one click.

[Click this link to send an email to state legislators now!](#)

### **Advocates take to the Streets in Annapolis to Oppose Cuts!**

On Monday, October 29, 2007 three buses of parents, students, and alumni traveled to Annapolis to protest the Governor's proposed cuts to Thornton funding. The Baltimore Teacher's Union brought an additional bus of teachers & staff. Students and parents alike were enthusiastic about being actively engaged in the political process.



The event was originally planned as an opportunity to have a visible presence (with bright yellow stickers saying "Don't Cut Thornton Funding- Raise Revenue!") as legislators kicked off the special session Monday night. But the Parent & Community Advisory Board and ACLU turned the event into an opportunity to ask city legislators not to support the cuts.

The buses separated into several groups and met with Baltimore City legislators Senator Joan Carter Conway, Senator Verna Jones, City Delegation Chair Curt Anderson, Delegate Ruth Kirk, Delegate Haynes, Delegate Hammen, among others. Members of the group also spoke to the Mayor's Legislative Director and delegates from Prince George's County and their county executive, Jack Johnson. The strong youth contingent from the City Youth Commission, Teens for Legislative Change, and the Algebra Project was a spirited part of the evening. We thank all of the individuals and groups who participated and communicated to others about the event. WBAL-TV Channel 11 covered the event on Tuesday morning.

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