

June 21, 2005

The Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor of the State of Maryland
State House, 100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Ehrlich:

We urge you to reconsider your decision to deny thousands of pregnant women and children in Maryland desperately needed medical services. Without your quick action to restore \$1.5 million of state Medicaid dollars, 1,300 children and 300 pregnant women in Montgomery County alone will lose their assistance in two weeks.

It is unconscionable that you would even consider ending State support for pregnant women and children. The social safety net in Maryland has already been frayed by your Administration, and this action seeks to tear it apart entirely. While we have done a great deal at the local level to fill the gaps left by your unwillingness to comprehensively address our State's health care crisis, we can't continue to care for the thousands of needy individuals to which your Administration callously denies care.

The decision to end medical services for pregnant women and children is even more troubling given your refusal to sign into law groundbreaking legislation to expand health care by asking that everyone – including large corporations – pay their fair share of the State's Health Care costs.

You also have an opportunity to reduce hunger for senior citizens, provide literacy programs to adults, and improve the quality of life for people in Montgomery County and across the State of Maryland by restoring other items that your 2006 budget did not fund or funded at reduced levels.

If these cuts are allowed to stand, thousands of Marylanders will be denied health care, adult education, meals and family support services. In a State as prosperous as ours, surely your Administration can find the resources to help those who need help the most.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Douglas M. Duncan
County Executive

Original Signed By

Tom Perez
County Council President

Original Signed By

George Leventhal
County Council Vice-president