

# CAIR

We Promise, We Deliver

MARYLAND & VIRGINIA

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## About CAIR-MD

CAIR-MD is a pro-active organization that promotes and extends the mission and goals of CAIR-National. CAIR-MD is a non-profit organization that is composed of dedicated and concerned Muslim activists. The mission of CAIR-MD is to present an Islamic perspective on issues of importance to the residents of the state. In offering this perspective, we seek to empower the local Muslim community in Maryland through political and social activism.

Our mission is carried out by:

- Working with local media professionals and personnel to project a positive image of Islam throughout Maryland.
- Challenge and eliminate negative stereotypes and misconceptions concerning Islam and Muslims in the local media.
- Plan and publicize activities that promote Islam awareness in the state of Maryland.
- Protect and enforce the rights of Muslims in Maryland by combating any forms of discrimination against Muslims due to their religious beliefs.

CAIR-MD mobilizes Muslim activists within Maryland to fulfill these goals. CAIR-MD encourages all Muslims of Maryland to join both the local and national CAIR organization (please note that CAIR-MD does not receive any funding from CAIR-National (we solely depend on the residents of the state). We The following are the current officers at CAIR-Maryland. You can write to any one of them for information on membership, meetings, or other relevant inquiries.

- ☐ **Loay Oweis**  
Director of IT  
[loay@cairmd.org](mailto:loay@cairmd.org)
- ☐ **Shama Farooq**  
Director of Civil Rights  
[shama@cairmd.org](mailto:shama@cairmd.org)

## CAIR-MD ADVISORY BOARD

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Dr. Mohammed Adam Al-Sheikh | Imam of Dar Al Hijrah.  |
| Mahmoud Abdulhady           | Imam of Dar Al-Taqwa.   |
| Amin Ezzeddine              | Trustee of the Islamic Center of MD and Director of MAS-Maryland. |
| Sheikh Javed                | Imam of Islamic Community Center of Laurel.                       |

## Press Releases

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Faizul Khan President of Islamic Society of Washington  
Area.  
Safi Khan Imam of Dar-us-Salaam.  
Ali Nawaz Memon Senior Financial and Institutional Development  
Consultant.

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**ACTION ALERT 40415**

Friday, April 09, 2004

**PART A**

Thank the elected officials who stood up against hate

**Call or email to show gratitude**

CAIR-Maryland is calling upon the community to commend and extend support for the officials who have supported us in dealing with the hateful, anti-Islamic email circulated by Delegate Dwyer of Maryland.

The various officials listed below have been receiving large amounts of negative letters from their constituents blasting them for standing up for our cause to promote a fair, accurate depiction of Islam as a peaceful religion. These constituents have written emotional, intolerant letters about Islam, calling it a violent religion and demanding an apology to Delegate Dwyer.

The Senators and Delegates stood up for Islam and spoke on our behalf at a time when the image of Muslims is at very low ebb. They have renounced the defamatory generalizations made by Delegate Dwyer and now need our thanks for taking their stand. It is extremely important that you write or call these officials, offer them your gratitude and pledge your support for them in their future endeavors. It is incumbent on us as Muslims to support those who stand up for justice.

**Action Requested:**

Please contact the following elected officials via phone or email. Send a copy of your email to [cair@cairmd.org](mailto:cair@cairmd.org) or if contacting the officials by phone please call us at 301-986-1900.

Senator Sharon Grosfeld

[Sharon\\_grosfeld@senate.state.md.us](mailto:Sharon_grosfeld@senate.state.md.us)

410.841.3137

Delegate Susan Lee

[Susan\\_lee@house.state.md.us](mailto:Susan_lee@house.state.md.us)

410.841.3019

Delegate Ana Sol Gutierrez

ana\_gutierrez@house.state.md.us

410.841.3028

Delegate Richard Madaleno

Richard\_madaleno@house.state.md.us

410.841.3028

Delegate Curtis Anderson

curtanderson@aol.com

410.841.3291

**Please remember when taking action, it is important to remain calm and polite. Hostile comments will be used to further defame Islam and Muslims.**

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## **PART B**

**Demand actions against Delegate Dwyer**

**Urge co-chairs to respond to constituents**

CAIR-Maryland is calling upon the Maryland General Assembly Joint Committee on Ethics to take serious action with regard to the hateful, anti-Islamic rhetoric by Delegate Dwyer on and after April 1<sup>st</sup> 2004:

Delegate Dwyer of District 21 (Anne Arundel County) used his 8<sup>th</sup> grade nephew as a shield to promote his own prejudicial view of Islam and Muslims. On the morning of Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup> 2004, he emailed House delegates and Senators an article by his nephew entitled, "Is Islam Really Peaceful?" This article was to be used as a "reference" source, and promoted an Islamophobic, untrue representation of Islam and Muslims. (The email, in its entirety, is attached below)

Over the past week, Delegate Dwyer has refused to retract his hateful, incendiary email; and furthermore, claimed in an interview with Michael Olesker (*Baltimore Sun*) that had Dwyer written the essay himself, it would have been far more "scathing."

On Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup> 2004, CAIR-Maryland held a news conference, with a number of its coalition members from various religious and ethnic organizations, and called upon the Joint Committee on Ethics to take stern action. Executive Director, Seyed Rizwan Mowlana's statement can be found at <http://www.cairmd.org/new/links/News.asp?newsid=52>. We now need your support as members of the Maryland community to do the same.

### **Action Requested:**

Please call, email or fax the Maryland General Assembly Joint Committee on Ethics and ask them to investigate Delegate Dwyer's conduct in having abused taxpayer resources, as well as his own position of power to send out this hateful literature. Let them know that you are a resident of Maryland and you demand that Delegate Dwyer take the following actions:

- 1) Issue a formal apology to the Muslims in Maryland or
- 2) Resign from his elected position

To take these actions, please use the following contact information immediately. Send a copy of your email to [cair@cairmd.org](mailto:cair@cairmd.org) or if contacting the officials by phone please call us at 301 986-1900

Senate Chair: Norman R. Stone, Jr.

House Chair: John S. Arnick

Tel: (410) 946-5200

Fax: (410) 946-5205

Email: [William.somerville@mlis.state.md.us](mailto:William.somerville@mlis.state.md.us)

Joint Committee on Ethics

C/o William Somerville

90 State Circle

Annapolis, MD 21401

**Please remember when taking action, it is important to remain calm and polite. Hostil comments will be used to further defame Islam and Muslims.**

----- Delegate Dwyer's Original Email Is As Follows -----

Dear Colleagues,

What follows is clarification on the issue and question, "Is Islam really peaceful"?

My nephew Alex Dwyer, an 8th grader in a private school wrote this compelling explanation of the facts related to the question. He asked that I distribute this for your reference.

Remember as you read, that an 8th grader wrote this.

Thanks for your time,

Delegate Don Dwyer, Jr.

\*\*\*\*\*

Is Islam really peaceful?

Due to contemporary events, this paper deals with the present-day conflict over whether Islam is really a peaceful religion. One of the main arguments against Islam's being a peaceful religion is that Muslims conduct Jihad (holy war), which is what some Muslims say the attacks on September 11th were. From the standpoint of an American, those attacks seemed very militaristic. This paper is written from the standpoint that Islam is, although many modern Muslims deny it, a militaristic and violent religion.

There are many scriptural references that support the view that Islam is not a peaceable religion. In the Koran and Hadith, which are both scriptures that express the Islamic belief, there are many references that talk about Islam's distinctly militaristic culture. For instance, in the Koran there is a command that is given to Muslims: "If they [those who oppose Islam] withdraw not from you, nor offer you peace, nor restrain their hand, take (hold) of them and kill them wherever you find them..." (Koran 4:91). Muslims are also told to "make ready against them all you can of power, including steeds of war" (Koran 8:60). If the Koran gives clear warrant for killing those who will not comply with Islam, then Muslims have the clear obligation to do it. As noted above, the Koran gives the clear warrant for killing those who will not comply with Islam; therefore, Muslims must kill those who will not allow Islam. Jihad, as is seen in the Hadith, is considered a very worthy deed by Muslims, for Muhammad himself said that he would die many times while practicing Jihad, and that this act was the best thing that a Muslim can possibly do. This is in and of itself militaristic in that the best thing that one can do for Allah is kill those who do not allow Islam.

There have also been instances in history where Muslims have been violent and militaristic. Being militaristic, Muhammad set up a city (Mecca), which provided Islam a militaristic "base." Secondly, Muhammad himself conducted a militaristic act in his conquests that he made throughout northern Africa. This also shows Islam's militancy in that Muhammad actually established an Islamic state. Islam's militancy is also seen in Muhammad's raids of caravans that were traveling to Mecca. This was militant because this was how they planned to keep themselves alive: through acts of militancy.

Objection 1: The men that performed the terror attacks on 9/11 were taking the Koran and Hadith too literally, and the references in these texts that speak of gathering forces together are all to be taken in a spiritual manner.

Reply: In the Koran and Hadith, the terms that are used--such as gathering armies together to fight against Islam haters--are not spiritual terms, but refer to physical things. For instance, in the Koran 9:5 it speaks of lying in wait for them (those not allowing Islam) and ambushing them. These cannot be spiritual terms because you cannot spiritually lie in wait for someone; you must physically do it. Also in the Koran, it speaks about how Muslims should crucify those who go against the Islamic faith. Is crucifixion a spiritual term? Obviously it is not. Furthermore, the Koran speaks of taking captives after the battle, and that if they wanted, the captives could ransom themselves; but if this is spiritual, why would Muslim's receive a ransom from someone whom they are trying to save?

Objection 2: When you are taking quotes from the Koran and Hadith, you are taking them out of context.

Reply: The quotes that are referenced in this paper are not out of context because when we are looking at these quotes, we are looking at entire paragraphs. For instance, when the Koran talks about Muslims killing those who wish to stay away from them, there is an entire paragraph devoted to this topic. Other quotes, however, are blatant principles that need no context to be understood. Some of these blatant principles include killing other human beings and gathering horses. These are obvious commands and cannot be understood any differently than is expressed here. The blatant principles in the Koran and Hadith are very obvious principles; since these principles are obvious they do not require context; therefore, the blatant principles in the Koran and Hadith do not require context to be understood.

From the scriptural and historical proofs, it can be seen that Islam has militaristic principles. In contrast to Christ, Islam is quite the opposite in that it says that you are to do to others as they do to you, whereas Christ tells us to repay evil with good, and to not repay evil with evil. Thus, Islam is a much more self-satisfying religion and the exact opposite of Christianity. The debate of whether Islam is actually a peaceful religion is being waged right now, and one must take action and use the arguments proposed in this paper to aid them in their effort to go about

debating this topic.

-----END ORIGINAL EMAIL-----

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**MARYLAND & VIRGINIA MUSLIM NEWS BRIEF  
 6/9/04**

Thursday, June 10, 2004

- HADITH ON SADAQAH
- 650 TURN OUT FOR CAIR MARYLAND-VIRGINIA BANQUET

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**HADITH ON SADAQAH**

Narrated Abu Huraira:

Allah's Apostle said, "There is a Sadaqah to be given for every joint of the human body; and for every day on which the sun rises there is a reward of a Sadaqah (i.e. charitable gift) for the one who establishes justice among people."

*Sahih al-Bukhari Volume 3, Book 49, Number 870*

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**650 TURN OUT FOR CAIR-MD/VA BANQUET**

The Council on American-Islamic Relations Maryland-Virginia office would like to thank the Muslim community, friends, and well-wishers who gathered this past Saturday and helped make 2004 annual fundraising banquet a roaring success. CAIR Maryland-Virginia said some 650 people were present at the Hyatt Regency in Bethesda, Maryland. The fundraising dinner topped CAIR Maryland-Virginia's fundraising goal of \$250,000.

At the dinner, Ilyasah Shabazz, the daughter of Malcolm X, presented the first Malcolm X award to Muhammad Ali. Presidential candidate Ralph Nader encouraged American Muslims to continue challenging bigotry and to support civil liberties. Representatives of the John Kerry presidential campaign and the Democratic National Committee also spoke on behalf of John Kerry.

Many comments were made on the 2004 elections, "the Muslim vote should not be taken for granted," said Rizwan Mowlana, Executive Director of CAIR Maryland-Virginia, "every Muslim vote

should be earned by the candidate.”

CAIR Maryland-Virginia was awarded citations of excellence from Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich and Congressman Chris Van Hollen. Ms. Sally Grant, Chair of the Maryland Board of Governors announced the appointment of CAIR Maryland-Virginia's Executive Director to serve on the ACLU of Maryland's Board.

Attendees included state senators, delegates, and councilmember's from both Maryland and Virginia. Also present were representatives from a number of Congressman and Senators along with the FBI.

CAIR Maryland-Virginia attributed much of their success to their coalition and took time to recognize representatives from Progressive Maryland, ACLU of Maryland, NAACP, CASA of Maryland, and SMART.

“I was honored to be a part of this extremely impressive event, said Tom Hucker, Executive Director of Progressive Maryland, “it was an eye opener for me to see the strength, number, and diversity that was clearly evident that evening.”

The banquet was completely sold out and we sincerely apologize to our supporters who showed up at the event and were unable to procure a seat. Please keep in mind our annual banquet will be held on the first Saturday of June every year, God willing. We urge you to mark your calendars to be a part of this all-so important event.

For those of you who could not attend but wish to donate please send your donations to 7752 Woodmont Ave., Suite 213, Bethesda, Maryland 20814.

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## Links

### ACLU of Maryland

Local Maryland chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. A issue-based coalition member of CAIR-MD

<http://aclu-md.org>

### CAIR National

The Council on American Islamic Relations' National office is located in Washington DC.

<http://www.cair-net.org>

### CASA of Maryland

Latino-Hispanic advocacy group based in Maryland. A close coalition member of CAIR-MD.

<http://www.casamd.org>

### NAACP Montgomery County

Local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. A coalition member of CAIR-MD

<http://www.naacp-mc.org>

### Progressive Maryland

Progressive Maryland is an alliance of working families strengthened by religious, community, and labor organizations. A close coalition member of CAIR-MD

<http://www.progressivemaryland.org>

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## Progressive Maryland: Winning for Working Families

Founded only five years ago, Progressive Maryland is now the largest grassroots advocacy organization in our state. Progressive Maryland fights to pass legislation to improve the lives of working families in Maryland and elects candidates who share our values. Our 25,000 dues-paying individual members provide our political strength, as does our formal partnership with over fifty of Maryland's largest community, faith-based, labor, and civil rights groups. But we can't continue to win without your support. [Click here](#) to help us create a state in which our elected officials are held accountable to working families, not just special interests.

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## 2006 Candidate Questionnaires

All federal, gubernatorial, and comptroller candidates seeking Progressive Maryland's endorsement for the 2006 elections have now filled out our online questionnaire. [View their responses here](#) and find out how the candidate that would represent you would vote on progressive issues: raising wages, capping college tuition, fully funding public education, increasing health care coverage, passing clean elections and fair taxation reforms, protecting workers' rights, and improving transit options.

## 2006 Awards Gala A Huge Success!

On Monday, April 24, 2006, Progressive Maryland held our annual awards banquet at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt, MD. We honored the legendary **Congressman John Lewis**, an American hero and civil rights leader; **Jim Lowthers**, President of UFCW Local 400; Environmental Matters Committee Chairman **Maggie McIntosh**; and Dr. **Kim B. Kim**, Executive Director of the Korean Resource Center. Thank you to everyone who came and made this event a success! [Click here](#) for highlights from the evening!



## Public Funding of Campaigns Victory in House of Delegates

April 4, 2006 - The Maryland House Delegates has approved Progressive Maryland's bill that would create a voluntary, publicly funded way to run for General Assembly. [Read the full press release.](#)

## A Note to Our Allies - List Enhancement

Progressive Maryland has partnered with the Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO to arrange for Progressive Maryland affiliates and other allied membership organizations to get their membership lists updated and enhanced. The process is inexpensive, secure, effective and easy. Up-to-date and enhanced lists will make it easier for affiliates to serve their own members and conduct more effective political

work in 2006 and beyond. Find out more by contacting Chris Garlock at 202-756-4155 or [streetheat@dclabor.org](mailto:streetheat@dclabor.org).

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Looking for a previous news item? Check out our [Recent Events](#) page.

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## Progressive Maryland 2006 Awards Dinner

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Join Us to Honor  
Congressman John Lewis --  
An American Hero and Civil  
Rights History-Maker!

Monday April 24, 2006  
Martin's Crosswinds  
7400 Greenway Center Drive  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

5:30-6:30pm VIP Reception with  
honorees  
6:30-9:00pm Awards Dinner



This year, Progressive Maryland will be honoring the legendary Congressman John Lewis, who represents the fifth Congressional District of Georgia and who has done more to protect our civil rights than nearly any living American. We will also be honoring Jim Lowthers, President of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 400, as well as Environmental Matters Committee Chairman Maggie McIntosh. Last year 650 of you joined us to honor Democratic Vice Presidential nominee Sen. John Edwards and AFL-CIO President John Sweeney. This year promises to be an even more exciting affair.

Individual tickets for the dinner are \$100 per person or \$1000 for a table of ten, and various sponsorship levels are available. Invitations will be mailed in the coming weeks.

Space is limited – so order your tickets and tables now by contacting Kate Planco at 301-495-7004 or via email at [Kate@ProgressiveMaryland.org](mailto:Kate@ProgressiveMaryland.org)

Tom Hucker  
Executive Director  
[Progressive Maryland](#)

### Top Stories

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- [Electricity Deregulation in Maryland: End the Nightmare](#)
- [Ehrlich Cuts Create Safety Concerns](#)
- [The Case for More School Construction](#)
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### In Focus

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### Take Action

#### Power to the People

Sen. Paul F. ...  
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## Maryland Teacher Pensions--We Can Do Better!

Despite being the fourth wealthiest state, Maryland has the absolute worst pension in the country for public school teachers. That hurts Maryland's effort to attract and retain the best possible teachers for our state -- with consequences for our kids and economy. But there is a solution...

- [Den Hop](#)

[Read More](#)

### For Hire a

### Progressive Maryland in the News

#### **Baltimore Sun** Editorializes for Public Funding of Campaigns

#### Reform that counts

"When issues are considered by the Maryland General Assembly, most anyone can speak out. But big campaign donors have a proverbial bullhorn - so powerful is the impact of money on decision-making. This fact is so ingrained in Annapolis that many lawmakers assume it has to be this way. But it doesn't, at least not to the degree it is now..."

- [Exe Lea](#)
- [Pro Edit](#)
- [Pro Can](#)
- [Paic](#)
- [Vol](#)

*Baltimore Sun editorial*

### From Our

#### The Start of Public Funding of Campaigns?

"With all the competitive races in Maryland this election season and the requisite fundraising, advocates for the public financing of political campaigns believe their chances are greatly improved this session...Most lawmakers, said **Tom Hucker of Progressive Maryland**, don't like fundraising. The measure would allow them to 'spend more time with voters and less time at cocktail parties with lobbyists raising money,' he said."

*The Washington Post (scroll halfway down page)*

#### FPL battling on two fronts

"While unions, politicians and lawyers in Maryland demanded a closer look at the proposed merger of FPL Group and Constellation Energy, about 200 people protested high electric bills in front of Florida Power & Light's Miami headquarters on Thursday..."

The Public Citizen objection was made on behalf of Baltimore and Florida ACORN groups, Cleanup Coalition of Baltimore, the Florida Consumer Action Network of Tampa, Maryland PIRG, **Progressive Maryland** and Baltimore locals of the AFSCME and SEIU locals."

By John Dorschner, *The Miami Herald*

#### Kendel Ehrlich reveals salary

"Maryland first lady Kendel S. Ehrlich disclosed yesterday that she receives a \$55,000-a-year salary from Comcast, but said her part-time job producing anti-drug programs for the cable giant creates no conflict of interest with her husband's duties...In 2003, the liberal advocacy group **Progressive Maryland** asked the attorney general to investigate whether the governor had a conflict of interest in vetoing a bill that would have closed a tax loophole for companies including Comcast.

By Andrew A. Green, *The Baltimore Sun*

## Prominent Ties Among Comcast's Hires

"For more than a year, Maryland first lady Kendel S. Ehrlich has been executive producer and star of a largely unnoticed half-hour television talk show about drug and alcohol abuse...In June 2003, when the governor vetoed a bill that would have stopped Comcast and other companies from shifting the state tax burden to Delaware holding companies, the advocacy group **Progressive Maryland** publicly questioned whether the first lady's job posed a conflict."

By Matthew Mosk and Erik Rich, *The Washington Post*

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## New and Noteworthy

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**The Center for American Progress invites you to a morning forum: *Reframing the Health Care Debate: A Progressive Health Care Narrative***

Wednesday, March 22, 2006

Program: 9:00 - 10:00 AM, breakfast served at 8:30 AM.

Admission is free

Loews Annapolis Hotel

126 West Street

Annapolis, MD 21401

Phone: (410) 263-7777

[Click here to RSVP](#)

## Relief Fund Benefit for and Featuring the Dancers of the Washington Ballet

**Where:** The American Dance Institute, 1570 East Jefferson Street, Rockville, MD 20852

**When:** Thursday March 9, 8pm

Friday March 10, 8pm

Saturday March 11, 8pm

Sunday March 12, 2pm

**Tickets:** \$35 - All funds go directly to the Relief Fund and benefit the dancers. Visit [www.americandance.org](http://www.americandance.org) or telephone 301-984-3003 for tickets. Tickets are available beginning Friday, February 25.

[Read More](#)

## Progressive Lawmakers in Action

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This year, Del. Victor Ramirez (D-Prince George's) is sponsoring HB 89, legislation that will require Gov. Ehrlich to set aside at least \$7 million in the state's Medicaid budget to cover low-income pregnant women and children who are legal immigrants but do not qualify for federal money...

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## **About Us**

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Progressive Maryland is a grassroots organization of thousands of members strengthened by 50 religious, community, and labor organizations. Through research, public education, and direct political action we strive to improve the lives of working families in our state.

### **Maryland's Largest Grassroots Organization**

Progressive Maryland fights for working families at all levels of the state political system - in the general assembly, in schools and at the election booth.

Most of the largest community, religious and labor groups in the state work with Progressive Maryland including the NAACP, the United Methodists, the Maryland State Teachers Association, and Asian Pacific American and Latino groups.

### **Issues & Campaigns**

- **Raising Wages-** Progressive Maryland's living wage laws have already lifted thousands of families out of poverty by ensuring contractors pay their workers enough to feed their families. But the federal minimum wage has stagnated at \$5.15 per hour since 1997 - we need to raise it in Maryland!
- **Election Reform-** Public Financing of campaigns provides qualified candidates with enough public funds to run a viable campaign for office. It is already the law in Connecticut, Maine, and Arizona.
- **Health Care-** We need changes that guarantee health care for everyone in our state. The Fair Share Health Care Bill will make sure the largest companies in Maryland pay their fair share of their employees' health care costs.
- **Affordable Education-** Maryland's colleges and universities have recently been burdened with over \$120 million in budget cuts. As a result, tuition rose drastically and working- and middle-class Marylanders are struggling to afford the high tuition rates. We can fully fund education by promoting tax fairness and recovering revenue lost through loopholes.
- **Tax Fairness-** Closing corporate tax loopholes will address the structural budget deficit without additional cuts to programs that children and families count on.
- **Voter Registration-** Less than 2/3 of registered voters participate in Maryland state elections.
- **Public Transportation-** The Inner Purple Line is an long-overdue part of the solution to Washington's transportation problems.

## **Join or Give**

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### **Progressive Maryland**

Help support Progressive Maryland's efforts to raise the minimum wage, pass living wage laws, protect higher and secondary education funding, close corporate tax loopholes, expand health care in our state. Become a member; it's fast, easy, safe and secure.

### **PM Education Fund**

Tax deductible contributions to support training and public education may be made payable to the Progressive Maryland Education Fund.