

Health Care Score Sheet

O'Malley vs. Ehrlich

Maryland is among the top states in the nation working to expand access to health care and reign in rising health care costs.

Here's a glimpse at the leaders responsible for this progress.

ISSUE	Ehrlich	O'Malley	Impact
Expanding health care coverage for parents.	Opposed	Supported	<p>Since 2007, when Gov. O'Malley made it a priority in the Special Session,¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> over 55,000 previously uninsured parents gained health care coverage; ² Maryland has gone from 44th to 16th in the nation in making health care affordable for lower-income working adults;³ uncompensated care costs to pay for the hospitalization of the uninsured has decreased⁴
Primary care for childless adults	Supported	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided free or low-cost primary care, prescription drugs, and outpatient mental health care to 40,000 uninsured Marylanders. Outpatient substance abuse treatment was added in 2010.⁵
Helping Small Businesses Afford Health Care	No Position	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hundreds of small businesses with less than 10 employees have received grants from the state to enable them to provide health care coverage for their employees.⁶
Increasing Maryland's Cigarette Tax	Opposed	Supported	<p>In 2008, when the \$1.00 increase in the state's cigarette tax enacted in 2007 took effect,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 74 million fewer packs of cigarettes were sold in Maryland giving Maryland the fourth lowest smoking rate in the nation; \$144 million additional revenue was raised which, along with federal matching dollars, primarily funded the health care coverage expansion for parents.⁷

ISSUE	Ehrlich	O'Malley	Impact
Allowing youth up to age 25 to stay on their parents' health insurance	No Position	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thousands of young adults in Maryland are now able to stay on their parents' health insurance.⁸
Reducing Prescription Drug Costs for Seniors	No Position	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governor O'Malley worked with the legislature to close the Medicare "Donut Hole" for seniors in Maryland. Over 23,000 Maryland seniors can now afford prescription drugs.⁹
Reducing Prescription Drug Costs for Uninsured Patients	Supported *unable to obtain necessary waiver from Bush Administration	Supported *actively seeking necessary waiver from Obama Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When implemented, it will greatly reduce prescription drug prices for over 70,000 Marylanders.¹⁰
Expanding health care to more children by supporting efficient enrollment systems	No Position	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 78,000 eligible but previously un-enrolled children have been enrolled in Maryland's public health care programs since 2007.¹¹
Requiring large businesses to provide health insurance to their employees	Opposed and vetoed	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Known as the "Fair Share Health Care Act" or "The WalMart Law," the law was invalidated by the courts, but the publicity around it has been credited with spurring WalMart to expand health care coverage to hundreds of thousands of its workers
Federal Health Care Reform	Opposed	Supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new federal health care reform will expand health care to over 32 million uninsured Americans, save the state of Maryland \$1 billion in health care costs and make health care more affordable.¹³

1. Department of Legislative Services. Fiscal and Policy Note: Working Families and Small Business Health Coverage Act. Maryland General Assembly. Retrieved 04/19/2010 from: http://mlis.state.md.us/2007s1/fnotes/bil_0006/sb0006.pdf

2. Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Medical Enrollment by County as of 03/02/2010. Baltimore, MD.

3. Kaiser Family Foundation. Income Thresholds for Jobless and Working Parents Applying for Medicaid by Annual Income as a Percent of Federal Poverty Level (FPL), 2009. Retrieved (04/08/2010) from <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparatable.jsp?ind=205&cat=4>.

4. Families USA. (June 2005). Paying a Premium: The Added cost of caring for the uninsured in Maryland. Retrieved 4/20/2010 from <http://www.familiesusa.org/assets/pdfs/paying-premium-state-factsheets/Premiums-Maryland.pdf>

5. Department of Legislative Services. Operating Budget Analysis Documents - Fiscal Year 2011 (pgs 7 and 25). Maryland General Assembly. Retrieved 04/25/2010 from: http://mlis.state.md.us/2010rs/budget_docs/all/Operating/M00Q_-_DHMH_Medical_Care_Programs_Administration.pdf

6. Department of Legislative Services. Fiscal and Policy Note: Working Families and Small Business Health Coverage Act. Maryland General Assembly. Retrieved 04/19/2010 from: http://mlis.state.md.us/2007s1/fnotes/bil_0006/sb0006.pdf

7. According to the Maryland State Comptroller's Office, tax revenue from tobacco products increased from \$273.8 million in 2007 to \$418.0 million in 2008 when the tax took effect, representing a 53% increase and \$144.2 million additional dollars to the state amid an economic downturn.

8. Department of Legislative Services. Fiscal and Policy Note: Health Insurance-Family Coverage Expansion Act. Maryland General Assembly. Retrieved 04/19/2010 from: http://mlis.state.md.us/2007RS/fnotes/bil_0007/hb1057.pdf

9. Department of Legislative Services. Fiscal and Policy Note: Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program-Subsidy for Medicare Part D Coverage Gap and Sunset Extension. Maryland General Assembly. Retrieved 04/19/2010 from: http://mlis.state.md.us/2008rs/fnotes/bil_0002/hb1492.pdf

10. Department of Legislative Services. Fiscal and Policy Note: Maryland Pharmacy Discount Program-State Discount-Eligibility. Maryland General Assembly. Retrieved 04/19/2010 from: http://mlis.state.md.us/2005rs/fnotes/bil_0003/hb1143.pdf

11. Idala, D. et al (2009) Using information from tax forms to target Medicaid and CHIP outreach: Preliminary results of the Maryland Kids First Act. *State Health Access Reform Evaluation*. Retrieved 04/19/2010 from: <http://www.rwjf.org/files/research/49048.pdf>

12. Department of Legislative Services. Fiscal and Policy Note: Fair Share Health Care Fund Act. Maryland General Assembly. Retrieved 04/19/2010 from: http://mlis.state.md.us/2005rs/fnotes/bil_0004/hb1284.pdf

13. The State of Maryland Executive Department. Executive Order 01.01.2010.07 Maryland Health Care Reform Coordinating Council. (03/24/2010) Retrieved 4/19/2010 from: <http://www.governor.maryland.gov/documents/100324HealthcareEO.pdf>



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