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For Immediate Release...

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Hogan: O'Malley Fiscal Policies Have Damaged State

Today, Martin O'Malley and the Board of Public Works cut \$300 million more out of the State Budget. The cuts reduce millions in spending already committed for college financial aid, Medicaid funding, and state mental health programs. The cuts also may violate state law regarding the amount of appropriated funding that can be taken back by the state.

"Martin O'Malley continues his assault on the citizens of Maryland while exposing to all that he is unable to put Maryland's fiscal house in order. Twice now, he has made significant cuts to the state's Medicaid program after significantly increasing it less than a year ago. And once again he has chosen to put the burden of his overspending on state employees. This leadership does not work for Maryland citizens," Hogan said.

Hogan continued, "Here's what the citizens of Maryland have learned from Martin O'Malley over the last three years: he cannot be trusted to lead our state back to prosperity; his overspending and 'tax-everything' policies have severely damaged our state's economy and revenues; and he has no problem attacking the state's most vulnerable."

According to Maryland's Department of Legislative Services, the fiscal year 2010 budget is currently \$32.3 billion; the final budget of the Ehrlich administration was \$29 billion – an increase of nearly \$3.3 billion in new spending.

"Martin O'Malley has spent Maryland into a one billion dollar hole," said Hogan. "And his fiscal policies have led to the highest unemployment rate in a generation by attacking the job creators of the state with more and more taxes. It's time to change Maryland for the better by putting Martin O'Malley in the unemployment line in 2010. Only then can we put Maryland back on the right fiscal track."

Larry Hogan has emerged as the leading challenger to O'Malley, if Ehrlich decides not to run. He is a small business owner in Anne Arundel County who served in the Ehrlich Cabinet.

In his last run for office Hogan nearly defeated the House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer in what Hoyer called the toughest race of his entire political career.

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