




**Maryland Works, Inc.**

# Public Policy Action Alert

To: Maryland Works Members and Partners  
From: Bob Hofmann, President & CEO   
Date: January 29, 2008  
Re: **Action Needed on DORS' FY2009 Budget Request**

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**Background:** Because of funding shortages, the Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) is forced to turn away thousands of individuals each year. There are now over 3,000 people on a "waiting-list" for DORS' services. Eliminating the current waiting-list would require \$4.1 million.

At the urging of Maryland Works, our members and partners, Governor O'Malley has included a \$2.3 million above-the-mark funding request in his FY2009 budget recently submitted to the State Legislature. The State Legislature is poised to make significant cuts to the Governor's budget request.

## **Action Needed:**

Our attention must now shift to urging legislators to support full funding of the \$2.3 million above-the-mark funding for the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) included in the Governor's FY2009 Budget Request. Please do the following:

- 1.) **Take a few minutes to write or call members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Appropriations Committee urging them to support the Governor's budget request for DORS.** A list of Committee Members and Speaking Points are included at the end of this Alert.
- 2.) If possible, attend the relevant House and Senate budget hearings to show your support for the DORS' Budget Increase. You can choose to provide written and or oral testimony or simply sign-up to be recognized in the proceedings as "appearance-only in support".

The hearing schedule is as follows:

- Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m. - Senate Budget and Taxation Subcommittee for Health, Education and Human Resources
- Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> - House Appropriations Subcommittee for Education and Economic Development

Please call or e-mail me to let me know how many calls, letters or e-mails you make. Also let me know if you would like to testify at either or both of the budget hearings and I will make arrangements to sign you up.

Thanks for taking action on this important issue. We have a great opportunity to secure the Legislature's support for the DORS' funding.

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Members of the two committees are as follows. You can easily send e-mails to each committee member by going to: <http://mlis.state.md.us/mgaweb/mail32.aspx>

**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee (B&T)**

3 West, Miller Senate Building, Annapolis, MD 21401  
(410-841-3690 Annapolis/Baltimore or 301-858-3690 Washington, D.C.)

**Chair:** Ulysses Currie

**Vice Chair:** Edward J. Kasemeyer

David R. Brinkley	Nathaniel J. McFadden
James E. DeGrange, Sr.	Donald F. Munson
George C. Edwards	Douglas J. J. Peters
Verna L. Jones	James N. Robey
Nancy J. King	J. Lowell Stoltzfus
Rona E. Kramer	Bobby A. Zirkin
Richard S. Madaleno, Jr.	

**House Appropriations Committee (APP)**

Room 121, House Office Building, Annapolis, MD 21401-1912  
(410-841-3407 Annapolis/Baltimore or 301-858-3407 Washington, D.C.)

**Chair:** Norman H. Conway

**Vice Chair:** James E. Proctor, Jr.

Susan L. M. Aumann	Guy Guzzone
Charles Barkley	Keith E. Haynes
Gail H. Bates	Henry B. Heller
John L. Bohanan, Jr.	Mary-Dulany James
Talmadge Branch	Adrienne A. Jones
William A. Bronrott	Murray D. Levy
Galen R. Clagett	LeRoy E. Myers, Jr.
Steven J. DeBoy, Sr.	Barbara A. Robinson
Adelaide C. Eckardt	Steven R. Schuh
Tawanna P. Gaines	Theodore J. Sophocleus
Melony G. Griffith	Nancy R. Stocksdale
Ana Sol Gutiérrez	John F. Wood, Jr.

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**Speaking Points:**

(I, we) “urge you to support the \$2.3 million above-the-mark funding for the Division of Rehabilitation Services included in the Governor’s FY2009 Budget Request.” The reasons why it is so important

- There are over 3,000 individuals on a waiting list for DORS’ services – 1,500 can be served with the requested \$2.3 million allocation
- They are applying to DORS because they want to go to work and not be dependent on public aid
- DORS services are short-term and less costly than alternative programs
- 82% of individuals who receive DORS services report employment wages as their primary source of income – compared to 14% prior to receiving services