**FACT SHEET: MARYLAND**

Entering office amid an economic crisis, President Obama has consistently fought for the middle class, protecting children, and education. Here is just some of what has been achieved in Maryland.

**Strengthening the middle class**

- The current tax system is NOT fair: In 2010, Maryland corporations paid $891 million in state income taxes and individuals paid $6.2 billion — **seven times more**. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *State Government Tax Collections Summary Report: 2010*)

- The Social Security payroll tax cut instituted by President Obama is a first step to leveling the playing field — **$1,000 more in take-home pay** for a middle class family earning $50,000 a year. (Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury)

- Over the last two decades, on average the income of the **richest 20%** of families in Maryland rose by more than $50,000 while the income of the **poorest 20%** of families in Maryland remained about the same. For details, see [http://bit.ly/jyj6H](http://bit.ly/jyj6H). (Source: *Pulling Apart: A State by State Analysis of Income Trends*, Center for Budget and Policy Priorities and the Economic Policy Institute, 2008)

**Making college affordable**

- President Obama has preserved Pell grants for more than **120,000 students** in Maryland. (Source: U.S. Department of Education)

- Last year alone, the American Opportunity Tax Credit introduced by President Obama helped make **college tuition** affordable for **191,000 families** in Maryland. (Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Tax Analysis)

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Supporting educators, modernizing schools

- As a result of President Obama’s support for the Education Jobs Fund, signed into law in August 2010, Maryland received $179 million that helped keep teachers in the classroom, limit increases in class size, and contain layoffs of counselors, classroom aides, and other education support professionals. (Source: U.S. Department of Education)

- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, signed into law by President Obama in February 2009, funded more than 1,500 education jobs in Maryland. (Source: U.S. Department of Education)

- President Obama’s American Jobs Act, which the Republican Congress continues to block, would provide $542 million for education jobs, $316 million to modernize schools, and $94 million for community colleges in Maryland. (Source: A State by State Guide to the American Jobs Act, whitehouse.gov)

Improving health care

- In 2011, Maryland received $1.4 million for school-based health centers that provide screenings, conduct health promotion and disease prevention activities, and enable children with acute or chronic illnesses to attend school. (Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration)

- The Affordable Care Act has brought peace of mind to 3.7 million people in Maryland — they no longer have to worry about lifetime limits. (Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, The Health Care Law & You, healthcare.gov)

- In 2011, nearly 26,000 young adults in Maryland could remain on their parents’ health plans until age 26 — and that number will grow in 2012. Before the Affordable Care Act, many college graduates and other young adults had no insurance. (Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, The Health Care Law & You, healthcare.gov)