



January 28, 2003

James Senate Office Building

Dear Honorable Senators:

The Council of University System Staff asks you to support the campaign initiative set forth by Chancellor Kirwan, "Maintain the Momentum," when dealing with the State of Maryland budget crisis.

As Staff employees (approximately 16,000 Exempt and Nonexempt) of the University System of Maryland, we are concerned with the negative impact (furloughs, layoffs and hiring freezes) that budget cuts would have for staff. We are also acutely aware of the additional burdens that would be placed on our students, faculty, and administrators within the institutions of higher education throughout the State of Maryland.

Our institutions have been able to make great strides towards the USM vision of achieving national eminence because of your previous support. Many of our campuses are now nationally ranked in specific categories, an achievement in which Marylanders can take great pride.

We are requesting that you strive to preserve the tremendous progress that has been made, and continue your advocacy on behalf of the USM vision.

We encourage you to contact us if you have any questions.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

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