

Alliance for Tax Fairness

Top Ten* List

of Urgent Needs in Maryland

- ❖ **Health Care:** Children dying because they cannot afford care – Deamonte Driver died of a toothache
- ❖ **Health Care:** 800,000 with no health insurance
- ❖ **Education:** 70,000 children attend classes in trailers; many schools not suited for teaching or learning
- ❖ **Higher Ed:** UMCP tuition up 52% in four years
- ❖ **Environment:** Chesapeake Bay in critical condition
- ❖ **Crime:** MD is 3rd most violent state in the nation
- ❖ **Infrastructure:** 27% of MD bridges structurally deficient or functionally obsolete vs. 12% in MN where the bridge fell
- ❖ **Seniors** are dying from abuse and neglect in uninspected assisted living facilities (Sun 8/18/07)
- ❖ **Seniors:** 10,000 waiting for in-home services so they can stay out of more expensive nursing homes
- ❖ **Disabilities:** 16,000 developmentally disabled on waiting lists for help because MD ranks 44th in aid
- ❖ **Foster Care:** Children at risk due to overburdened staff
- ❖ **Illiteracy:** 20% of MD adults read below 4th grade level, thousands waiting in line to get help
- ❖ **Mental Health:** Aid cuts penny-wise & pound-foolish – many end up homeless or in jail at public expense
- ❖ **Housing Affordability:** At risk in much of Maryland
- ❖ **State Parks:** MD's 49 state parks are in a state of crisis because of declining funding and manpower (Sun 11/9/07)

*Actually 15 because it was impossible to say that any of these items should not be on the list, plus there are many more.