

Changing college aid harms middle class

Over the last year, Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. has shown himself to be a principled man on the issue of taxes. One can only wish that he possessed the same level of integrity on the matter of helping middle-class Marylanders to pay for their children's college education ("Ehrlich wants scholarships to be need-based," Jan. 29).

Last fall, the governor and his advisers floated the idea of doubling the tuition at our state universities. They also came to the troubling and misguided conclusion that increasing tuition would encourage students to graduate faster. Thankfully, the administration wisely backed off both proposals.

Now it seems that the "trash-the-middle-class" gang on the governor's education policy staff is up to its old tricks. The proposal to reduce merit scholarships, if implemented, will be just another blow to the efforts of bright, dedicated students to attend state universities.

For the middle class, the governor's policy on higher education seems to be developing into a case of higher costs and little education.

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Aid should reward hardworking youths