Dear University of Maryland Family:

I strongly applaud Governor Martin O'Malley's proposal to offer medical coverage to gay and lesbian Maryland State employees' partners and their children. This is the right thing to do, and it corrects an obvious inequity in the State's treatment of its employees.

The University of Maryland is committed to equity and diversity, and I have worked hard to strengthen and expand fair, open and equal treatment for people of all sexual orientations, religious affiliations, races and ethnic backgrounds. Providing domestic partners of University employees with the same medical coverage and employer financial contributions that spouses of employees currently receive is an important step. It is one that many, including the President's Commission on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues, have long sought to achieve for University of Maryland employees.

We hope that the State will quickly adopt this proposed regulation and that it will win approval by the University System of Maryland. Chancellor Kirwan has been very supportive of this measure and also anticipates its successful implementation.

Yours sincerely,

C. D. Mote, Jr.
President

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This note was authorized for distribution to University of Maryland Community by:
President C. D. Mote, Jr.