



# News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.  
Governor

Michael S. Steele  
Lt. Governor

Mary Ann Saar  
Secretary

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **DPSCS SECRETARY MARY ANN SAAR DECRIES DENIAL OF RETROACTIVE RAISES FOR CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS**

***Legislative Services suggests cutting officers' retroactive raises as  
recommended by Governor Ehrlich***

TOWSON, MD (February 21, 2006) -- "Correctional officers are among the most dedicated and under-appreciated public safety employees in Maryland. Recognizing their service, Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. pledged \$32.3 million for pay increases and other incentives effective July 1st in his proposed budget for FY 2007. Additionally, the Governor pledged \$15.5 million in funds to make these salary increases retroactive to January 1, 2006. The retroactive funds set aside for correctional officers were budgeted by the Department of Budget and Management," according to a statement released today by Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Mary Ann Saar. "To have anyone in government pull back money the Governor has promised is an outrage."

"The budget analyst has recommended that the General Assembly cut the funds for the retroactive pay increase and other incentives. This would mean that correctional officers would not get their promised raises until July. Correctional officers need, deserve and were promised this money now, and to deny this retroactive pay raise is a slap in the face of every man and woman who works in the prisons and detention centers every day to ensure our safety. I have encouraged all correctional officers, and those who care about them, to contact their elected officials. Tell them why correctional officers deserve this money. And more importantly, tell them that our public safety depends upon their commitment to correctional officers.

"Correctional officers have waited fifteen years for a substantial raise. We strongly encourage the Maryland General Assembly to pass the full salary increase, including the retroactive pay raise."

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***Public Trust, Public Service, Public Safety***