The State of Maryland

Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL WEEK
MAY 2 - 6, 2011

WHEREAS, *Strong schools are the building blocks of a strong and prosperous state; and*

WHEREAS, *Maryland values excellence in education and has been recognized as a top leader in education for three years in a row; and*

WHEREAS, *Charter schools are founded upon the principles of academic excellence and increasing the opportunity for all families to choose the most promising schools to serve their children; and*

WHEREAS, *Charter schools are performance - based public schools that receive autonomy to implement innovation strategies to improve the design and quality of public schooling in exchange for strict accountability for student achievement; and*

WHEREAS, *Charter schools demonstrate the collective responsibility of all Maryland communities to ensure high quality educational experiences for our youth, by the founding of such schools by parents, teachers, and community organizations; and*

WHEREAS, *An outstanding charter school system in Maryland provides the competition and motivation for all public schools to increase academic performance, expand choices in public education, and continue to close the achievement gap; and*

WHEREAS, *Since the passing of the Maryland Charter School Law in 2003, charter schools have expanded to a total of 44 schools this year, the State strongly supports continuous growth.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTIN O'MALLEY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim MAY 2-6, 2011 as NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL WEEK in Maryland, and do commend this celebration to all of our citizens.

Given *Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,*
this **2nd** *day of* **May**
Two Thousand **and eleven**

Governor

Lt. Governor

Secretary of State