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**Howard County  
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# Press Release

## **County Executive Ken Ulman out for Political Gain with Healthy Howard Proposal**

**Columbia, MD, May 20, 2008:** While hard working citizens of Howard County are facing increasing gas prices, property taxes, food prices, energy prices, foreclosures, and an uncertain economic future, Ken Ulman is increasing the county budget by 20% over the past two years. This at the same time that in each of the past two years that county has ended the fiscal year with a budget surplus. While most Americans are looking for ways to cut back on spending and conserve their resources, County Executive Ulman is looking for new ways to collect tax dollars and spend them on new programs.

Healthy Howard is one such program. Healthy Howard is both a government program and a non-profit, non government program. However, Ken Ulman is allowing the non-profit to use the same name as the government program and share the county's logo. This is leaving the county in a vulnerable situation should the non-profit run into problems in the future. As stated in a recent news article, this is a "signature issue for the County Executive" and the key to "establish County Executive Ken Ulman's political claim to fame for future campaigns." Is Ken Ulman out to help the uninsured citizens of Howard County or is he just using them as a pawn in his ambitious attempt to be elected to a higher political office? Healthy Howard is a good idea as a non-profit, non-government program, but being tied into the Howard County Government and the tax payers of Howard County is a bad idea. Who is responsible in the future if Healthy Howard can't raise the necessary money to keep the program going? What are the safe guards to ensure that county money is providing services for county residents and not out of county residents or illegal residents? These are serious questions and the County Executive has yet to provide an adequate answer.

The Howard County Republican Party is urging citizens to contact County Executive Ken Ulman at 410-313-2013 and remind him that he has been elected to serve Howard County and not to use his

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office for political gain. Healthy Howard is an idea that needs to be taken off the table and studied more carefully. During these economic times, it isn't prudent to be placing more burdens on the tax payers of Howard County.

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