

## The Rush Limbaugh Show April 11, 2005

BEGIN TRANSCRIPT

RUSH: Well, they actually did it in Maryland, ladies and gentlemen. (*Story*) "The Maryland General Assembly gave final approval yesterday to a bill that in effect would force Wal-Mart to boost spending on employee health benefits or contribute money to the state's health care program for the poor. The House of Delegates voted 82 to 48 to approve the same bill that the Senate approved last week. The House earlier had approved a slightly different version. The legislation now goes to Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. (R), who has promised to veto the measure. Ehrlich, speaking to reporters yesterday, criticized Democrats for pushing the bill, noting that Maryland had been ridiculed by Rush Limbaugh and other national commentators. 'They're trying to send a message to the business community that you truly are irrelevant,'" meaning the business community is. "Under the bill, companies in Maryland with more than 10,000 employees would be required to spend 8% of their payroll on employee health care or make a contribution to the state Medicaid program." (*Laughs*) It's extortion. "Wal-Mart, with about 15,000 Maryland workers, is one of four firms that qualifies and the only one that does not meet the 8% threshold. The company has said its spending is somewhere between seven and 8%." So it's basically a piece of legislation, as we said last week, that targets one company, and now, Wal-Mart will find a way around this because they always do.

We gave a couple suggestions. You know, just move about 6,000 people. Move enough stores to cover six, 7,000 employees to Delaware and neighborhoods, states where there is no such legislation. Well, they could move one into D.C. Well, they got (*laughing*). That would really, *really* upset them. By the way, I don't have time to get into this, but it's about time. I'm going to post this on the website. Koko, I got a piece here today published today, TechCentralStation.com, and it's a little column written by Max Borders who is a writer living in the Washington, DC-area and a Wal-Mart shopper, and it is one of the best pieces on the positive effects of Wal-Mart. In fact, he calls it "The Wal-Mart Effect," the great things that happen to communities when Wal-Mart moves in, contrary to everybody thinking that mom-and-pop shops go out of business, he says it's the economy at work. One of the reasons mom and pop shops go out of business is, why should people support mom-and-pop businesses if they're old and antiquated and haven't modernized and are selling things much too high in price? He said what ends up replacing these mom-and-pop operators is people that end up being different from Wal-Mart with different products, different price points, and it actually *elevates* the makeup of these local communities where Wal-Mart goes in. His point is that Wal-Mart elevates these local communities, doesn't set them back, harm them, make them ghost towns or anything of the sort. We'll link to it at [RushLimbaugh.com](http://RushLimbaugh.com). It's called Understanding the Wal-Mart Effect.

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