

News Release



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Governor's Budget Threatens the Health & Economy of California

*Consumers, Providers & Advocates Present Solutions to
Save the Safety Net & Protect California's Health*

***Press Conference • Tuesday, June 15th, 9:30am
State Capitol • West Steps • Sacramento, CA 95814***

Families, healthcare providers and a coalition of advocates join forces today to put a human face to the consequences of the proposed cuts in the 2010-11 California State Budget and outline revenue options to preserve health and social services programs for millions of children, the disabled and families hardest hit by the current recession. Advocates and families will present thousands of postcards from concerned Californians urging the legislature to

- Stop the proposed cuts to California's safety net, healthcare and social services programs
- Put revenue options on the table to stabilize the budget and invest in California's families and future
- Position California to receive more federal funding for healthcare, jobs, transportation, education and a healthy environment.

“California should work to get more federal funding for healthcare and jobs, not make cuts that leave hundreds of millions of federal dollars back in Washington, DC—which is what is proposed in the Governor’s budget,” says Anthony Wright, Executive Director, Health Access.

“The Governor’s cuts to Medi-Cal alone would result in the loss of \$1.4 billion in federal matching funds, 32,000 jobs, \$5 billion in economic output and \$257 million in state and local tax revenue dollars.”

The coalition will outline seven revenue solutions that would not only curtail the need for nearly all the Governor’s proposed reductions to health and human services programs but help save

thousands of jobs statewide and get Californians back to work. The revenue solutions include repealing 2008-09 tax cuts that benefitted only a small number of California corporations rather than eliminating healthcare coverage for the 120,000 children from working families now enrolled in Healthy Families and another 90,000 residents in Medi-Cal. In addition, California — the only state that does not tax oil production — could raise \$1 billion a year with an oil severance tax and save the CalWORKS program that provides cash assistance to 1.2 million people, including 900,000 children, and helps families move from welfare to work.

The Governor's proposal would also reduce wages to in-home support workers for the aged, blind and disabled to the state minimum of \$8 per hour, plus \$.60 per hour for health benefits. This proposal would decrease the availability of quality home care workers for consumers and force the disabled into costly institutions.

“Instead of slashing the safety net, we should be making sure children and families have access to the services they need and maximize our limited dollars to take advantage of matching federal funds, create jobs and protect California's health,” says Lark Galloway-Gilliam, Executive Director for Community Health Councils. “It's time for our Governor and legislators to put aside their no-tax rhetoric and act responsibly.”

Community Health Councils is a non-profit, community-based health promotion, advocacy and policy organization. Established in 1992, CHC's mission is to improve health and increase access to quality healthcare for uninsured, economically-disadvantaged, and underserved populations.

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