

ABOUT THE PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS

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THE PROBLEM:

- In an attempt to close California's \$15.2 billion budget deficit, Governor Schwarzenegger has proposed some of the largest cuts to vital investments in California's history, including slashing more than \$4.3 billion in funds to schools and students and nearly \$3 billion from hospitals and critical health and human services for the sick and elderly.
- \$4.3 billion in cuts to education will result in fewer teachers, counselors, librarians, special education assistants, and the other critical school staff that help students learn.
 - This means class sizes could increase by more than one-third, and California will spend \$800 less per student, while art, music and career technical education programs will be decimated.
 - Our state already ranks 46th out of 50 states in per pupil spending, and dead last in the ratio of teachers and critical support staff to students. All cuts hurt students.
 - More than 20,000 teachers and school employees have already received pink-slip notices, forcing many to leave the state or the profession.
- Cutting nearly \$3 billion dollars from our hospitals and health and human services hurts California's families and leaves our most vulnerable in jeopardy.
 - Cuts endanger the healthcare facilities we all rely on, such as emergency rooms, trauma centers, rural hospitals, and burn units.
 - An 18% cut to in-home services means that the 406,000 aged, blind or disabled individuals who rely on these services to remain safely in their own homes will see drastic reductions that could affect their health and safety.
 - The proposal also eliminates cost-of-living adjustments to these programs for the third year in a row, despite escalating costs of gas and day-to-day needs.
 - Slashed funding for adult protective services means that 18,755 fewer incidents of elder abuse and neglect will be investigated.
 - Reduced funding for senior nutrition programs means tens of thousands fewer home-delivered meals and brown-bag deliveries for seniors.
 - An estimated 800,000 California children and their parents will be dropped from their Medi-Cal health insurance coverage. A family of four making \$12,000 per year would no longer be eligible for coverage.
 - Slashed funding for child protective services will result in an estimated 190,000 unanswered neglect and abuse emergency calls each year.
 - Reducing funding for preschool and certain child care programs by approximately \$200 million and cutting after-school programs by about \$60 million hurts our kids.
 - Eliminating assistance to over 200,000 children currently receiving CalWORKs benefits would leave low-income working parents with no childcare options.
 - Slashing foster care funding by 10 percent, or \$81 million, hurts kids who can afford it the least.
- The proposed cuts will impact California families in multiple ways, often compounding problems. Communities will receive cuts to their local schools, hospitals, in-home care programs for seniors, and foster care services for kids.
- The Governor's budget also includes a distracting "power-grab" proposal that already has been overwhelmingly rejected by California's voters, and doesn't address the real concerns of California's families.
 - It undermines our system of checks and balances by giving the Governor unprecedented unilateral power to make cuts without approval from our legislators.

- It would create artificial spending caps that would hurt the quality of our schools, parks and other essential services for years to come.
- The proposal includes a “borrowing scheme” from the state lottery that the Legislative Analyst’s Office said comes up \$5 billion short in funds provided for schools. It also does not protect current education funding received from the lottery and does not respond to the need for additional state revenues to maintain vital services.

HOW WE GOT HERE:

- In recent years, California’s elected leaders have been able to delay dealing with the state’s fundamental budget problems. But those days are over. In difficult economic times, our state’s budget problems are compounded by the reality that our leaders have not created long-term solutions.
- The slowing economy has made our state’s budget problems even worse. What’s more, the housing crisis and the rising costs of food and gas mean that California’s families need vital services more than ever.
- Deep cuts have already been made: the mid-year cuts to education and healthcare have already negatively impacted schools, hospitals and doctors throughout the state, and the problems will only get worse.

WHAT WE STAND FOR:

- The Governor’s budget proposes to solve the state budget crisis through cuts alone. This approach would be devastating to California’s families and to our state’s future.
- We want real budget solutions from our elected leaders that don’t jeopardize our students’ education, services for the sick and elderly, parks and the environment, or the health care we all rely on when we need it most.
- The California State Senate and Assembly have put forth budget proposals with fewer cuts and more revenue for vital services than the Governor’s budget. While all cuts hurt our already underfunded schools, hospitals, health care system and services for the sick and elderly, the Legislature is moving away from a “cuts-only” approach and toward a more balanced solution.
- We remain steadfastly opposed to a “cuts-only” budget and support a balanced approach that includes finding new revenue streams.
- We believe that California is ready to invest in our shared future, and we are working together to hold our Governor and legislators accountable and make that happen.