



May 25, 2005 is Better Choices for Children Day!



CDF Action Council

On May 25th, Urge California's Elected Leaders to Make Better Choices for California's Children

On January 10, 2005, Governor Schwarzenegger released his 2005-2006 budget for California. The budget, which seeks to remedy a structural deficit of over \$9 billion, relies largely on program cuts and temporary borrowing, while ruling out new sources of revenue. The Governor will be releasing his May Revise to these budget proposals on May 13, 2005; stay tuned for details!

CDF is concerned about the Governor's decision to take revenues off the table, when budget proposals affecting low-income children and their parents in the January budget include:

- Cutting CalWORKS grants that help the state's lowest income families buy food, shelter and clothing by 6.5 percent, and suspending the statutory cost of living adjustment. The Governor has also proposed reducing emergency shelter grants.
- Eliminating the cost of living adjustment for disabled Californians, including children, and for the elderly, scheduled to take effect this month.
- Proposing mandatory enrollment for disabled children and adults in managed care plans, posing risks of disruption to critically needed health care.
- Imposing premiums on some of the state's lowest income families for Medi-Cal health insurance, pricing some out of a managed care insurance model and forcing them to rely on costly emergency care.
- Limiting state support for In-Home Supportive Service providers who care for thousands of our sickest and neediest state residents at risk of more expensive institutional care, including children.
- Changing how already limited child care slots are allocated among working families without significantly increasing the availability of slots.
- Capping dental care for low-income adults and parents, who do not have the discretionary income to be able to afford needed treatment.
- Suspending the Prop 98 guarantee for education, stating wrongly that this was the only alternative to deep cuts in health and human services.

The Governor's January budget fails to provide for any tax increases, meaningful tax reforms or closing of corporate tax loopholes. One of five children in California already live in poverty, and hundreds of thousands of children will be shortchanged in terms of high quality education and affordable health coverage in our state.

On May 25, 2005 Call the Governor at 1-800-313-0528

**Urge our Elected Leaders to Make
Better Choices for California's Children and Families!**

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