

PRESS RELEASE

Assemblymember **PEDRO NAVA**



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**Assemblymember Pedro Nava
Ventura County Healthcare and Social Service Providers, Educators
and Public Safety Officials
Stood United at Press Conference Today**
Calling for an End to Budget Holdup in State Senate

Oxnard— Assemblymember Pedro Nava joined local healthcare and social service providers, educators and public safety officials today at a press conference in Oxnard calling for passage of the California State Budget.

“It is important to put a face on those in our community who are harmed by the continuing state budget holdup because of the ongoing intransigence of a few in the senate,” said Nava. “Fourteen Republican state senators are holding the whole state hostage, creating hardship not only for the most vulnerable in our community but all Californians.”

The press conference highlighted the devastating impacts the current state budget holdup is having on local social service organizations, healthcare providers, educators and public safety officials. Many healthcare providers and social service organizations that provide vital services to those who are most vulnerable in our community are going to have to stop providing services and some may have to close their doors.

“For all of us here today, there is nothing abstract about this problem, this is about real people’s lives. This is about all Californians,” said Nava. “It is time to put partisan games aside and pass the state budget so that California can move forward and continue to provide the vital public safety, healthcare, social and educational services for all of us. Fourteen Republican senators are unhappy with California’s landmark global warming legislation and are holding up the budget to force a re-write of the law.”

The State Assembly passed the state budget and sent it to the Senate for approval on July 20. The senate failed to pass the budget last week, needing one more Republican vote.

California (\$104 billion budget, population 37 million) is one of only three states in the nation needing a two-thirds majority to pass a state budget. Rhode Island (\$7 billion budget, population less than a million) and Arkansas (\$4.3 billion budget, population around 2.8 million) are the other two.

California State Controller John Chiang announced last week that the lack of a state budget prohibited him from paying an estimated \$1.1 billion in July to hospitals, nursing homes, managed healthcare plans, clinics, cancer detection programs community colleges, special education programs and small businesses that provide services to the State.

Fred Robinson, CEO of Arc Ventura County, stated, "If the stalemate continues, it will have a profound effect on our ability to provide services and meet the needs of our program participants, who are the most vulnerable population affected by the budget impasse. Our elected representatives should return to Sacramento and honor their responsibilities to give us a budget – NOW."

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