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CONTACT:

Advocates at phone numbers (see numbers below) OR
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Health and Human Services Advocates React to Governor Schwarzenegger's May Revise Budget

***All advocates below are available today for comment at phone numbers listed below.*

"In a tough budget situation, Governor Schwarzenegger's revised budget represents the worst possible choice for California families, for our health system, and for our economy. At a time when millions are looking for relief, the Governor has proposed cuts that will deny medically necessary care, place greater financial strain on families, and turn back hundreds of millions of dollars in federal matching funds for our economy."

"There are better choices for California—ones that balance cuts with revenues, preserves the health system we all rely on, and fosters our economic recovery. In contrast, Governor Schwarzenegger's budget undermines our ability to create jobs and our health infrastructure--the foundation on which we need to take advantage of the new opportunities under health reform."

Anthony Wright, *Health Access California*, (916) 870-4782

"There is no question that California is facing one of the greatest challenges in its modern history. One could even compare it to a ship sinking in the sea except for one glaring difference. When the Captain of a sinking ship knows it is going down the first thing he instructs the crew is to get the women, the children, the infirmed into the lifeboats. But our captain, Governor Schwarzenegger, proposes to throw those who need help the most overboard first and save the lifeboats for the rich, the well-connected and the zealots of corporate tax breaks. It is beyond time that this Governor start considering the needs of all Californians and not just the well-heeled. His refusal to consider repealing even one corporate tax loophole shows how blinded he is by ideology and how badly he is doing his job as Governor."

Michael Herald, *Western Center on Law & Poverty*, (916) 844-6263

"The proposed cuts to child care services do not even begin to reflect the real impacts and costs of what's at stake. When child care services are cut, it means parents are forced to quit their jobs and children are removed from safe, stable child care arrangements. On top of that, child care provider jobs are also in grave risk because cuts to reimbursement rates may mean facilities will be forced to close their doors in the event of significant losses to subsidies. Moreover, the taxes paid and disposable income from working parents and providers goes

directly into the local economy; forcing them out of their jobs is the absolute wrong way for the Governor to solve the state's budget crisis."

Mary Ignatius, Parent Voices, 415-420-2349

"It's ironic that the government keeps telling us that we have to cut back because there just isn't enough money, when the programs that we are desperately fighting to save cost less than the corporate tax giveaways they allow each year. Instead of choosing to eliminate secret corporate tax breaks that cost the state an estimated \$1 billion annually; or enacting a very reasonable oil severance tax that would bring in anywhere from \$1.2 - \$1.5 billion a year – the Governor has once again proposed to cut services for the poorest Californian – continuing the failed trend that has, year after year, contributed significantly to California's fiscal woes while turning his back on alternative choices that could stimulate California's economic and family recovery.

Nancy Berlin, *California Partnership*, (415) 314-8013

"The Governor's May Revised budget is a thinly veiled effort to undermine California's health and human services safety net that has traditionally provided benefits to lawful immigrants in need of assistance. This budget imposes severe cuts targeting legal immigrants, whose contributions to the state's economy and well-being are beyond dispute, and even manages to do more damage to Californians and the state's economy than his previous proposals earlier in the year. At a time when millions of Californians – whether immigrants or not—are in need of economic relief, the Governor seeks to dismantle the state's safety net and implement massive cuts to the very programs that help legal immigrants become prosperous and valuable members of our communities."

Vanessa Cajina, *California Immigrant Policy Center*, (916) 448-6762

"The Governor's budget eliminates critical health and human services programs that will result in poorer health outcomes for all Californians. If the Governor is serious about fighting the state's obesity and diabetes epidemics, he needs to ensure that all Californians have meaningful access to preventive health care and the resources they need to put healthy food on their tables."

Ellen Wu, *California Pan-Ethnic Health Network*, (510) 710-7870

"The disability community will be particularly and disproportionately burdened by these devastating cuts and eliminations across multiple programs. These shameful cuts not only represent a disaster for California's crucial infrastructure that provides much-needed in-home care and other services for thousands of people with disabilities throughout the state; but will also rob the state of hundreds of thousands of jobs, thus spiraling California down the path of further economic calamity.

Clearly, this revised budget demonstrates that Governor Schwarzenegger neither cares, nor can be bothered, to explore other options to resolve the state's budget challenges outside of targeting the most essential and basic services that millions of Californians depend on to live healthy and productive lives."

Teresa Favuzzi, *California Foundation for Independent Living Centers*, (916) 832-6233

"Planned Parenthood joins the cacophony of groups who know how devastating these cuts to health care will be for Californians. These draconian cuts couldn't come at a worse time as more and more patients are coming through our doors for essential health care like breast and cervical cancer screenings. Plus they make no fiscal sense. For every dollar the governor cuts from family planning, he's giving back \$9 to the federal government in matching funds. That's broken budget logic."

Kathy Kneer, *Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California*, (916) 712-6239

"The Governor's budget proposals put the final nail in the coffin for seniors who depend on the state for basic health and human services. This proposal, on top of the last two years of cuts to essential services, is nothing short of a death sentence for seniors, plain and simple. It's extremely telling that the Governor opted to jeopardize the lives of seniors, as well as many others, while giving a 'free-pass' to corporate and other special interests to continue to rob the state of billions of dollars annually in the form of unnecessary tax breaks and secret loopholes. "

Jodi Reid, *California Alliance for Retired Americans*, (415) 550-0828

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For more information about the Health and Human Services Network of California, please visit our website at www.hhsnetworkca.org.