

FLOOR ALERT

CA FORWARD Proposal – OPPOSE

It MOVES California BACKWARDS

Working families are already victim to a tyranny of the minority when the Legislature negotiates the state budget. Until this reality is changed, there are few ways that needed public programs can be funded – through statute, through fees, and through local control.

The California Forward budget reform package moves us backwards on each of these means of funding public services. In addition, the proposal further tips the balance of negotiating power to wealthy Governors by granting him/her unilateral authority to cut programs.

For these reasons, this broad based coalition of labor and health and human service organizations oppose the reform proposals contained in the California Forward bill package. Specifically:

- **We oppose changing vote requirements for bills that create new programs – pay as you go requirements.** This provision would require a statute that results in an increase in state costs or decrease of revenues of \$25 million or more to be void unless it “contains provisions that would result in state program reductions or additional state revenue as defined by statute”. The Legislative Analysts Office (LAO) would be given broad authority to determine program costs. Current majority vote bills would now have to contain provisions for program cuts or trigger a 2/3rd vote to raise revenue. (SCA 19, SB 844, ACA 4 and AB 2591)

- **We oppose imposing a 2/3rds vote for fees.** This provision prevents the Legislature from using a majority vote fee to fund a program formerly funded by a tax. Fees to replace any of the \$32.5 billion in service cuts over the past two years would require a 2/3rds vote. (SCA 19 and ACA 4)

- **We oppose granting unilateral cut authority granted to the Governor.** This provision would expand the Governor’s power to declare a “fiscal emergency” and make unilateral budget cuts if no action is taken by the Legislature. By tying legislator pay to the passage of the budget, it gives even more power to a wealthy Governor like Schwarzenegger to bully legislators into a budget deal. (SCA 19 and ACA 4)

CA Labor Federation, AFL-CIO
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO (AFSCME)
AFSCME CA People
CA Alliance for Retired Americans
CA Conference Board of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU)
CA Conference of Machinists
CA Federation of Teachers
CA Nurses Association (CNA)
CA Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN)
CA School Employees Association (CSEA)
CA Teachers Association (CTA)
CA Teamsters Public Affairs Council
CA WIC Association
Congress of CA Seniors
Engineers and Scientists of CA, IFPTE Local 20
Health Access California
Hunger Action LA
IFPTE Local 21
International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU)
National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter
SEIU California
UNITE HERE!
United Food and Commercial Workers Western States Council (UFCW)
Utility Workers Union of America
Western Center on Law and Poverty