

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HHS Network of California Urges Governor Not to Jeopardize Families
and Kill Jobs with Threats of \$1 Billion in 'Blue Pencil' Cuts**

The HHS Network of California issued the following statement this morning in response to the passage of the state budget by the California State Legislature and Governor Schwarzenegger's plans to make \$1 billion in line-item veto cuts:

If Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger imposes an additional \$1 billion in 'blue pencil' cuts using his line-item veto powers – it would prove disastrous for California seniors, families, people with disabilities and children. Not only will these cuts undermine the compromise reached in the budget deal that prevents the worst of his previously proposed cuts, but they would further harm California's vital health and human services infrastructure, and cost the state desperately needed jobs.

The threat of an additional \$1 billion more cuts is simply unfathomable and unthinkable given California's precarious economic situation.

The Health and Human Services Network of California is grateful that this record-setting impasse has finally ended with the passage of a state budget. We're equally grateful that this budget rejects the worst of the cuts previously proposed by Governor Schwarzenegger to eliminate and impose severe reductions to essential health care and social services, including the proposed elimination of CalWORKS, Healthy Families and In Home Support Services.

However, this budget is far from perfect: it fails to incorporate obvious and reasonable revenue solutions; it fails to address fundamental structural issues that put the state's health care and human services at increased risk in the future; and it includes further corporate tax breaks. We're also very troubled about the adoption of a 2012 ballot measure for a spending cap proposal that will handcuff our ability to invest in the vital programs that provide necessary and cost-effective services for millions of Californians.

We urge the Governor not to move to hurt the thousands of women, children, families, and seniors that would be hurt by cutting these programs.

HHS Network of California:

California Immigrant Policy Center, California Partnership, Health Access California, and Western Center on Law & Poverty.

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