



Honorable [NAME]
State Capitol [Room #]
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear [YOUR Assembly member/Senator]:

On behalf of [YOUR ORGANIZATION], I write to urge you to support Governor Jerry Brown's proposal to eliminate redevelopment subsidies to developers for anything except housing for low income Californians.

As you know, the Governor's proposed budget includes billions in very real and dangerous cuts to basic health and human services. It has been widely acknowledged that these cuts are so severe as to make children homeless and people will die. Programs that are being cut despite the acknowledged risk to health and safety for vulnerable children, seniors and people with disabilities or serious illness include Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, In-Home Support Services, Adult Day Health Care, the Multi-Purpose Senior Services Program, Regional Centers and child care.

In order to prevent even deeper cuts to these life-sustaining programs for our community's most vulnerable residents, we implore you to support the Governor in eliminating the RDA subsidy for any activity other than housing for the truly needy.

The Governor's proposal is estimated to save \$1.9 billion this year, savings that are desperately needed to prevent further cuts and protect California's lowest-income children, seniors and people with disabilities from extreme hardship and even death. If the Governor's proposal were modified to protect housing dollars, it would still save \$1.5 billion a year. Without the RDA savings, the legislature will have to cut another \$1.5 billion from somewhere else; we fear it will come, once again, from services for poor, elderly and disabled Californians.

Massive subsidies to private developers for anything other than low-income housing simply don't make sense at a time when life-sustaining services for California's most vulnerable people are on the chopping block. The Legislative Analyst found that "there is no reliable evidence that redevelopment projects attract businesses to the state or increase overall economic development in California."

While we recognize that some development projects benefit the community, we also see that California faces an unprecedented crisis and that there are no easy choices. As such, we call upon you to prioritize the preservation of human life and dignity above all other uses of taxpayer dollars.

Sincerely,