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HHS Network Condemns Governor's Line-Item Veto Package as Fundamentally at Odds with California's Family & Economic Recovery

The HHS Network of California issued the following statement on Friday in response to Governor Schwarzenegger's line-item veto "cuts" from the state budget, including the recent report of the Governor's decision to veto \$60 million from California community college appropriations earlier this week – yet another cut that reduces jobs and hurts families' prospects for job training and economic success.

October 22, 2010 - The Governor has made it abundantly clear that he neither values, nor appreciates, the proven economic contributions that strong health and human services are capable of delivering to the state's economy.

The Governor's short-sighted decision to slash an additional \$1 billion in 'blue pencil' cuts from the state budget, including \$256 million from stage 3 child-care (which will cost the state upwards of 60,000 jobs), \$366 million from Calworks, and millions from other health care and human services programs, contradicts the very spirit and nature of the compromise agreement reached by legislative leaders in the Assembly and Senate – an agreement he negotiated - which prevented the worst of his previous \$5.4 billion in cuts to the state's health and human services programs.

Not only has the Governor turned his back on the compromise budget agreement, but he has taken unilateral action to cut millions from critical and job saving programs at a time when millions of Californians are out of work, and the need for these crucial and cost-effective programs is at its greatest.

And despite announcements from the Department of Finance indicating that September revenues came in \$1.1 billion over projections, the Governor continues to slash funding for vital programs and services that help Californians get back to work. Earlier this week, Governor Schwarzenegger signed the education trailer bill (AB1610), vetoing \$60 million from California's community colleges, and on Wednesday signed AB1619, which seeks to further reduce state funding for aid to children, seniors, and low income families.

On the other hand, the HHS Network of California supports the efforts of Assembly Speaker John Perez and Senate President Pro Tem Darrel Steinberg to find solutions to restore funding to these critical programs, including the Speaker's plans to restore child-

care services for 60,000 families across the state through a \$6 million contribution from the Assembly's operating budget, supplemented by funding from California's First 5 program. This could temporarily reverse the devastating cuts imposed by the Governor, at least through the end of the year, at which time the legislature can pass measures to restore child-care funding.

However, more than anything, the Governor's actions since the passing of the state budget are just another reminder of why this year's election in November is so important and timely. This year's election includes significant opportunities to strengthen our safety net services for those seniors, people with disabilities, children and families in their time of need. This includes taking advantage of opportunities for reasonable revenue solutions, such as Proposition 24, which would repeal the \$1.3 billion in tax breaks to corporations. This year's ballot also includes initiatives calling for meaningful reform to our flawed budget process, such as Proposition 25, which would enable the state legislature to pass a responsible budget on-time.

This year's election also represents an opportunity to oppose measures that undermine and jeopardize the future of health and human services, such as Proposition 26, which would allow corporations to avoid mitigation fees paid when they pollute or cause health, environmental and other damages, and end the state's ability to levy fees on items that increase medical costs for all Californians, such as tobacco.

HHS Network of California:

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

For more information, please visit our website at www.hhsnetworkca.org.

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