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**HHS Network Tells GOP Legislative Taxpayers Caucus:**

**Let the Voters Decide!**

\*\*\*Expert Availability from the Health and Human Services Network of California\*\*\*

- Mike Herald, *Western Center on Law & Poverty*, 916-844-6263
- Nancy Berlin, *California Partnership*, 415-314-8013
- Reshma Shamasunder, *California Immigrant Policy Center*, 213-241-0273
- Anthony Wright, *Health Access California*, 916-870-4782

**February 24, 2011**– The Health and Human Services Network of California is deeply disappointed that some Republican legislators have made a deliberate effort to prevent California voters from having a say on whether or not the state will adopt Governor Brown’s \$12 billion revenue package – part of the Governor’s 2011-12 state budget proposal that combines revenues and \$12 billion in spending cuts to balance the state’s \$25 billion deficit.

By not allowing California voters to weigh in on the Governor’s modest and reasonable revenue solutions, which include extensions of existing tax rates as well as proposals to eliminate otherwise costly and wasteful tax breaks, a handful of highly-partisan legislators are attempting to “strong-arm” the state into accepting additional spending cuts on top of the already brutal and potentially life-threatening cuts included in the Governor’s proposal.

Furthermore, if opponents sincerely believe that California voters will reject these proposals, then what harm could possibly come from putting them to a popular vote?

Moreover, the Governor’s current budget proposal already includes substantial spending cuts, \$12 billion in total, most of which target the state’s essential health care and social services programs.

If the Governor’s proposals are not put to a vote and passed, then the alternative prospect of \$12 billion in additional cuts would mean nothing less than a total evisceration of the state’s already gutted health care and social services infrastructure – in turn costing the state thousands of private and public sector jobs and putting countless lives at unnecessary risk.

For additional assistance or information, please contact Brian Rice at 510-271-0640 x 106 or e-mail at [brian@fcpcommunications.com](mailto:brian@fcpcommunications.com) or visit us online at [www.hhsnetworkca.org](http://www.hhsnetworkca.org)

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**About the HHS Network of California:**

We are a network of advocates, consumers, and allies working together for strong health care and human services in California. We are statewide, diverse, and grassroots. Our network includes people who care about health care, home care for seniors and disabled people, emergency food and food stamps, domestic violence shelters, independent living centers for people with disabilities, child abuse and neglect prevention, women's health care, community health clinics, AIDS prevention and care, and more — in other words, the basic human needs we all share.

Convening groups for the network include the [Western Center on Law and Poverty](#), [Health Access](#), [California Partnership](#), and [California Immigrant Policy Center](#).