



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

For Thursday, April 21, 2011

### **Contact:**

Stella Kim, California Partnership, 213-700-6276

Brian Rice, HHS Network, 510-271-0640 x 106

## **The Easter Bunny may not be real... But California's need for revenues is!**

- WHAT:** Rally and press-conference to urge legislators, including Republican legislative leadership, to stand up for our essential health care and human services programs, schools and higher-education and public safety institutions.
- WHEN:** Thursday, April 21, 2011 – Press invited to arrive at 5:00 PM
- WHERE:** 3649 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside, CA 92501 (On the corner of Orange and Mission)
- WHO:** Reverend Norman Copeland  
Virginia Macy – Person with Disabilities  
Natasha Gordon – Homecare Provider  
Hector Guzman – San Bernardino Valley College Student  
Susan Teeter – Homecare Provider
- VISUALS:** The Thursday before Easter, The “Easter Bunny” leading hundreds of participants with signs, posters, placards and banners to urge Republican legislators to “stand up for families and make revenues a reality” and pass a budget that prudently protects core public services we all depend on and benefit from.

**Riverside, CA** – On Thursday April 21<sup>st</sup>, hundreds of Inland Empire parents, children, seniors, people with disabilities, students, and public safety representatives will hold a rally and press-conference urging legislators, including Republican Senator and Party leader Bob Dutton, to pass a budget that maintains current revenue sources in order to protect California's essential health and human services, schools, and public safety institutions from the prospects of a devastating, “all-cuts” budget.

Thursday's rally will take place in advance of the California Republican Party's "No-Tax Speak Out" event, also at the Mission Inn later that evening. This rally will feature the "Easter Bunny" leading rally-goers in calling on legislators to rise above divisive partisanship and work towards a budget that puts job creation, health, schools, human services, and public safety first.

Up to this point, Republican legislative leaders have been unwilling to come to the budget negotiating table; instead, opting only to demand an additional \$4 billion dollars for their special "pet projects." Participants in Thursday's event will be asking Republicans to step above the partisan divide and recognize the overwhelming need to maintain current revenue streams in order to get California working again.

Without the Governor's revenue extensions in place, the most vulnerable Californians would suffer the devastating possibility of an "all-cuts" budget, on top of the \$12.4 billion in steep spending cuts already enacted by the legislature and Governor Brown. Advocates caution against this possibility, which would severely undermine the state's ability to respond to social emergencies, such as the recent recession, and cost the state thousands of public and private sector jobs.

California's essential health care and human services have already been subject to tremendous spending cuts, including the Governor's \$12 billion in proposed cuts this year – which comes on top of more than \$16 billion in cuts over the last three years.

"Perhaps now more than ever, the budget establishes our priorities as a state. Legislators must make the tough decision to oppose tax breaks at a time when our recovery should be our number one priority. If we don't maintain the current tax rates, as the Governor has proposed, then California's economic and family recovery will once again be delayed indefinitely," said Nancy Berlin, California Partnership.

Thursday's action is sponsored by **California Partnership**, Rolling Start Inc, LULAC of Riverside & Inland Empire, Social Justice Alliance of UCR, Libreria del Pueblo, Exbraceros del Norte, Access to Education, and many more.

For more information, please contact Stella Kim, California Partnership, at 213-700-6276 or e-mail at [skim@communitychange.org](mailto:skim@communitychange.org).

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