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## **As Governor and Legislative Democrats Finalize Budget Proposal – New Report Shows that California’s Health Care and Human Services Cut By \$15 billion over last three years**

**June 29** – As Governor Jerry Brown and Legislative Democrats finalize an alternative budget proposal that includes the potential for steep mid-year “trigger cuts” to education, public safety, and In-Home Supportive Services, advocates and experts from the Health and Human Services Network of California recently released a new report showing that California has cut spending on health care and human services programs by an estimated \$15 billion since FY2008-09.

The report, which provides an outline of spending cuts approved by the legislature and signed by the Governor between FY2008-09 and FY2011-12, illustrates how extensively the state’s health and human services programs have been cut. According to the report’s findings, the most dramatic reductions took place to California’s health care budget (which includes Medi-Cal and the Healthy Families Program), CalWORKS, and SSI/SSP grants:

- Approximately \$3.7 billion has been cut from California’s health care budget, contributing to reduced coverage, reduced access, and increased costs.
- Consecutive cuts to CalWORKS have totaled roughly \$3.5 billion, including \$1.1 billion signed in March 2011 as part of Governor Jerry Brown’s compromise budget proposal.
- The Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) program has sustained roughly \$4.6 billion in cuts, for a total loss of \$3,600 for each of the 1.3 million Californians on assistance.

The report also includes personal stories from Californians in Republican districts across the state who have suffered as a result of consecutive spending cuts, as well stories demonstrating how individual Californians have benefited from the state’s health care and human services safety net programs.

With over \$15 billion in spending reductions to the state’s health care and human services programs over the last three years, advocates and consumers

Experts and advocates warn, however, that the precarious situation facing millions of California’s families, seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income children could be severely aggravated if the state were to implement the Senate Republicans’ harsh spending cap that would effectively prevent

health and human services from ever being restored – even after absorbing \$15 billion in steep cuts over the last three consecutive years.

Once implemented, the Senate Republicans’ spending cap proposal, which would cap spending at 2011-12 levels – a 40-year low point - would mean health care and human services spending levels would be substantially lower once the proposed tax extensions expires – thus forcing even more deep cuts down the road.

It would also prevent health and human services from providing a sound safety net for families at a time when more Californians are in need of assistance and services as a result of the current economic downturn. The Senate Republicans’ proposal would also “squeeze out” health and human services spending as part of the budget, due to the use of the Consumer Price Index to determine how fast the budget can grow.

Copies of the report are available online by **clicking here**.

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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](#).