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HHS Network Calls for Revenue Solutions, Not Trigger Cuts, for Essential Health and Human Services in CA

LAO's new budget numbers show budget deficit that must be fixed with revenue solutions rather than cuts to social safety net

A statement from Nancy Berlin, California Partnership & Co-chair of the HHS Network of CA.

“The new revenue numbers from the Legislative Analyst’s Office are showing that California will not get the \$4 billion expected revenue bump this year. Unfortunately, California looks poised to slash essential health and human service programs with automatic trigger cuts. These essential services not only support and care for the most vulnerable families in California as we all weather this recession, but also generate economic activity that is integral to our state’s economic recovery.

Programs like developmental disability services and In-Home Supportive Services for seniors and disabled Californians will suffer \$100 million cuts each. This is on top of the nearly \$15 billion in cumulative cuts health and human services in California have suffered since 2008 – even as a troubled economy pushes need for these services to ever-rising levels.

Here in California we need a new approach, a new strategy to solve our budget problems.

Revenue solutions are the only way to balance our budget, restore our social safety net, and steer California towards an economic recovery. This past legislative year, the Republican legislators blocked revenue solutions in the California budget. Indeed, they even took the Grover Norquist no-tax pledge, rather than work with other legislators for reasonable revenue alternatives to the deep cuts that only hurt our communities and most vulnerable families.

After three years with the losing proposition of deep service cuts, and with rising poverty rates in California, our focus should be on strengthening our social safety net and creating jobs. The trigger cuts will do neither, and instead lead to lay-offs for dedicated Health and Human Services employees and the deterioration of our social safety net. We here at the HHS Network stand to support legislative leaders willing to champion revenue solutions.”

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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](#).