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HHS Network on Trigger Cuts – Revenue Solutions, Not More Cuts

A statement from Anthony Wright, Executive Director of Health Access California and a leader of the HHS Network of California.

“Since 2008, \$15 billion in cuts have been made to vital health and human services in California, hurting our state’s most vulnerable families, seniors, children, and people with disabilities. The trigger cuts will only add to that damage – further weakening our social safety net at a time when Californians are already struggling.

“A recent poll shows the nearly two-thirds of Californians agree that trigger cuts are a bad idea. Let’s be clear about how we arrived at this unfortunate situation of trigger cuts in the first place – this past year Republicans in the Legislature took the Grover Norquist no-tax pledge and blocked revenue solutions rather than working for the betterment of our state. It’s a travesty that they would prioritize politics over the needs of millions of Californians.

“Health and human services provide jobs that our state so badly needs and supports families and communities as they weather these tough economic times. Without these services our economic recovery will be hampered and poverty rates will continue to grow.

“Now more than ever California needs revenue to rebuild our social safety net and restore vital services – and momentum is building for revenue solutions. A new poll today shows that 60% of likely voters support the Governor’s ballot initiative to raise revenue – one of several such initiatives on the table.

“As always, the HHS Network stands to support leaders who will champion viable revenue solutions and prevent cuts to critical services. Revenue solutions are the only way to balance our budget, restore our social safety net, and steer California towards economic recovery.”

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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.