

Open Letter to Governor Schwarzenegger

People's Day of Reckoning Coalition

June 22, 2009

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The People's Day of Reckoning Coalition, comprised of individuals and organizations representing human service, health care and educational interests, are **calling upon you and the California Legislature to demonstrate responsible leadership by rejecting your "Cuts-Only" approach to resolving the California state budget deficit.**

We are calling for a budget solution that is based upon shared responsibility and shared sacrifice – not a solution that falls squarely upon on the shoulders of children, people with disabilities, elders, the chronically ill, the unemployed and the impoverished.

The Cuts-Only Budget will decimate social, human and health care services in California to the level of a third-world state. **Hundreds of thousands of seniors, people with disabilities and children will lose essential home and community-based support services.** These are "lifeline" services that enable recipients to live safely in their own homes and communities. We want the people of California to understand that there will be no actual savings realized by the destruction of these services, as the alternative – institutional care – is vastly more expensive and will be paid for through our taxes. This is "penny-wise and pound-foolish" public policy to the extreme!

In addition to unnecessary and unprecedented human suffering, **the Cuts-Only Budget will cause further economic damage to our already struggling economy by swelling the ranks of the unemployed.** Thousands of social service, children's services and home health care workers will lose their jobs. These newly unemployed will create an even greater burden upon our now-shredded social service programs. Economic dislocation will further strain public safety and health systems – particularly our emergency rooms – as our system of home-based support programs will have vanished.

Finally, there ARE alternatives to shredding the social safety net. **We support all Californians paying their fair share of the tax burden, including large corporations.** We believe that the taxing of oil production and the closing of corporate tax loopholes and tax breaks should be included in the debate. Everyone should sacrifice to solve our state's budget problems – no individual or business should be exempt. **We are calling on you to show common sense and common decency by abandoning your destructive budget policies.**

Sincerely,

The People's Day of Reckoning Coalition