

Governor, It's Time to Tell the Truth about Homecare!

One day you claim there is massive fraud in the In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) homecare program. The next day you write in the Los Angeles Times that "this kind of abuse of taxpayers dollars is not rampant."

This isn't Hollywood, governor. You can't just make things up. It's time to tell the truth:

- Despite heated rhetoric and misinformation from you and right-wing ideologues, ambitious district attorneys and even some in the media, there is **NO substantial evidence of "widespread" fraud in IHSS**. Much has been made of the recent indictment of 25 providers in Los Angeles County for IHSS fraud. But with more than 140,000 homecare providers in LA County, 25 cases hardly represents a fraud "epidemic."
- You want the public to believe that unions who represent homecare providers are trying to cover up fraud in IHSS. That is absolutely absurd! **UDW believes that ANY fraud in IHSS should be eliminated and those who commit it should be punished.**
- UDW has sponsored and endorsed a number of bills in the Legislature to curb fraud and abuse and improve training and standards in IHSS. But you and your Republican colleagues who complain the most about fraud have consistently opposed these bills. **Do you really want to fight fraud in IHSS or are you just trying to score political points?**
- Here's an example of your hypocrisy: UDW is currently sponsoring AB 378 by Republican Assembly Member Paul Cook, which would strengthen training standards in the program. But you and your right-wing allies in the Legislature **oppose the bill**. Why is that?
- Finally, you know that the real issue is not whether or not homecare providers and their clients should have background checks or get fingerprinted. The issue is who pays for it. **Why are you demanding that homecare providers who earn little more than the minimum wage pay for their own background checks?** No other state employees are required to do that.

Governor, it's time for you to stop scapegoating the hundreds of thousands of dedicated, hard-working homecare providers and the elderly, blind and disabled Californians they serve. **They are NOT fraud criminals.**

It's time for you to **step up to the plate and take responsibility for your mistakes**. You've had more than five years to fight fraud in IHSS, but you've done nothing but talk about it.

Most important, it's time for you to offer **real, innovative solutions to the budget crisis** so that the people who need our state's social service programs aren't asked to sacrifice year after year.

