

FORWARD TOGETHER: A BUDGET FOR ALL CALIFORNIANS

Californians deserve a budget that reflects the values of the people who live in this great state – *A Budget for All Californians*. With increased state revenues expected this year, California must plan to meet the needs of our children, poor people, seniors, immigrants and the disabled – the people consistently forced to pay the steepest price for balancing our state’s budget in recent years. We need to *move forward together* to ensure that the most vulnerable are protected, and access for critical safety net programs is maintained. We know that programs that help people take care of themselves, actually help *all Californians*.

The following *Budget for All Californians* is presented with the interests of every Californian in mind. To ensure that we all move forward together, the 2006 California budget must:

1. Promote Self-Sufficiency

Ensure that all Californians get the education and training they need to get higher wage jobs with benefits; increase the minimum wage from its current unlivable \$6.75/hour; and maximize the earned income tax credit to increase family incomes.

2. Support All Families

Protect and maintain full and equal access for all families and increase their chances for success at work and home by ensuring high-quality, affordable child care; helping families overcome barriers to stable employment; allowing low-income families to keep more of what they earn; and eliminating linguistic and cultural barriers to programs.

3. Protect Our Children

Guarantee that all California children have access to affordable, quality health care. Today, over 800,000 children in California don’t have health insurance.

4. Cut Red Tape

Streamline the web of confusing and conflicting rules that make it harder for families to get support. For example, let families on MediCal automatically qualify for Food Stamps, eliminating duplication and increasing California’s share of federal funding.

5. Protect Blind, Aged and Disabled Californians

Enable blind, aged and disabled Californians to live in dignity by increasing services and benefits to families and providers who care for them.

6. Share Responsibility

Just like the rest of us, corporations and the wealthy should pay their fair share of taxes. Restructure the top income tax brackets and close corporate tax loopholes to ensure that they do.

7. Keep the Governor’s Promise to Kids

Finally, the budget should honor the Governor’s very own pledge: “It is very important that the children should have the first call to our state treasury. We have to take care of our kids.” (CNN August 8, 2003)

ENDORSERS: Asian Americans for Civil Rights and Equality | Asian Pacific American Legal Center | California Association of Food Banks | California Church IMPACT | California Immigrant Welfare Collaborative | California Partnership | California Partnership to End Domestic Violence | California Reinvestment Coalition | California WIC Association | Children’s Advocacy Institute | Children’s Defense Fund California | Children’s Network of Solano County | Coalition for Human Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles | Honoring Emancipated Youth | JERICHO: Voice for Justice | Jefferson Economic Development Institute | LIFETIME: Low-Income Families’ Empowerment Through Education | National Economic Development & Law Center | San Luis Obispo County Department of Social Services | Service Employees International Union Local 535 | Western Center on Law and Poverty

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