



HIV & AIDS Legal
Services Alliance

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COMMUNITY ADVISORY

July 24, 2009

To: All Southern Californian's affected by HIV/AIDS:

Even though the state legislature may pass a new budget with only minor cuts affecting low-income Californians living with HIV, Governor Schwarzenegger could "blue pencil" sweeping cuts to HIV services and life-saving medications.

CALL THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE TODAY TO VOICE YOUR CONCERN!

Starting today, the State Legislature is poised to vote on, and possibly approve, the budget deal that the Governor, Assembly and Senate leadership have agreed on. The budget deal is expected to include the Legislative Conference Committee's budget recommendations intact. While those budget recommendations included cuts to the State Office of AIDS, and would curtail some HIV/AIDS service delivery around the State, some cuts were expected given an economic climate that demands budget reductions in every corner of state and local government.

However, the fight is not over. Even if the Legislature approves the budget deal today, the Governor still has the option of vetoing specific budget line items (using his "blue pencil") when he signs the budget package. **Once the Governor has vetoed budget line items and signed the bill, there may be no opportunity to rectify the Governor's actions.**

There are very strong indications that the Governor intends to "blue pencil" HIV/AIDS services back to his original proposal, reducing the State AIDS budget by \$80+ million.

These cuts would disable or end programs like Therapeutic Monitoring Program (TMP), HIV surveillance, Early Intervention Programs (EIPs), HIV counseling and testing, home and community-based care, and other prevention efforts.

We can't take any chances that this is the Governor's plan, and must remain vigilant until we can ensure that the minimum level of HIV/AIDS services proposed by the Conference Committee and included in the Legislature's budget deal is preserved.

The time to act is now! **Call or contact the Governor's office...**

TEL 916.445.2841

FAX 916.558.3160

Tell him that he must preserve the funding left for HIV/AIDS services in the Legislature's approved budget package, and that he shouldn't veto any additional funds to the State Office of AIDS!