

February 2011

Dear Legislator,:

As a constituent, I am deeply concerned about Governor Brown's proposal to cut \$500 million from the In-Home Support Services (IHSS) program. This program allows eligible elderly, disabled and blind Californians to live safely in their own homes rather than in nursing homes.

IHSS is a budget solution, not a budget problem. It saves taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars each year over the cost of nursing home care. It brings the state billions of dollars in federal matching funds. It creates hundreds of thousands of jobs, not only for providers but for recipients as well. The money spent by home care providers and their clients is a tremendous contribution to our local economy.

That's why legislators from both political parties have spoken out against further cuts to IHSS. I urge you to join them in promoting alternatives that will allow the state to continue this valuable and cost-effective program.

For one thing, it is time to create a master plan for long-term care in California that emphasizes home and community based care. By moving even a portion of the Californians currently in nursing homes to community based care through programs like IHSS, we would save the state hundreds of millions of dollars a year. Furthermore, we should take advantage of new federal programs that will provide additional funding for home care.

I am confident that you and your colleagues can come up with creative solutions to our current budget crisis, instead of merely rubber-stamping the governor's budget proposal.

Please reject the proposed budget cuts to the IHSS program. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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