

October 19, 2005

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger
Office of the Governor
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

Tomorrow, the U.S. House of Representatives is scheduled to vote to increase planned budget cuts to programs for children, seniors, and people with disabilities which, according to a study released today by the Emergency Coalition for America's Priorities, would cost **California \$3 billion over the next five years**. California needs you to put our state before politics and oppose these budget cuts.

You were elected to office in large part because our state has suffered several years of devastating budget hits. To make matters worse, on Monday the federal government informed California that it intends to seek billions of dollars from the states in compensation for Medicaid and Medicare charges. And to top it all off, the upcoming special election will cost our state an estimated \$80 million more.

We simply cannot afford a federal budget that will burden California with literally billions more in unbearable expenses.

Adding insult to injury, the budget cuts fall disproportionately on working Californians. As the report (attached) shows, the Bush-DeLay-Frist planned tax cuts will cost us health care coverage for 3,476,373 Californians; Head Start for 966,810 children; housing for 48,873 families; 154,044 public safety officers; and 912 elementary schools, to say nothing of the billions more in benefits budget cuts to seniors, children, and the poor. Our children and our communities simply cannot handle these losses.

Pushing \$70 billion in tax cuts while recklessly slashing \$50 billion from programs for working Americans is the height of fiscal irresponsibility. Advancing this radical right wing agenda in the guise of relief for victims of Katrina and Rita is, frankly, disgraceful.

We therefore ask you to oppose President Bush's and House Republicans' budget plans immediately and vigorously. The vote looks so close that the Republicans in California's Congressional delegation likely will have the final say on whether this devastating budget passes. They need to hear from you now that this budget is bad for California.

Sincerely,

Jeff Berman

Western Regional Director
People For The American Way