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Governor's Budget Fails our Future, Kills Jobs and Economic Recovery

SACRAMENTO – The County Welfare Directors Association released the following statement in response to Governor Schwarzenegger's release of the May Revise today:

"The Governor's failure to protect abused and neglected children, his proposal to eliminate CalWORKs and the significant reduction to IHSS fly in the face of his alleged goals of creating jobs and reviving California's economy. These proposals won't save the state money but rather will cost us billions of dollars as we lose out on federal matching funds, create the next generation of homelessness and turn back the clock on welfare reform.

"A responsible welfare system is critical to moving California forward, so it is sad that in the budget that will cement his legacy, the Governor has proposed brutal cuts that will reverse 30 years of progress in promoting self sufficiency for impoverished families and successful outcomes for foster children. His tenure will be marked by resigning a million poor children to homelessness and destitution.

"The Governor's veto of \$133 million to Child Welfare Services and his proposal to continue the cut gives foster children little hope of having better lives, and pushes them toward futures of homelessness, incarceration, and unemployment.

"CalWORKs serves 580,527 families each month, including 1.1 million children. Elimination of CalWORKs will mean the loss of 140,000 jobs, and the loss of \$3.7 billion in federal funds. For every \$1 spent on the program, approximately \$7 goes back into the local and state economies.

"California's budget process starts and ends with the Governor, so he must take responsibility for the consequences he's left for our state: allowing abused and neglected children to be forgotten, pushing thousands more people into unemployment, plunging working families further into poverty, the unraveling of welfare reform, and crashing the state's economic recovery.

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The County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) is a nonprofit association representing the human service directors from each of California's 58 counties. The Association's mission is to promote a human services system that encourages self-sufficiency of families and communities, and protects vulnerable children and adults from abuse and neglect.