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CUTTING VITAL PROGRAMS MEANS KILLING “JOBS, JOBS, JOBS”

Sacramento, CA – The County Welfare Directors Association released the following statement from Executive Director Frank Mecca in response to the Governor’s “State of the State” address today:

“The Governor says he wants to create jobs, but devastating cuts to the social safety net have killed jobs and dimmed the employment prospects for tens of thousands of California families and children. The Governor’s cuts to child care and support services for CalWORKS families will diminish the chances of finding work for almost 40,000 families, and his threatened elimination of the In-Home Supportive Services program will put 350,000 people out of work instantly and increase California’s unemployment rate from 12.3 to 14.2 percent.

“The Governor’s 2009 veto of \$120 million in services to foster youth will make his goal to reduce prison costs an even higher hurdle; the transitional services he singlehandedly eliminated are what often makes the difference in leading a child who ages out of foster care toward employment and a productive adulthood, rather than a life on the streets or in jail.

“If the Governor’s rhetoric is to match reality, he and the Legislature will have to hold the line against more cuts to the services that displaced Californians need to get back to work and to a tattered safety net that is the only thing keeping millions children fed, out of harm’s way, and enabling hundreds of thousands of seniors and people with disabilities to live safely in their homes.”

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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.