



For Immediate Release

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Governor Abandons Abused and Neglected Children

Sacramento – The coalition to *Protect Our Children. Protect Our Future.* released the following statement in response to Governor Schwarzenegger’s release of the May Revise today:

“It’s clear the state’s deficit requires a look at priorities, and abused and neglected children should be at the top of that priority list. It’s incredibly disappointing that abused and neglected children – our most vulnerable children – are being abandoned once again. 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 futures, and drastically increases their risk for becoming homeless, incarcerated, unemployed and not finishing their education.

“Recently, the Senate and Assembly budget subcommittees voted to restore the funding to Child Welfare Services. The bipartisan support for abused and neglected children is significant, and shows that the Legislature does not want to stand by and allow abused children to suffer more than they have already. County agencies report that cuts have already resulted in delays in child abuse investigations, longer stays in foster care, and the shunning of critical services to youth as they age out of the foster care system.

“The Governor is ignoring what we and members of the Legislature all understand: abused and neglected children are the responsibility of the state. Ignoring their needs is not an option. The veto of child welfare funding has a small impact in state budget terms but has a devastating impact on the safety and success of California’s foster children and youth.”

Protect Our Children. Protect Our Future., is a broad-based coalition committed to protecting California’s abused and neglected children. For more information about the coalition, visit www.protectourchildrenca.org.