



For Immediate Release

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**CWDA Welcomes Senate’s Bold and Creative Proposals to
Spare Most Vulnerable Californians from More Harm**

Sacramento, CA – The County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) released the following statement from Executive Director Frank J. Mecca:

“The Senate’s budget and economic recovery proposals are exactly the kind of bold and creative approaches we need to meet this moment of unprecedented economic disruption. Just as importantly, the Senate’s proposals reinforce the value that must guide California’s decisions through this crisis and the recovery: to do no greater harm to people and families already suffering.

“The COVID-19 pandemic and its economic devastation have fallen hardest on the Californians who can least afford it; the lowest-wage workers have lost their jobs and their healthcare, the most marginalized families are struggling the most to hold on to their housing, too many children are hungry and afraid. We strongly support the Senate’s focus on stabilizing families and preventing homelessness through renter relief.

“The unprecedented surge in demand for CalFresh, CalWORKs and other county human services programs in the past few weeks shows these programs are already vital bulwarks against the worst effects of this crisis and will be crucial to helping families weather the longer-term economic storm.

“The legislature’s leadership and Governor Newsom’s spotlight on needed federal support for state and local governments demonstrate California learned the most important lesson from the Great Recession: cutting safety net programs only exacerbates human pain and prolongs the economic downturn.

“CWDA looks forward to working with the legislature and the administration to ensure California’s response to the current crisis strengthens opportunities for children and families to thrive.”

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