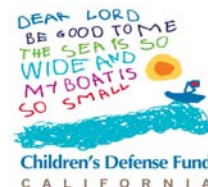




CHILDREN NOW



American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



California District IX

For Immediate Release
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Governor's Budget Proposal Will Result in Children and Families Unable to Afford Health Coverage

Sacramento – Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today unveiled his "May Revise" budget proposal for fiscal year 2010-2011 that threatens children's health coverage in California. On behalf of California's leading children's advocates, Wendy Lazarus of The Children's Partnership released the following statement responding to the budget proposal:

"Healthy Families and Medi-Cal have been a lifeline for providing affordable and quality health coverage to nearly 4.5 million children in California. And as families struggle to make ends meet, the need for affordable coverage has never been greater.

That is why we are extremely disappointed and concerned that the Governor in his latest budget proposal may put coverage out of reach for these families. The Governor is recommending that families pay higher premiums to have their children continue receiving health coverage. This will result in more families being unable to pay these costs, disenrolling from the program, and increasing the number of uninsured children in California. Similarly, additional co-payments or cost sharing will undermine children's access to the care that they need to stay healthy.

There are approximately 1.5 million uninsured kids in California, the largest number in the past ten years. The Governor and the Legislature should instead be committed to reversing this alarming trend by leveraging the federal health care law to provide a healthier future for our state's children."

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If you would like to speak to a representative on behalf of children's health, please call Sheri Madsen at 916-440-0980 or call one of the organizational representatives listed below. Contact information is on next page.

The 100% Campaign, a collaborative effort of The Children's Partnership, Children Now and Children's Defense Fund, was created to ensure that all of California's children obtain the health insurance they need to grow up strong and healthy. www.100percentcampaign.org

The California Children's Health Initiatives (CCHI) is a collaboration of local Children's Health Initiatives (CHIs) in 29 counties dedicated to ensuring that all California children have access to quality health care. Together, the CHIs emphasize streamlined enrollment into Healthy Families, Medi-Cal and Healthy Kids insurance programs, and share a goal of creating and maintaining a sustainable health care program for all children in California. www.cchi4kids.org

United Ways of California is a state association of local United Ways and is a strong advocate of expanding health coverage to more children in California. United Ways work closely with local community and business leaders, legislators, congressional members and others to promote this achievable and important goal. www.unitedwaysca.org

PICO California is the statewide collaborative effort of the PICO National Network, a network of faith-based community organizations. PICO California is made up of 20 congregation-based community organizations actively organizing in 70 cities representing 400 congregations and 450,000 families across the state. www.PICOcalifornia.org

Children Now

Ted Lempert, President – Contact Ronald Pineda at 510-763-2444 x119 to speak to Ted, or contact Ted directly at 510-763-2444 x155 or 650-245-8166
Wilma Chan, Vice President, Policy – 510-763-2444 x105 or 510-388-7812
Kelly Hardy, Director, Health Policy – 510-763-2444 x126

Children's Defense Fund California

Deena Lahn, Policy Director – 415-279-4672
Cliff Sarkin, Senior Program Associate – 510-663-1294

The Children's Partnership

Wendy Lazarus, Founder and Co-President – 310-710-9830
Terri Shaw, Deputy Director - (510) 967-3165

United Ways of California

Judy Darnell, Director of Public Policy – 831-246-3099

California Children's Health Initiatives

Suzie Shupe, Executive Director – 707-527-9213

PICO California

Nancy Ly, Communications Director - 916-502-3027