

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95834

May 22, 2009

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

Whenever it's time for budget cuts, why are the poor and disabled programs always the first to be considered cut or eliminated? This is not fair! We did not ask to be poor or be born with disabilities or get into an accident to disable us. We have rights just like everyone else, including the rich and well-off. Read the Lanterman Act!

Dental care elimination would cause us to lose our teeth. We cannot afford to pay rent, pay our bills, buy our groceries AND pay to go to the dentist with the money we get from SSI and/or SSDI. We would have to live on the street and be homeless, which is very dangerous.

We would have a hard time buying any medication that many of us have to take for medical problems and developmental, physical or mental disabilities.

If all poor and/or disabled had to move into hospitals, state hospitals, or group homes/board and care homes, just think how much more expensive that would be for the state of California.

Put yourselves in our shoes and imagine how you would feel if this happened to you and/or your children. What would you do? Would you put up with this? I think not!

Sincerely,

Yvonne P. Kilitz

Dear, Gov. Schwarzanegger

When there's a need for budget cuts, the poor and disabled suffer from them. Its not fair for us to suffer from these cuts.

We barely can afford to pay rent, pay bills and buy groceries.

When these cuts happen we disabled and the poor families and their kids will not be able to afford going to the doctor If they get sick, get medications.or get glasses if needed and go to the dentist.

Its like we are being punished for being disabled.

If people in office had to live this way what would they do?

Would they like it?

If they had family members who are disabled and they had to live these budgets what would they do and how would they feel?

What would you do If one your kids were disabled like us, would you even think of doing this to your kids?

Sincerely,
Margie Garetz

People First of California, Inc.
1225 8th Street, Suite 210
Sacramento, CA. 95814

June 9, 2009

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA. 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger;

I am a Californian with developmental disabilities who is part of my community. I am a person first, with a name and a voice – and I vote. There are over 200,000 of us in California. I am a member of People First of California, the only statewide organization run by and for people with developmental disabilities. There are chapters everywhere in California. We help our members learn how to:

Advocate for Ourselves
Know Our Rights and Responsibilities
Solve Problems and Make Decisions
Contribute To Our Communities

I am writing to ask you and members of the State Legislature to take the following action that will protect my rights, and the rights of tens of thousands of other people with developmental disabilities, under the Lanterman Act, under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and other laws, to live with independence in my own community and be able to make my own decisions about where I can live and what services I need.

SSI/SSP: Please change your mind and put money owed to me back in my SSI/SSP check. This is money we are supposed to get every January to help pay for higher costs of living. This may not be very much money to other people, but we need it to live on. Costs are going up in my area. Not getting that increase hurts and it is a cut to all of us who depend on SSI/SSP to live on. Please give the money back to us.

HOUSING & TRANSPORTATION: Please support housing and transportation so we are not forced to live in an institution, which would cost the State millions of dollars and put California deeper in debt. It is my right to be part of my own community and housing and transportation is very important to me.

JOBS: Please help us with jobs so we can work. Please change your mind and give back the money that was cut in previous years and increase funding for supported employment for people with developmental disabilities. We want to work.

SB1198: Health Care Coverage – Please support this bill which would require group health care plans and health insurers to offer coverage for durable medical equipment as part of their group plan contracts or group policies that are not less than the amounts applied to other health care benefits.

IHSS: I am worried about the changes to In-Home Supportive Services. Many of us need IHSS to live in our own homes and don't want needed hours cut for people who need them.

SPECIAL EDUCATION: Please support, with money, special education we need and that children and families are treated fairly. Please support adult education programs that many people with developmental disabilities need. Students with developmental disabilities will have problems passing the California High School Exit Examination that is required to receive a diploma.

AB2424: Persons with Developmental Disabilities: Education and Employment – We need this bill to help us get jobs in the community so more of us can become productive California citizens. This bill will also help students transition into a quality job in the community.

We are Californians who vote, who have a right to be treated with respect and who are to be a part of our own communities. Please support these rights under the Lanterman Act and other laws. Please write back to me and let me know what you will do. I want to share your letter with people in my community. Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Yvonne P. Klutz