



# California Association for the Retarded

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February 27, 2004

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

**The California Association for the Retarded, a statewide parent/family organization with 13 local units, asks that you reconsider your budget proposal that would eliminate the In-Home Supportive Services Residual program.**

We appreciate your actions to revisit your mid-year budget proposals that would have adversely affected people with developmental disabilities and your statements in your proposed budget to maintain the Lanterman Act entitlement to services for these individuals. We, however, do want to bring your attention to the following damaging effects of your remaining budget proposal to eliminate \$366 million for the state-funded In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Residual program:

- Reduce or eliminate IHSS services for some 57,000 clients and cause 18,000 to switch from family to non-family providers
- Drastically reduce the quality of care - and hence the quality of life - for most of these individuals.
- Result in cost transfers rather than cost savings as many of these individuals could be institutionalized at a higher cost because they no longer would be able to remain in their own homes.

Most of the caseload in the IHSS Residual program consists of people who receive (a) care from a relative as their provider (generally the parent of a minor child or spouse), (b) protective supervision services, that is, watching someone with a severe mental impairment on a 24-hour basis so they do not hurt themselves, and (c) domestic services such as cleaning, shopping, laundry and meal preparation. The Residual program screens parents to make sure they are precluded from working full-time because of the severity of their child's need and lack of an adequate alternative.

Elimination of this program would require approximately 18,000 people to switch to providers who are not relatives and/or receive reduced or modified services in

order to qualify under the federally-funded portion of the IHSS Personal Care Services program. The remaining 57,000 people would be left without services unless their needs are redetermined at a higher level than currently exists.

We urge you to consider the effects of this proposal not only on people with disabilities and the elderly but also on children and adults with developmental disabilities. Approximately 68 percent of the people with developmental disabilities who are regional center clients and reside in the community live at home with a parent or guardian. A number of these are able to do so because they receive IHSS Residual program services.

The service changes, reductions or eliminations that would result from your proposal would have the following effect:

- ★ **Unnecessary human anguish and suffering.** Some clients have severe and complicated medical and developmental needs and have been cared for by parents and relatives all their lives. Yet many parents would be forced to reenter the work force to support themselves and their families and would not be able to continue to provide care. The substitution of the impersonal care of a stranger for the loving care of a parent could have a damaging effect on a client's development and well-being.
- ★ **Institutionalization of many regional center clients and others who currently are able to reside in the community.** Some Residual program clients simply would be unable to remain in their homes and would be forced to turn to institutionalized forms of care including nursing homes because of their medical or behavioral needs. This would move us away from provisions of the Lanterman Act and the recent *Olmstead* court decision requiring that individuals be allowed to live in the least restrictive environment possible.
- ★ **Cost transfers to other programs rather than cost savings.** Under the Lanterman Act, people with developmental disabilities are entitled to certain identified services to enhance their quality of life. If state-funded programs such as the IHSS Residual program are no longer available, clients will be forced to turn to other programs. It costs under \$10,000 annually to provide services to most individuals under the Residual program, while it can cost five times as much to provide services through a nursing home.

We urge you to reconsider your budget proposal to eliminate the IHSS Residual program in light of the harm it will do to people with developmental and other disabilities and the elderly.

Sincerely,

Marion Lieberman  
President