



**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION FOR THE RETARDED**

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June 30, 2004

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

Subject: Programs serving disabled persons based on 1998-99 costs

I write you as a parent of a disabled son and as president of the California Association for the Retarded (CAR) to urge you to increase funding for essential work activity programs that are funded at 1998-99 costs, further reduced by 5 percent July 2003, and scheduled to be frozen until 2006. These programs serve an estimated 12,000 persons with developmental disabilities. CAR is a statewide parent organization with 12 local units advocating on behalf of persons with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities.

The front page of today's Sacramento Bee states that "Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said Tuesday he was nearing a deal for \$108 million in salary concessions from state correctional officers - significantly less than he had hoped for - while administration officials said he had given up his fight to block a 5 percent pay increase for other rank-and-file state workers."

I am appalled that state correctional officers will still receive an approximate 6 to 7 percent salary increase after \$108 million in salary concessions while the nonprofit work activity programs serving disabled people have been hammered to the brink of closure by inadequate rates based on 1998-99 costs.

If the state can find money to provide pay increases to correctional officers for a 6 to 7 percent increase for 2004-2005 (instead of the 10 to 11 percent projected increase before the \$100 million in concessions) on top of the 6 percent increase given for the 2003-2004 budget year, why can't the money be found to provide decent funding for work activity programs? Are our rate freezes and cuts funding their pay increases?

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Marion Lieberman,  
President