

# The Bakersfield Californian

## OPINION

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### **OUR VIEW: Will ElderLife become another shameful cut?**

The state budget is chock full of shortsightedness. Here's another one: ElderLife, an adult day health care program run by Kern Medical Center that provides vital socialization opportunities for seniors and disabled adults, could be seriously diminished or go by the wayside.

Kern County supervisors will eventually hold a public hearing on the program's future, but it's hard to see how ElderLife can be saved without significant private donations.

KMC Chief Executive Officer Paul Hensler says Medi-Cal will end up absorbing the cost of caring for ElderLife clients, and at a significantly higher price. And that's essentially the story of this shameful, cop-out state budget: Expenses best borne by state government have been shifted to the federal government or to counties, cities and private individuals who may not be in a position to afford such things.

ElderLife and programs like it keep seniors engaged and brain-healthy. Supervisors should do all they can to keep it running.