



## CAADS

California Association for Adult Day Services

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February 8, 2010

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

Attached please find a copy of one of your Administration's recently mailed 49,352 illegal, unintelligible notices to adult day health care beneficiaries. These notices needlessly frighten tens of thousands of aged, blind, and disabled who think their services are being terminated as a part of your effort to eliminate our 327 adult day health centers in the next few days.

The notices violate state and federal privacy laws because the notices inexplicably placed the recipient's Social Security number **on the outside of the envelope** right above the address. These illegal notices have exposed an already vulnerable elderly and disabled population to the additional threats of identity theft and fraud. Also please find attached a copy of the letters of apology mailed out to beneficiaries and the centers for this violation of law. This is a population that will find it very difficult to follow the instructions contained in the state's letter.

As you know, the California Association for Adult Day Services (CAADS) represents 37,000 aged, blind, and disabled beneficiaries in 327 centers. These day health centers deliver medical services, social work services, therapies and hot meals to chronically ill elderly, blind and disabled individuals.

Here's the budget scorecard on your Administration's two-year assault on the elderly:

- Needlessly scaring 49,352 recipients and their families with the threat of loss of adult day care before the Legislature has even cast a vote on the matter.
- Additional exposure of thousands of elderly and disabled to identity theft.
- Last year's total elimination of Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Centers (ADCRC) and the more than 70% reduction in funding for Caregiver Resource Centers (CRCs) triggered tens of thousands of tragic stories about disparate families wrestling with the responsibility of what to do with

loved ones that need almost constant care. To really count the Alzheimer's casualties from these so-called "savings" you may wish to talk to emergency room doctors, police officers and families overwhelmed with the fallout from the present epidemic of Alzheimer's disease.

- The Legislature and the Administration have failed to approve a small cost-of-living increase for the aged, blind, and disabled for several years. But this year the Administration proposes to actually **reduce** the monthly state stipend by \$15 a month, from \$171 to \$156.
- And now, your Administration seeks not a cut, but the total elimination of a vital program for the elderly that will shutter 327 adult day health centers affecting 37,000 program participants, throw 7,600 people out of work, and cost the state more than \$200 million in federal funds; at the very time you are complaining about the lack of federal funds.

As state government teeters on bankruptcy and default, these unconscionable acts might make sense, if they actually reduced government expenditures and saved taxpayers money. But total elimination of statewide adult day health care will cost taxpayers at least \$88.7 million more in state tax monies than it will save:

- **Increased costs to taxpayers**---Thousands of elderly, mentally ill and Alzheimer's patients will be shoved into more expensive and overcrowded emergency rooms, hospitals and nursing homes for medical crises. Survey data show, at minimum, \$221.4 million Medi-Cal State General Fund costs will shift to hospitals and nursing facilities - \$88.7 million more than your budgeted estimate of \$134.7 million General Fund savings.
- **Shifts costs to the Department of Developmental Services.** An estimated 4% to 6% of ADHC beneficiaries (1,500 to 2,200) have developmental disabilities and are entitled to more expensive services under the state's Lanterman Act. However, when ADHC centers close, they will lose their ongoing medical care and monitoring. Comparable services are simply not available.
- **IHSS cannot serve as a substitute medical service.** IHSS is not designed to provide skilled nursing care, skilled therapies or ongoing assessment by skilled medical professionals.

You are a good and decent person. That's why we are appealing to you directly. About 2500 years ago the Greek historian Thucydides wrote that in a world without justice:

*"...The standard of justice depends upon the equality of power to compel and that in fact the strong do what they have the power to do and **the weak suffer what they must.**"*

The state's Alzheimer's families, and the other aged, blind and disabled ask for justice and deserve no less. We respectfully appeal to you to rescind your emergency request to the Legislature to eliminate adult day health care programs by March 1. Remove the frail, the weak, and the old from this budgetary Darwinian equation that pits the most powerful budgetary forces in state government against the weakest amongst us.

Further, we invite you to put flesh and faces to these cold budget numbers and visit nearby Yolo Adult Day Health Center, 20 N Cottonwood Street, Woodland, CA 95695 to see for yourself the frail casualties triggered by these phony "savings" estimates.

Sincerely,



Lydia Missaelides, MHA  
Executive Director

Cc: Karen Johnson, Chief Deputy Director, Department of Health Care Services

Enclosures: 2/1/2010 Beneficiary Notice; 2/8/2010 Beneficiary Letter; 2/8/2010 ADHC Center Letter