



CAADS

California Association for Adult Day Services

921 11th Street
Suite 1100
Sacramento, California
95814

Phone: 916.552.7400
Fax: 916.552.7404
E-mail: caads@caads.org
Web: www.caads.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 10, 2011

Contact: Kathryn Atkinson
916-552-7400 office
kathy@caads.org

Gov. Brown's Proposal to Eliminate Adult Day Health Care Centers Shifts Elderly and Disabled to More Expensive Care Increasing Cost to the State

(Sacramento, Calif.) – In response to the budget released today by Gov. Jerry Brown, advocates for California's fragile seniors and disabled adults said they will fight to ensure lawmakers understand the financial and societal benefits of providing medical day care that keeps people in their homes and out of costly institutions. Following is a statement from Lydia Missaelides, Executive Director of the California Association for Adult Day Services:

“We are disappointed but not surprised that Gov. Brown's budget eliminates the Medi-Cal Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) program. Over the last two years, Gov. Schwarzenegger also proposed elimination of the ADHC program, and both years the Legislature wisely rejected the idea as unacceptable, because of the severe cost shift to the state's taxpayers and its cost in human suffering.

The patients served by ADHC programs are determined by the state to need ongoing medical care. If these patients do not get that care in an ADHC program, they are going to be shifted from their home to a nursing home or hospital, at a minimum of five times the cost. The state pays only \$38 a day for ADHC centers to provide medical and therapeutic care that keeps 37,000 medically frail or disabled seniors at home and in their communities rather than in institutional care.

While we understand California is in a fiscal crisis, cutting ADHC does nothing to solve the problem, in fact it makes it worse. Given that half of the funding for ADHC comes from the federal government, this proposal cuts twice as deep, costing the state more than it will save.

Not only is ADHC a bargain for taxpayers, elimination will embroil the state in costly lawsuits for violating the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Cutting ADHC is completely nonsensical. We have fought these cuts the last two years, and we will fight them again this year -- for the elderly, for the disabled, and for the California taxpayer.”

#

California Association for Adult Day Services, a 501 (c) 6 non-profit grassroots-driven organization, advocates for the growth and development of adult day services in California and nationally. CAADS was the first state association formed in the United States for the purpose of advancing adult day services. CAADS member-centers provide innovative day programs that support individuals with physical or mental disabilities and older adults with Alzheimer's disease and their families. A nationally recognized leader in the field of aging, the Association is governed by the CAADS Board of Directors and provides advocacy, timely information, analysis, technical assistance, education, and networking opportunities for member organizations. Learn more at www.caads.org.