

## **Medi-Cal Cuts**

### **Balancing the budget by cutting essential home care for the disabled**

**Melissa Kaplan**

Over the past year, the state Assembly and Governor have been using Medi-Cal cuts to help reduce the deficit. Among other things, this has resulted more TARS being required as pharmacists are no longer permitted to dispense a full month's supply of many drugs, forcing Medi-Cal recipients to use up their allotted six prescriptions a month to getting their artificially split prescriptions refilled. This is being done on maintenance medication, such as thyroid medicine, as well as on meds prescribed for acute and short-term conditions.

Most recently, In-Home Support Services has been cut. Now, any Medi-Cal recipient who lives with a spouse, child or parent will no longer eligible for IHSS services. This applies even to those Medi-Cal recipients whose spouse, child or parent is incapable of providing adequate care, either because they themselves are too ill, or because they are forced to work overtime, or at more than one job, in the effort of trying to make ends meet.

For those who are still eligible for IHSS, IHSS will no longer be allowed to pay for caregiver hours allocated to cooking, shopping, or housecleaning of any kind.

You can call the Governor's office and let them know what you think. Call the toll free number, 888-780-9275, and press 8 in response to the voicemail instructions.

If you would rather write (or fax) the Governor:

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: 916-445-2841  
Fax: 916-445-4633  
governor@governor.ca.gov

Don't stop there - let your other elected representatives know how you feel about this. The following are the state assembly and senate members from the central Sonoma County area. To find your assemblyman and senator, go to [www.assembly.ca.gov](http://www.assembly.ca.gov) and follow the Find My District link.

Most state and federal congressional representatives have switched to using form-based email that you can only access through their websites. If no actual email address is indicated below for a senator or assemblyman, you will need to go to the individual's website to send a web-based email.

**Assemblywoman Patty Berg**

[www.assembly.ca.gov/Berg](http://www.assembly.ca.gov/Berg)

Assembly District 1 (includes Cloverdale, Forestville, Graton, Healdsburg, Occidental, Windsor)

State Capitol  
Room 2137  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0001  
(916) 319-2001  
Fax: (916) 319-2101

50 "D" Street Suite 450  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
(707) 576-2526  
Fax: 707-576-2297

104 West Church Street  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
(707) 463-5770  
Fax: 707-463-5773

235 Fourth Street, Suite C  
Eureka, CA 95501  
(707) 445-7014  
Fax: 707-445-6607

**Assemblyman Joe Nation**

[www.assembly.ca.gov/Nation](http://www.assembly.ca.gov/Nation)

Assembly District 6 (includes Glen Ellen, Cotati)

State Capitol  
Room 3013  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0001  
(916) 319-2006  
Fax: (916) 319-2106

3501 Civic Center Dr. Room 412  
San Rafael, CA 94903  
(415) 479-4920  
Fax: (415) 479-2123

50 D Street, Suite 305  
Santa Rosa, CA 95409  
(707) 576-2631  
Fax: (707) 576-2735

**Assemblywoman Patricia Wiggins**

[www.assembly.ca.gov/Wiggins](http://www.assembly.ca.gov/Wiggins)

[Patricia.Wiggins@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Patricia.Wiggins@asm.ca.gov)

Assembly District 7 (includes Santa Rosa)

State Capitol  
Room 4016  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0001  
(916) 319-2007  
Fax: (916) 319-2107

50 "D" Street Suite 301  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
(707) 546-4500  
Fax: (707) 546-9031

640 Tuolumne Street, Suite B  
Vallejo, CA 94590  
Phone: (707) 649-2307  
Fax: (707) 649-2311

1040 Main Street, Suite 101-A  
Napa, CA 94559  
(707) 258-8007

**Senator Wesley Chesbro**

[www.senate.ca.gov/Chesbro](http://www.senate.ca.gov/Chesbro)

Senate District 2 - Northern Sonoma County

State Capitol Room 5100 Sacramento, CA 94249-0001 (916) 445-3375 Fax (916) 323-6958	50 "D" St. Suite 120-A Santa Rosa, CA 95404 (707) 576-2771 Fax (707) 576-2773	P.O. Box 785 Ukiah, CA 95482 (707) 468-8914 Fax (707) 468-8931
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710 E Street, #150 Eureka, CA 95501 (707) 445-6508 Fax (707) 445-6511	1040 Main St., #205 Napa, CA 94559 (707) 224-1990 Fax (707) 224-1992	444 Georgia Street Vallejo, CA 94590 (707) 648-5312 Fax (707) 648-5383
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**Senator John Burton**

[www.senate.ca.gov/Burton](http://www.senate.ca.gov/Burton)

Senate District 3 - Southern Sonoma County

State Capitol Room 205 Sacramento, CA 94249-0001 (916) 445-1412	455 Golden Gate Ave. Suite 14800 San Francisco, CA 94102 (415) 557-1300
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3501 Civic Center  
Room 425  
San Rafael, CA 94903  
Phone: (415) 479-6612

For complaints about the planned cuts to Medicare in 2004, as well as about Sonoma County still classified as a rural county, and so subject to lower reimbursement rates than urban counties (such as the rest of the Bay Area), contact:

**Rep. Lynn Woolsey**

<http://woolsey.house.gov>

1101 College Ave Suite 200 Santa Rosa, CA 95404 (707) 542-7182 Fax: (707) 542-2745	1050 Northgate Dr, Suite 140 San Rafael CA 94903 (415) 507-9554 Fax: (415) 507-9601
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**Sen. Barbara Boxer**

1700 Montgomery Street, Suite 240  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
(415) 403-0100  
(415) 956-6701 fax  
<http://boxer.senate.gov>

**Sen. Dianne Feinstein**

One Post Street, Suite 2450  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
(415) 393-0707  
Fax (415) 393-0710  
<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

## **Related Websites**

California State Assembly  
[www.assembly.ca.gov/](http://www.assembly.ca.gov/)

California State Senate  
[www.sen.ca.gov/](http://www.sen.ca.gov/)

In-Home Support Services (IHSS)  
[www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/In-HomeSup\\_173.htm](http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/In-HomeSup_173.htm)

U.S. House of Representatives  
[www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)

U.S. Senate  
[www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)

Medicare  
[www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)