

October 16, 2007

Dear Member of the California Delegation:

Very soon you will be casting critical votes affecting the health and well-being of people in California. As California community and faith leaders, service providers, and advocates for meeting human needs, we strongly urge you to vote to invest in healthy children, educated workers, and secure families and seniors.

**First, 607,000 uninsured children in California urgently need you to vote to override the President's veto of the SCHIP bill** (Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act, H.R. 976). These children and all the others who are now healthier because of SCHIP are depending on your vote. Our children cannot learn and thrive if they do not get the health care they need. We will look to your vote to override the SCHIP veto as a true demonstration of your commitment to our state's children.

**You will also be voting soon on vital domestic appropriations bills.** Please support investments in services that provide our people with opportunity and protect them from harm. The choices before you are stark. We hope the appropriations bills headed towards completion will preserve or expand:

- Head Start, child care, and education from birth through college;
- job training and employment services so our youth and adult workers can get ahead;
- community health centers, maternal and child health services, rural health, and mental health programs;
- services to address family violence, juvenile justice, and the prevention of child abuse or neglect;
- nutrition help for children (Women, Infants and Children (WIC) food program) and the elderly (Commodity Supplemental Food Program);
- services to strengthen communities through the Community Services Block Grant; and
- affordable housing and home energy assistance to provide stability for low-income seniors, people with disabilities, and families.

Vetoes threatened by the President are aimed at cutting these services. We strongly urge you to vote for domestic appropriations bills including Labor-HHS-Education, Transportation-HUD, Commerce-Justice-Science, and Agriculture, and to override such destructive vetoes.

So much is at stake for California. The President wants to force appropriations back down to levels that would for the seventh year in a row cut services for California's communities and families. Instead, your votes should invest in California's future. The House-passed appropriations bill would allow 2,342 more children in California to receive Head Start than under the President's plan. Similarly, House appropriations would provide funds for 1,008 more teachers than the President's plan, and would allow \$129 more special education funding for each child with disabilities in California. Although 1,495,845 households have trouble putting enough food on the table in California, a Presidential veto would be aimed at preventing 5 new states from being part of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, and still worse, would stop 51,700 elderly now participating in California from receiving food packages. We hope the House version of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is adopted. In marked contrast, despite soaring energy prices, a veto could mean 39,100 fewer California households will get the help they need to pay their utilities in 2008 than in 2001.

Our neighbors, our children, and the communities we live in and serve all count on you to vote for critically important investments and to reject the cuts the President's vetoes would require. We believe these votes – for SCHIP and human needs appropriations – are among the most important you will cast.

Sincerely,

9to5 Los Angeles, National Association of Working Women

AFSCME COUNCIL 36, Los Angeles  
AIDS Project Los Angeles  
All of Us or None, San Diego  
Asian Pacific American Legal Center, Los Angeles  
Asset Building Strategies, San Francisco  
Becoming Independent, Santa Rosa  
California Association of Food Banks  
California Association of Nonprofits  
California Council for Exceptional Children  
California Council of Churches  
California Head Start Association  
California Partnership  
Californians for Disability Rights, Inc.  
Child Action, Inc., Sacramento  
Child Care Food Program Roundtable, Shingle Springs  
Children's Defense Fund California  
Children's Health Initiative of San Luis Obispo County  
CodePink, Pacific Grove  
CodePink, San Francisco  
Collective SPACE, Los Angeles  
Community Resources for Independent Living, Hayward  
Dominican Sisters of San Rafael  
EOC of San Luis Obispo County, Inc.  
Epworth United Methodist Church, Oakland  
Good Shepherd Center for Homeless Women & Children, Los Angeles  
Holy Family Day Home, San Francisco  
HRC Child Care Resources, Jackson  
Human Concerns Committee, St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Palo Alto  
Japanese Speaking Parents Assoc. of Children with Challenges, Los Angeles  
Labor Project for Working Families, Berkeley  
Los Angeles Coalition to End Hunger and Homelessness  
Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center  
March 25<sup>th</sup> Coalition, Los Angeles  
Maternal and Child Health Access, Los Angeles  
Mill Valley Seniors for Peace  
Monterey County Health Department  
National Council of Jewish Women, California State Public Affairs  
National Council of Jewish Women, Long Beach  
National Women's History Project, Santa Rosa  
Northern Santa Barbara United Way  
Office Employees Local 3, Pacifica  
Old Saint Mary's Church, San Francisco  
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, San Diego  
Parent Voices, San Francisco  
Parent Voices, Sacramento  
Parent Voices El Dorado County Chapter

Parent Voices Southern Alameda County  
Pax Christi, Stevenson Ranch  
Pax Christi, Los Angeles  
Pax Christi, Castro Valley  
Pax Christi, Fremont  
Pax Christi, Huntington Beach  
Pax Christi, Petaluma  
Pax Christi, Thousand Oaks  
Pax Christi, Altadena  
Peace and Justice Commission, Los Angeles Catholic Archdiocese  
People Acting in Community Together (PACT), Los Gatos  
Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California  
POWER, Los Angeles  
Project Go, Inc., Roseville  
Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, North Hollywood  
RESULTS, Alhambra  
RESULTS, Oakland  
San Diego Welfare Warriors  
San Francisco Food Bank  
San Luis Obispo County WIC, Paso Robles  
SEIU Local 1021, Oakland  
Sisters of Mercy, Sacramento  
Sisters of Mercy, Auburn Regional Community  
Sisters of St. Benedict, Grand Terrace  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Los Angeles  
Sisters of the Good Shepherd, San Francisco  
Sisters of the Holy Names, Cupertino  
Sisters of the Presentation, Los Gatos  
Social Justice Committee, Newman Center, Catholic Community at UC, La Jolla  
Society of Helpers, San Bruno  
St Athanasius Food Pantry, Long Beach  
St. Gabriel Parish Justice & Peace Committee, San Francisco  
Stop the Violence Coalition, Hoopa  
Supportive Parents Information Network, Inc., San Diego  
The Alliance for Children's Rights, Los Angeles  
The Children's Partnership, Santa Monica  
The Citizenship Project, Salinas  
The Good Shepherd Shelter of Los Angeles  
The Gospel Truth, Berkeley  
The Justice Xpress, Occidental  
The Public Interest Law Project, Oakland  
Therapists for Social Responsibility, Grass Valley  
Therapists for Social Responsibility, Sacramento  
Therapists for Social Responsibility, Fair Oaks  
Therapists for Social Responsibility, Sacramento  
Trust Line, Sacramento

Tulare County WIC Program  
United Nurses Association of CA - AFSCME  
United Way, Moreno Valley  
United Way of Butte & Glenn Counties  
United Way of California  
United Way of Kern County  
Women's International League for Peace & Freedom-Fresno Branch  
World Peace Now, Point Arena  
YWCA Walnut Creek  
YWCA Gardena Valley  
YWCA Harbor Area & South Bay  
YWCA Oakland-Berkeley