



Action Alert

State Continues Assault on Lanterman Act! Services and Rights are Being Eliminated!

Governor Schwarzenegger in 2003 tried to suspend the Lanterman Act, which promises the supports that every Californian with a developmental disability needs. We stopped him then, but he's been chipping away ever since. Now Schwarzenegger and the 10 members of the Legislature's Budget Conference Committee have taken another big step toward ending the promise.

Strong advocacy by hundreds of parents and self-advocates, The Arc, our allied groups, and some legislators convinced the Schwarzenegger Administration to drop proposals for even worse cuts. But the 10 responsible legislators approved all the cuts that the Administration wanted -- disregarding our realistic alternatives to bring in more federal funds instead. Here are some of the 30 separate proposals they approved, and their results:

Early Intervention is cut. About 17,000 babies at high risk for developmental disabilities will be denied eligibility for this program. Even eligible babies will be denied many services that are available now.

Respite hours are capped. Families will be denied respite beyond an arbitrary limit set by the State.

Programs are forced to close 14 days a year. In addition to 10 uniform holidays, all day programs, work activity and infant development programs will be closed an additional 4 days per year.

Your right to choose the service provider you want is curtailed. Regional centers will have more control over what services you receive and who provides them.

Some services are almost totally eliminated. You will be forced to prove extraordinary need to be considered for social/recreational activities, camping, children's educational services, and non-medical therapies.

Some programs close permanently. Funding cuts have already forced some community programs to close permanently. These cuts will close more.

For a full summary of the cuts, check www.ArcCalifornia.org soon.

Action Needed Now – June 29, 2009

The full Legislature hasn't acted on the cuts yet. Some of the cuts may be restored if the community response is strong. And there's a real risk of more cuts if the community response isn't strong enough. Here's who to call.

Tell them what the cuts will mean to you and those you love – and that the community is and always was against the cuts, no matter what they've been told. Tell them we want our alternatives to bring in more federal funds instead! Speak from the heart.

1. Call or write your local state senator and Assembly representative.

If you don't know who your legislators are, you can find out in the red, white and blue "Write Your Legislators" box at www.ArcCalifornia.org. When you call, give them your name and address so they know you live in the district they represent. Calls have more impact than emails. Please fax, don't mail any letters – screening can delay them up to 3 weeks.

2. Call Governor Schwarzenegger and all 10 members of the Budget Conference Committee, who are responsible for the cuts.

Please phone all 11 below if you're able. All of their phone numbers are in the 916 area code. The email addresses and fax numbers are for people who can't call.

- Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, 445-2841, 558-3160 (fax), email using the web form at www.ArcCalifornia.org, the "Write Your Legislators" box.
- Assemblywoman Noreen Evans, 319-2007, 319-2107 (fax), assemblymember.evans@assembly.ca.gov
- Senator Denise Ducheny, 651-4040, 327-3522 (fax), senator.ducheny@sen.ca.gov
- Senator Robert Dutton, 651-4031, 327-2272 (fax), senator.dutton@sen.ca.gov
- Senator Mark Leno, 651-4003, 445-4722 (fax), senator.leno@sen.ca.gov
- Senator Alan Lowenthal, 651-4027, 327-9113 (fax), senator.lowenthal@sen.ca.gov
- Senator Mimi Walters, 651-4033, 445-9754 (fax), senator.walters@sen.ca.gov
- Assemblyman Roger Niello, 319-2005, 319-2105 (fax), assemblymember.niello@assembly.ca.gov
- Assemblyman Kevin de Leon, 319-2045, 319-2145 (fax), assemblymember.deleon@assembly.ca.gov
- Assemblyman Bob Blumenfield, 319-2040, 319-2140 (fax), assemblymember.blumenfield@assembly.ca.gov
- Assemblyman Jim Nielsen, 319-2002, 319-2102 (fax), assemblymember.nielsen@assembly.ca.gov

3. Join The Arc's Action E-List to stay informed and get more detailed Action Alerts so you can act quickly when it's needed most.

Go to www.ArcCalifornia.org. Go to the red, white and blue "Write Your Legislators" box. Enter your ZIP code. Click. Scroll down to "Action E-List." Click again. And follow the instructions.