

Gov's Freeze Attempt on IHSS Wages Will Face Heat



Talk about deja vu....

"...The governor plans to knock out the \$1.00 an hour wage increases for in-home (IHSS) workers"

"...Governor's proposed budget...reduces the state's contribution to wages and health benefits of IHSS workers to \$6.75 per hour..."

"....IHSS cuts would be about \$600 million or about 29% of the budget."

Funny thing is that these quotes are from three different years and under two different governors (both Dem & Republican). Why is it that care providers who provide vital services to disabled individuals and seniors always get targeted when it's time to balance

the budget?

Well, Governor Schwarzenegger kept this "tradition" alive for 2007, proposing to freeze the State's share of cost for IHSS workers in his recent budget proposal. Fortunately, it appears that he can't push this "freeze" part of the budget proposal through without State Legislative approval.

Apparently, the Administration has advised legislative leadership to pass "urgency legislation to enact the freeze in the current budget year. This requires a 2/3 vote approval by the legislature and trusted sources indicate this is unlikely. However, the Administration will work hard for the freeze. Express your views on the issue by contacting your elected State Legislators.

Arcata Endeavor Pressured by City

Most area residents are familiar with Arcata Endeavor, which has served the area for 20 years. The non-profit runs a resource center which offers such services as an extreme weather shelter, case management, hunger relief (such as hot meals), and shelter assistance.

The organization is currently being pressured by the City of Arcata to find a new home for its service center, in order to comply with revised zoning restrictions. These require such service centers to be more than 250 feet away from parks, the Arcata Marsh and residential areas, as well as more than 500 feet from schools. AE is also facing funding difficulties.

On January 16 the Arcata Planning Commission discussed such zoning issues in order to make a recommendation to the City Council. Apparently, there was much public comment and heated discussion at this meeting. The *Arcata Eye* even reported one Commission

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Rally & Press Conference

Support In-Home Support Service (IHSS) Care Providers. Help Launch the Commitment to Care Campaign!

Times: Tues., February 6

12:15 p.m.--gather

12:45 p.m.--press conference

1:30 p.m.--public comment at Board meeting

Location: Humboldt County Courthouse, 825 Fifth Street, Eureka

wheelchair access: 829 4th St.

TRI-COUNTY INDEPENDENT LIVING
955 MYRTLE AVENUE
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501



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member as indicating that “...homeless people, including the mentally incapacitated and lifestyle homeless ought not be lingering near places like schools, parks and residential areas.”

It's a shame to see stereotypes perpetuated at a public meeting. Such language implies discrimination against individuals with mental illness (a disability-- NOT an “incapacitation”), the poor (many of whom are **working** poor, such as some **minimum wage** earners) and those receiving disability benefits, among others.

Next week, AE will appeal to the Arcata City Council to extend their lease for one year so that

they can reapply for grant support. According to AE Site Supervisor/Director, John Shelter, the grant requires that they stay in that location for a year, and this grant funding is essential to the organization. The City is saying that AE must apply for a conditional use permit, even though nothing has changed with the services offered at the AE site. Public comment can be made by Arcata residents at the **City Council meeting, at 7 p.m., February 7 at the Arcata City Hall.**



**Your Elected
Officials**

STATE LEGISLATURE: Senator Patricia Wiggins--State Capitol, Room 4081, Sacramento, CA 95814, Tel: (916) 651-4002, Fax: (916) 323-6958; District Office, 710 E Street, #150, Eureka, CA 95501, Tel: (707) 445-6508, Fax: (707) 445-6511; web site: <http://dist02.casen.govoffice.com/>.

Senator Sam Aanestad--Local: 200 Providence Mine Rd., Ste. 108, Nevada City, CA 95959, Tel.: (530) 470-1846; State Capitol, Rm. 2054, Sacramento, CA 95814, Tel.: (916) 651-4004, web site: www.republican.sen.ca.gov

Assembly Member Patty Berg--235 Fourth St., Ste. C, Eureka 95501, 707-445-7014; State Capitol, POB 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0001, Tel: (916) 319-2001, web site: www.democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/

**TCIL: (707)
445-8404**

**IMPORTANT
DATES**

January--State Legislator: Bills drafted, background information gathered, and legislators asked to author bills.

Jan. 31--Humboldt County Board of Supervisors meeting cancelled.

February--Bills introduced to State Legislature

Feb. 6--Humboldt County Board of Supervisors meeting, 9 a.m.

Feb. 23--Last day for bills to be introduced in State Legislature (J.R. 61(a)(1), J.R. 54(a))