



CA State Budget **Deficit** Forecast Dismal More Cuts on Way for Most Vulnerable?

People with disabilities, senior citizens, caregivers and low-income people did not fare that well in the 2007 legislative session. Now, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is warning of a larger-than-expected budget deficit next year and the need for more major cuts. Estimates have been released of a total deficit of about \$10 billion and the Governor has ordered all state agencies to submit plans for 10% cuts in spending.

As usual, if such cuts are implemented, the most vulnerable will feel them the most. Be prepared to voice your concerns when the 2008 legislative session begins in January. We'll try to keep you informed as much as we can through this *Bulletin* and other means.


DRA Cheers Eagles & Jeers Turkeys

Disability Rights Advocates (DRA) of Berkeley recently announced their annual Eagle and Turkey Awards. The Eagle Awards recognize businesses and organizations that have led the way in improving levels of access at work, at home, and in the community. The Turkeys, as you can guess, admonish those that demonstrate enormous insensitivity to the needs of people with disabilities.

The high-flying Eagles this year included IBM, Starbucks, TLC's *Little People, Big World* program, and Fiskars (maker of garden tools). Cheers to them!



The Turkeys included the U.S. Chamber of Commerce for opposing the ADA Restoration Act, the California Dept. of Transportation (Caltrans)

 for challenging the constitutionality of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Cities of Los Angeles and Sacramento for their ill treatment of the homeless, particularly those with mental illness (boo...hsss!).

AMA Supports Community Choice

The American Medical Association announced on November 13 that they are supporting passage of the Community Choice Act. They join over 600 other local, state and national organizations in support of this national legislation.

Currently, there are two versions of this bill being considered in DC: **S. 799** in the U.S. Senate and **H.R. 1621** in the U.S. House of Representatives. Both bills would amend the Social Security Act *"to provide individuals with disabilities and older Americans with equal access to community-based attendant services and supports."*

Senator Barbara Boxer is one of the co-sponsors of S. 799, but **not** Senator Dianne Feinstein. Congressman Mike Thompson has also **not** signed on as a co-sponsors of H.R. 1621. Let them know how you feel about this legislation!

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Emergency Preparedness Test Planned

10:15 a.m., March 26, 2008. This is the time that your radio and tv broadcasts will be interrupted by an emergency broadcast. Be aware that this is only a test of the tsunami warning system, and one of that is being conducted in Humboldt County by the Governor's Office of Emergency Preparedness in conjunction with the National Weather Service. The difference from a regular test will be that tv screens will display the real warning message, but a voice over will remind that it is a test.

Tri-County Independent Living: (707) 445-8404. For questions on this publication, call Glenn Reed.

Contact Your DC Elected Officials

Rep. Mike Thompson--Tel.: (707) 269-9595 or (202) 225-3311, Fax: (707) 269-9595.

Senator Dianne Feinstein--Tel.: (415)-393-0707 or (202) 224-3841, Fax: (415) 393-0710, TTY/TDD: (415) 249-4785.

Senator Barbara Boxer--Tel.: (202) 224-3553 or (916) 448-2787 (Sacramento) or (415) 403-0100 (SF); Fax: (916) 448-2563 or (415) 956-6701 (SF).



**Speak out to protect
your rights and your
future. Join the...**



DISABILITY ACTION NETWORK

at Tri-County Independent Living

For further information, contact
**Cindy Calderon at (707) 445-8404 or
email to cynthia@tilinet.org.**

Local Happenings

Holiday Open House, Wed., Dec. 12, 1-3 p.m., Tri-County Independent Living, 2822 Harris St., Eureka. Call 445-8404.

Suicide Alternatives Workshop #2, Sat., Dec. 15, 1 p.m., St. Joseph Hospital, C-1 & C-2 Conference rooms. Sponsored by CA Network of Mental Health Clients, Far North Region. More info., call Henry Willey, 707-443-9659.