

# Enabled Voices



An advocacy publication of Tri-County Independent Living

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## RAISING OUR VOICES!



*Over 100 dedicated advocates from the disability community and other supporters attended our rally/march on Sat., May 10 at the Humboldt County Courthouse in Eureka to protest Governor Schwarzenegger's proposed budget cuts. Many thanks to all who came out to make their voices heard! Also thanks to the Raging Grannies and Bandemonium for providing the great music.*



## Gov Wants More Cuts

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's state budget revision, announced on May 14, contained even more bad news for people with disabilities, seniors, those with low-incomes, and others who are among the most vulnerable in California. The Governor had previously wanted 10%, across-the-board cuts to all state programs and a 18% slashing of the In-Home Support Service (IHSS) funding. The revision, while offering some reprieve to education funding, contained over \$1 billion in **additional** cuts to social services. It also did **not** offer any new sources of revenue, nor did it propose to close any tax loopholes, such as those for yacht owners.

**Nearly 500 of *your* letters opposing the budget cuts were delivered to Senator Pat Wiggins and Assembly Member Patty Berg on Disability Capitol Action Day!**



## Willey Attends Disability Capitol Action Day

May 15th was an exciting day for those in the disability rights movement. Representatives from all over the state took their message to the state capitol and filled the grounds with enthusiasm while speaking in a unified voice against the proposed, draconian budget cuts to Medi-Cal and In-Home Support Services (IHSS).

I spent time in the offices of Senator Wiggins and Assemblywoman Patty Berg. I was able to plead with Ms. Berg and Senator Wiggins' staff person for advocacy in preserving necessary services for our disabled community.

Both legislators assured me that they were in support of our message. The problem seems to be a recalcitrant system of deep cuts by the administration and the Republican members who are keeping alternatives to cuts from getting anywhere. Both have promised **no new taxes**. Without some increase in revenues, the balanced budget goal cannot be met by deep cuts in essential services to the disabled and poorest of the poor. It was an honor to be able to represent each of you to the state house. Never stop your advocacy efforts. Be a catalyst for change.--Henry Willey

**Henry N. Willey, Jr. is a Member of the Tri-County Independent Living Board of Directors, as well as Far North Regional Director of the California Network of Mental Health Clients, among many other activities.**

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## IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, **May 30**--Memorial Day  
Sat., **July 26**--Anniversary of ADA's signing

### **Respect for Abilities Day**

**Tri-County Independent Living's 5th  
Annual Assistive Technology &  
Disability Awareness Event**

**Fri., July 25, 2008, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Red Lion Hotel, Eureka**

#### **Featuring:**

Assistive technology vendors; Social service & government agency displays; Self-advocacy Room; Workshops on disaster preparedness, chronic disease self-management & peer support, alternatives to suicide, accessing health care for people with disabilities, accessing your elected officials; Training on Plans for Achieving Self-Support (PASS Plans); Buffet Luncheon with guest speaker, **former State Senator Wes Chesbro** (\$18.00 per person; reservations required); Art displays

**Watch for further details in TCIL's newsletter, *RespectAbility* and elsewhere or call us at (707) 445-8404; TTY: 445-8405.**

### ***Bill of Concern to Users of Durable Medical Equipment***

Currently there is a bill in the U.S. Congress (HR 2231) that bears watching...and perhaps a call or email to Rep. Mike Thompson. The legislation would exempt durable medical equipment such as wheelchairs from a competitive, bidding process soon to be required by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. This bidding process could create major problems for people in rural, more remote areas where there are already limited options for such equipment and its repair.

### **Local Happenings**

Workshops on the **Coordinated Transportation Plan** for seniors, people with disabilities and persons with limited income in Humboldt County: **Wed., June 4**, 10-11:30 a.m., River Lodge, 1800 Riverwalk Drive, **Fortuna** & 1:30-3 p.m., Adorni Center, 1011 Waterfront Drive, **Eureka**. Call Spencer Clifton at (707) 444-8208 for more information.

**Tri-County Independent Living, 2822 Harris St., Eureka, CA 95503. For questions on this publication, call Glenn Reed at (707) 445-8404.**