

September 12, 2008: Sanchez Opposes State Budget Cuts to Critical Orange County Programs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SANCHEZ OPPOSES STATE BUDGET CUTS TO CRITICAL ORANGE COUNTY PROGRAMS

Sanchez letter to Schwarzenegger calls for budget compromise that protects programs like the Women's Transitional Living Center and other community serving organizations

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (D-CA) issued a letter to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger urging him to revise his budget proposal for the state of California that includes drastic cuts to critical community serving organizations in the 47th Congressional District

such as the Women's Transitional Living Center (WTLC).

Below is the full text of the letter. A PDF copy is also attached.

September 11, 2008

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

State Capitol Building

Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger:

I am writing to urge you to revise your budget proposal for the state of California. The lack of an approved budget for the past two months has been a serious burden for many Californians, and a budget proposal that would significantly cut social services, forcing established community service organizations to close their doors, would only enhance that burden. Governor, you call your budget proposal a "compromise budget plan" but encumbering the state with outrageous cuts to many of its programs dedicated to serving the needs of our communities is far from a "compromise." Extreme cuts would negatively affect critical community serving organizations in my congressional district, in particular the Women's Transitional Living Center (WTLC).

WTLC has been providing a wide range of crucial aid to victims of domestic violence in my district for the past 31 years. These services include legal advocacy, crisis intervention, counseling for victims, and emergency shelter. The center has also implemented an advocacy program for victims of human trafficking and it is the only domestic violence shelter in Orange County that works with this population. WTLC also reaches out to youth by providing internship and volunteer opportunities for those interested in serving their community.

For the WTLC the budget impasse and the possibility of a budget that significantly reduces funding to organizations providing essential services to our community has translated into drastic cuts in services, and they are now faced with the very real possibility of being forced to close their emergency shelter on September 19th of this year. Closing the doors of this center will force victims of domestic violence to live on the streets or even worse, return to their abuser. This is an unacceptable situation for these families; they deserve more from their government.

Governor, WTLC is just one of many organizations that are suffering as a result of this budget impasse and that would suffer even more if critical funding for community organizations is cut. California cannot afford to lose the assistance that centers such as the WTLC provide.

As a Californian and a Member of Congress, it is deeply concerning to see that some of the most resourceful centers in my community will have to close down because of the lack of an acceptable budget plan. I understand that in times of fiscal difficulty, tough fiscal decisions are required. However, to make our most vulnerable citizens in California communities bear the burden of these decisions is unacceptable. Once again, I urge you to reflect on the consequences that cuts to vital will have on our great state of California.

Thank you for your time and attention in this critically important matter.

Sincerely,

Loretta Sanchez

Member of Congress

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