



November 14, 2008

Assembly Member Chuck DeVore (Dist 70 – R)
3 Park Plaza, Suite 275
Irvine, CA 92614

RE: November 2008 Special Session

Dear Assembly Member DeVore:

On behalf of the Coalition of Orange County Community Clinics I strongly urge you to protect key public health programs that community clinics and health centers (CCHCs) rely on daily in serving California's underserved and uninsured populations. As the medical home to 488,100 constituents in your district, we are counting your support to ensure that we can continue to provide the level of care so many in our low-income communities need and deserve.

As the Legislature convenes a November Special Session to fix our state's \$11.2 billion dollar budget revenue shortfall, we respectfully ask for your action on the following items that Governor Schwarzenegger has recently proposed:

- **Reject** the elimination of Medi-Cal optional benefits, and in particular adult dental, which is critical to all dental services provided by community clinics.
- **Reject** the roll-back of the Medi-Cal 1931(b) income eligibility levels from 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 72% FPL and reinstating the "100 hour" work rule, which limits an employed parent to 100 hours of paid work per month, regardless of income.
- **Reject** the reduction of benefits for newly qualified immigrants and immigrants who permanently reside under the color of law (PRUCOL).
- **Reject** the reduction of emergency services for undocumented immigrants.
- **Reject** the reduction of the federally mandated Medi-Cal eligibility level for aged, blind and disabled individuals from 127% FPL to 100% FPL.
- **Support** the Governor's proposal for sales, liquor and oil production tax increases.

California's CCHCs fully understand the fiscal predicament the state faces. We understand that our leaders have tough choices to make and that we all have a shared responsibility and shared sacrifice in lifting our state out of its economic crisis. However, we believe that the proposed budget offered by Governor Schwarzenegger disproportionately puts the responsibility of filling our state's revenue gap on those that are most vulnerable. Moreover, we believe that the Governor has not fully explored all available revenue generation options, such as the Vehicle License Fee (VLF), and that the adoption of his resulting proposed cuts will, in fact, cost the state far more over the long haul than any short term savings.

Again, Coalition of OC Community Clinics respectfully asks for your support of community clinics and their patients by protecting the programs that matter most.

Sincerely,

Isabel Becerra
Chief Executive Officer

Members:

Camino Health Center
San Juan Capistrano

Clinica CHOC Para Niños
Santa Ana

Community Care Health Centers
Huntington Beach

Friends of Children Health Center
La Habra

Gary Center
La Habra

Healthy Smiles for Kids of Orange County
Garden Grove

La Amistad Family Health Center
Orange

Laguna Beach Community Clinic
Laguna Beach

Lestonnac Free Clinic
Orange

New Life Mobile Medical Clinic
Orange County Rescue Mission
Tustin

Nhan Hoa Health Care Clinic
Garden Grove

Planned Parenthood
Anaheim
Costa Mesa
Garden Grove
Mission Viejo
Orange
Santa Ana

Puente a La Salud Mobile Clinic
Santa Ana

Share Our Selves (SOS)
Costa Mesa

Sierra Health Center
Fullerton

St. Jude Healthy Communities
Fullerton

UCI Family Health Center
Anaheim

UCI Family Health Center
Santa Ana

VNCOC /Asian Health Center
Santa Ana

Isabel Becerra
Chief Executive Officer