

CDCAN DISABILITY RIGHTS REPORT CALIFORNIA DISABILITY COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK



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Advocacy Without Borders: One Community – Accountability With Action - California Disability Community Action Network Disability Rights News goes out to over 55,000 people with disabilities, mental health needs, seniors, traumatic brain & other injuries, veterans with disabilities and mental health needs, their families, workers, community organizations, including those in Asian/Pacific Islander, Latino, African American communities, policy makers and others across California.

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California Budget Crisis:

Crucial Vote Likely This Week In US Senate on Extending Increased Medicaid Matching Funds

Failure to Extend Increased Federal Matching Funds Would Cost California Over \$2 Billion That Would Add to the State's \$20 Billion Budget Deficit – Major Impact to People With Disabilities, Mental Health Needs, Seniors

SACRAMENTO, CALIF (CDCAN) [Updated 06/14/2010 09:55 PM (Pacific Time)] - Democrats in the US Senate may have enough votes to end debate and force a final vote for passage of a \$140 billion bill, HR 4213, by the end of this week, that would extend the temporary increase in the federal Medicaid match to the states for six months, until June 30, 2011. The bill would also extend unemployment benefits until November and delay a reimbursement cut to doctors in the Medicare program. The extension of six months of the temporary increase of the federal Medicaid (called "Medi-Cal" in California) matching funds to the states totals \$24 billion. Some reports indicated the extension would be for one year – though that could not be confirmed by any of the recent amendments to the measure and the total cost of the bill has not changed.

The temporary increase in federal Medicaid matching funds was originally part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) that is currently set to expire December 31, 2010 unless Congress approves an extension.

California's Share Would Be \$2 Billion – And Governor's Proposed State Budget Is Counting On It

The legislation, referred to as the "extenders bill" because it extends benefits or temporary increases in federal funding for several programs, is crucial to all the states, including California. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger made the assumption that Congress would approve the extension of the temporary increase in the federal Medicaid matching funds that would total over \$2 billion in increased federal dollars for California, as part of his proposed 2010-2011 State Budget that he proposed in January and revised in May.

If Congress fails to approve that extension of the temporary increase in federal Medicaid funding for the states, it would mean that California's budget deficit would grow by

another \$2 billion instead – and add enormous pressure on the California Legislature to move forward on massive spending cuts especially to California health and human service programs critical to people with disabilities, mental health needs, the blind, seniors, low income families, community organizations and workers who provide supports and services.

With states facing budget deficits, Governors from several states, including Governor Schwarzenegger and California legislative leaders, have urged Congress to pass the extension.

Both California US Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer - both Democrats – are in favor of the “extenders bill”.

Next Steps

- US Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (Democrat – Nevada) filed a motion Monday (June 14) to end debate on the bill which may mean US Senate Democrats have enough votes to push the bill forward.
- That vote to end the debate on the bill, which requires 60 votes, is likely to happen on Wednesday (June 16), with a final vote to pass the bill likely by Friday – assuming the vote to end debate is successful.
- If it passes the US Senate, the “extenders bill” faces another major and difficult hurdle in conference committee to work out differences with the House version of the bill – which deleted among other things – the extension of the temporary increase of the federal Medicaid matching funds to the states due to the \$24 billion price tag that several moderate House Democrats objected to.
- Whatever is worked out in conference committee would then have to be voted on again by the full US House of Representatives and again in the US Senate. The outcome there – if the “extenders bill” makes it out of conference committee intact – is not certain.

VERY URGENT!!!!

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To continue the CDCAN website, the CDCAN News Reports. sent out and read by over 50,000 people and organizations, policy makers and media across California and to continue the CDCAN Townhall Telemeetings which since December 2003 have connected thousands of people with disabilities, seniors, mental health needs, people with MS and other disorders, people with traumatic brain and other injuries to public policy makers, legislators, and issues.

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paypal on the CDCAN site is not yet working – will be soon.

MANY, MANY THANKS TO the Pacific Homecare Services, Easter Seals, California Association of Adult Day Health Centers, Valley Mountain Regional Center, Toward Maximum Independence, Inc (TMI), Friends of Children with Special Needs, UCP of Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, Southside Arts Center, San Francisco Bay Area Autism Society of America, Hope Services in San Jose, FEAT of Sacramento (Families for Early Autism Treatment), RESCoalition, Sacramento Gray Panthers, Easter Seals of Southern California, Tri-Counties Regional Center, Westside Regional Center, Regional Center of the East Bay, UCP of Orange County, Alta California Regional Center, Life Steps, Parents Helping Parents, Work Training, Foothill Autism Alliance, Arc Contra Costa, Pause4Kids, Manteca CAPS, Training Toward Self Reliance, UCP, California NAELA, Californians for Disability Rights, Inc (CDR) including CDR chapters, CHANCE Inc, , Strategies To Empower People (STEP), Harbor Regional Center, Asian American parents groups, Resources for Independent Living and many other Independent Living Centers, several regional centers, People First chapters, IHSS workers, other self advocacy and family support groups, developmental center families, adoption assistance program families and children, and others across California.