Senior Services Coalition
of Alameda County

March 22, 2011

State Budget Update:
Will Legislators OK Special Election?
Fate of Community-Based Long Term Care Hangs in the Balance

On March 4, the joint Conference Committee completed their budget recommendations for California's 2011-12 fiscal year. Building on the work of Assembly and Senate committees, the Conference Committee's recommendations addressed a $25.4 billion projected deficit. The budget that emerged resembles the Governor's proposed budget – a little more than half is cuts and program eliminations, a little less than half revenue solutions.

Last week, most of that budget was passed on the floor of the Assembly and Senate. Core life-line programs for seniors – ADHC, IHSS, SSI/SSP, MSSP, Medi-Cal – are seriously damaged by the budget as it stands. But things could get much worse.

Legislators have yet to agree on the approval of a ballot initiative for a June special election. If approved by voters, the initiative would continue current income and sales taxes and vehicle license fees that had been set to expire. The passage of the ballot initiative is crucial, as it makes up the lion's share of the "revenue solutions." Without it, full-scale elimination of programs in health, human services, education and other services will change the face of California.

Click here for a .pdf summary of cuts to senior services in the budget bills passed last week.

Click here to view Governor Jerry Brown's youtube message asking Californians to urge our legislators to "let the people decide" by putting the temporary tax extensions on the ballot.

If you have any questions, just email me.

- Wendy

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