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The Governor's Proposed Budget Would Disproportionately Affect California's Women

The Governor's Proposed Budget would reduce the resources many families have to meet basic needs as well as reduce access to health care services and child care that provide needed support for many mothers to find and retain employment. Specifically, the Governor proposes to:

- End cash assistance payments to nearly 200,000 children in the **CalWORKs Program**, which would make it more difficult for their families – the vast majority of whom are headed by women – to meet basic needs.
- Cause thousands of adults – many of them women – to lose **Medi-Cal** coverage by increasing paperwork requirements.
- Reduce payments to many providers who treat **Medi-Cal** patients by 10 percent. Research suggests that California's low provider payment rates are a barrier to accessing health care services.
- Reduce payments for **family planning services** paid for by Medi-Cal by 10 percent and reduce funding for the **Teen Pregnancy and Prevention Program**.
- Reduce the number of children in **child care and preschool** by more than 18,000 by cutting funding for child development programs by \$198.9 million in 2008-09. The Governor also proposes to reduce funding for before and after school programs by \$59.6 million.
- Freeze the income eligibility limit for **child care services** at the 2007-08 level in 2008-09. As a result, low-income working families who earn above the income limit would lose child care assistance, and families who have left public assistance risk returning to aid due to the high cost of child care.
- Reduce random inspections of certain care facilities, including **child care centers**, from once every three years to once every seven years, for state savings of \$2.3 million in 2008-09. Reduced inspections could affect the safety of these facilities.
- Reduce **food assistance benefits** for low-income families through the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) by 10 percent. CFAP provides food assistance to certain legal noncitizens who are ineligible for the Food Stamp Program solely due to their immigration status.
- Reduce funding for **community colleges** by \$483.5 million, for the **University of California (UC)** by \$331.9 million, and for the **California State University (CSU)** by \$312.9 million. In addition, the Governor's proposal assumes student fee increases of 7.4 percent for the UC and 10 percent for the CSU.