



CALIFORNIA BUDGET PROJECT

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## Statement of Jean Ross, executive director of the California Budget Project, on the Release of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's May Revision

Today, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger released the May Revision to his 2010-11 Proposed Budget, an updated budget proposal based on the latest revenue estimates and policy proposals. In response, Jean Ross, executive director of the California Budget Project, a nonpartisan public policy research group, released this statement:

"Largely because of the economic downturn, California once again faces a very difficult budget year. But the Governor's May Revision is not the balanced, responsible approach called for at this critical time. It relies too heavily on proposed cuts, threatens the state's economic recovery, and recklessly gambles with our future. It pulls the rug out from under families already struggling with double-digit unemployment rates and the worst economic crisis this country has seen since the Great Depression and would leave the state ill-prepared to compete in an ever more competitive global economy.

The Governor's proposals cut far past the muscle and into the bones of our state's safety net – the health care, job placement, child care assistance, and other services Californians have turned to in greater numbers for help during the recent downturn. The Governor's proposed cuts to public schools would further reduce the state's commitment to education below that of the nation as a whole, a gap that is wider than at any point in the last 40 years.

Instead, California needs a thoughtful and responsible budget, one that takes a balanced approach that includes more federal aid and prudent and carefully targeted cuts that preserve the core capacity of services. And in the same way that families unable to make ends meet work overtime or take an additional job to boost their incomes, California needs to bring in new revenues. Protecting our public services will ensure we can meet the needs of Californians now and pave the way for an economic recovery."

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*The California Budget Project (CBP) engages in independent fiscal and policy analysis and public education with the goal of improving public policies affecting the economic and social well-being of low- and middle-income Californians. Support for the CBP comes from foundation grants, publications, and individual contributions. Please visit the CBP's website at [www.cbp.org](http://www.cbp.org).*

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