



CALIFORNIA BUDGET PROJECT

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Statement: Jean Ross on the Governor's Proposed 2011-12 Budget

Today, Governor Jerry Brown released his Proposed 2011-12 Budget. In response, Jean Ross, executive director of the California Budget Project, a nonpartisan public policy research group, released this statement:

"California faces perhaps its toughest budget challenges ever due to the impact of a weak economy on revenues and spending, the expiration of temporary tax increases, the impact of recent tax cuts, and the end of federal recovery act funding. We applaud the Governor for proposing a balanced approach that includes additional revenues, rather than relying on a cuts-only approach. This represents a departure from past budgets which disproportionately relied on spending reductions, overly optimistic assumptions, and borrowing.

However, the Governor also proposes deep cuts that will weaken the public structures that many Californians rely on, including CalWORKs, the state's highly successful welfare-to-work program; state-assisted child care for families struggling to make ends meet; Medi-Cal, a state-federal health insurance program; and the Healthy Families Program, which helps families purchase affordable health coverage for their children.

Protecting our core public systems and structures is essential for securing a prosperous future and paving the way for an economic recovery. Lawmakers and voters should examine the Governor's proposals in the context of what they mean not just for the next 12 months, but also five, 10, and 20 years in the future."

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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.

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