

Having Our Say!

Communities of Color's Stake in Health Care Reform

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 18, 2008
Contact: Ellen Wu, Executive Director, California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
Cell: (510) 710-7870, Office: (510) 832-1160, email: ewu@cpehn.org

Governor Should Support Legislative Budget Plan if Committed to Health Care Reform

Today the Governor unveiled his plans for phase one of statewide health care reform, a vital step towards repairing our broken system. However the benefits of these proposed changes are insignificant compared to the devastation that will occur if the Governor does not support a budget that protects Californians who rely on Medi-Cal and Healthy Families and preserves our safety net.

Californians need a budget that will serve as a platform for future health care reform efforts. Instead of cutting programs that will take us back ten years, we must preserve, build upon, and improve our health care system, one that provides essential services to millions of low-income children and families.

“The Democrats have presented us with a concrete, workable plan.” stated Sarah Mercer, the coordinator of the Having Our Say coalition. “By closing tax loopholes and rolling back generous tax breaks that were given to big corporations and the wealthiest Californians we can avoid many of the draconian cuts and create a balanced, humane budget.”

“The budget presents a great opportunity for the Governor to demonstrate his true commitment to health care reform,” stated Ellen Wu, Executive Director of the California Pan-Ethnic Health Network. “The key to California becoming a leader in health care reform lies in the Governor’s hands. He needs to support the legislature’s plans for progressive tax increases and reject his devastating cuts.”

###

Having Our Say is a statewide coalition comprised of over 40 communities of color, low-income, and immigrant rights organizations, working to ensure that health care reform solutions provide equal access to all Californians. For more information on the coalition please visit our website at: <http://cpehn.org/havingoursay.php>.