

Governor Brown's Budget Cuts: Women's Lives on the Chopping Block!

Citing California's \$26 billion shortfall, the state legislature on March 15 approved \$9 billion in cuts to an already frayed safety net. Hardest hit in the flood of reductions are women. Law-makers justified their actions as painful but necessary.

But, the truth is that in this economic crisis, as always, the state is supporting **greed** over **need**, sacrificing the most vulnerable while protecting massive business subsidies. It's time to change priorities!

Balancing the budget on the backs of women and the disadvantaged

Most severely impacted is Cal-WORKs, which provides cash assistance and job training to the poor, most of whom are single mothers. The loss of other services adds to the misery of women and the indigent. Hacked are medical programs, in-home care, mental health, early childhood and developmentally disabled services.

The state is also slashing the budgets of community colleges and the California State University system which serve workingclass students, a majority of whom are women. And, a campaign to vilify public workers and their hard-earned pensions threatens the well-being of those lucky enough to have jobs.

Switch the priorities: Tax the Rich and Corporations!

Welfare moms have long been a Republican target as a symbol of "Big Government." But the hack-and-slash mayhem emanating from Sacramento now is Democrat-led. With the June special election

eliminated, the Governor will be looking for ways to address the remaining deficit.



Brown is pushing for the extension of three taxes, none of which targets the wealthy. More budget cuts are also possible. Either way, workers and the poor will pay and pay and pay. All this because neither party will call for big business and the rich to pay their fair share!

The deficit exists in large measure because corporations and banks are paying less and less into the system.

Wealth is being transferred from the workers to the richest few.

It's time to reverse the flow!

- **Enact an oil severance tax.** California, where Chevron is headquartered, is the only place in the world that doesn't tax extraction (a 9.9% tax = \$1.2 bil./yr.)
- **Close corporate tax loopholes** (\$3-5 bil./yr.).
- **Eliminate war expenditures** (CA share = \$14.5 bil./yr.) U.S. Out of Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya!
- **Reduce prison spending.** Release all women incarcerated for defending themselves and their children from their abusers; cancel the Three Strikes law.
- **Stop privatization and contracting out; use union labor** (\$34 bil./yr.).
- **Reinstate the top income tax bracket to 11%** (\$4 bil./yr.).

We demand the State restore social services for the needy regardless of immigration status; expand CalWORKs, provide childcare & job training!

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