

Name  
Address  
City, State Zip

Dear Senator/Representative:

On behalf of the Greater Los Angeles Agency on Deafness, Inc. (GLAD), I am writing to you about Governor Schwarzenegger's proposed budget cuts that will have an impact on deaf and hard of hearing people. As a deaf person, I am deeply disturbed by cuts that will have an impact on the deaf and hard of hearing community. With the proposed budget cut of 10% across the board, this means less assistance when my civil rights have been violated. Rights such as communication access at the local DMV or at the doctor's office, something that many people take for granted. As a deaf person, I value communication access and thanks to GLAD, I'm able to receive advocacy assistance when I'm denied access. I strongly urge you to reconsider the proposed cuts that would have an impact not only on deaf and hard of hearing people but the overall population.

The Greater Los Angeles Agency on Deafness, Inc. (GLAD) has been a staple in California as the organization provides advocacy, peer counseling, health education, employment and information and referrals to many deaf, hard of hearing, late-deafened, deaf-blind and hearing individuals. For years, GLAD has received funding from the Deaf Access Program (DAP) under the Department of Social Services. The DAP program serves individuals with hearing loss from birth to seniors, their families and the general public. DAP ensures that public programs are adapted and made accessible to meet the communication needs of deaf and hard of hearing individuals entitled to public services and benefits. This is a population who still do not have equal access to services. Without accessible services in the areas of health services, education, one-stop center employment services (WIA), mental health counseling, drug & alcohol intervention, to name a few, California remains out of compliance with federal and state laws.

I'm not alone in this struggle. There are over 3.8 million deaf and hard of hearing California residents living with a hearing loss, to whom the DAP program is expected to provide services with a mere \$5.08 million in funding. DAP resources to serve a huge population has been seriously short-changed and is steadily shrinking each year.

Again, I strongly urge you as my representative to oppose the proposed budget cuts for Deaf and Hard of Hearing services. Deaf and Hard of Hearing constituents are counting on your leadership to **STOP** the *proposed budget cuts to Deaf Services!*

Sincerely,

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