



California Federation of Teachers
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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**Governor's May Budget Hits Working Families Too Hard,
Needs Further Revision**
*Budget Deficit Underscores Need for a Successful Revenue
Measure in November*

Sacramento -- The Governor's May revision to the budget forecasts a deficit of \$15.7 billion and proposes to close the gap with massive program cuts affecting all segments of California's society. Yet funding reductions in key education, health and human services programs will be much worse if the revenue initiative -- *The Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act of 2012* -- slated to raise \$9 billion and being pushed for the fall ballot fails this November.

"These cuts are disastrous for working families and as important as it is to pass a revenue measure in the fall, it doesn't let the legislature off the hook to find more revenue now," said Joshua Pechthalt, President of The California Federation of Teachers (CFT). "We need to raise additional revenue to fund public education and services."

There is no impediment to taking the right steps immediately save Republicans ideological intransigence to raising taxes. Whether it's reassessing non-residential real property or enacting a severance tax on oil produced in California, there are numerous options for raising additional revenue that could be enacted straight away. "We shouldn't let partisan ideological posturing deny students an education, prevent children from having healthcare and take away seniors right to stay in their own homes," Pechthalt said.

"Instead of more horrific cuts in social programs and education, people want a tax policy that asks our wealthiest people and corporations to pay their fair share," said Lacy Barnes, President of Fresno's State Center Federation of Teachers. "It is time we stop targeting programs for poor people to pay for tax cuts for rich people."

“In a difficult economy where the state is facing significant budget deficits, we must not abandon our investments in education and other programs,” said Alisa Messer, president of AFT 2121 at City College of San Francisco. “But with dramatic cuts in the already ravaged University of California, California State University and Community College systems, this budget makes the path to the middle class harder to climb, and when it comes to higher education, the Governor’s proposed budget must be changed.”

The Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act of 2012 raises income taxes on the highest earners by 3%, with smaller increases on lower incomes. However, individuals making below \$250,000 and families making below \$500,000 will pay no additional income tax, so the middle class and poor are not impacted by the income tax increase. It increases the sales tax by only ¼ of 1% (still a much smaller rate than existed before July 2011).

The CFT represents 120,000 education professionals working at every level of the education system from ECE to the University. The AFT has more than 3,000 local affiliates nationwide, 43 state affiliates, and more than 1.4 million members.

For more information please visit: www.cft.org