

**TOWN OF FAIRFAX
COUNCILMEMBER REPORT**

To: Mayor and Town Council

Meeting Date: June 2, 2010

From: Councilmember Weinsoff

Subject: Letter Opposing Governor's Budget Proposal Cutting Funding for Child Care

The Governor's "May Revise" to the State Budget proposes to eliminate CalWORKs and related child care, as well as most of the California Department of Education funded child care programs. As proposed, child care services will be cut statewide by more than \$1.2 billion with approximately a hundred and eighty-five thousand (185,000) CalWORKs children losing care. If implemented, the budget revision would completely eliminate state funding in Marin County for infant-toddler programs, full-day preschool programs, after-school programs, and family day care. Twelve hundred (1,200) children county-wide from low income families would be without any child care, including some in our community who attend the Fairfax-San Anselmo Children's Center.

Even without these latest proposed cuts, years of reductions in federal, state, and local funding have cut support for early childhood education well into the bone. It is a short-sighted policy crippling programs critical to ensuring the most vulnerable in our community are provided the demonstrated benefits of these projects. As a member of the Community Action Marin (CAM) Board of Directors, I am regularly informed of the limits the state has already imposed on the child care programs we administer. The Governor's latest proposed cuts, however, are untenable and perhaps more to the point, cruel.

While there are no greater supporters of government funding for early childhood education in the Legislature than Senator Leno and Assemblymember Huffman, I am requesting the Council authorize the Mayor to send our state representatives a letter recording the Town of Fairfax's strong objection to the Governor's proposed budget cuts to these programs.