

SAMPLE LETTER To Governor

(Please copy your State Senator and Assembly Member. You can find their names at:
www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html)

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

Your recent veto of all state funding for California's Long Term Care Ombudsman program is having a devastating impact on the network of the 33 non-profit and county agencies that provide ombudsman services throughout California. Some programs have already closed. Others are in the process of laying-off experienced staff and drastically reducing services – services that are mandated under state and federal laws.

Most significantly, these cuts are leaving thousands of California's already vulnerable nursing home and residential care residents exposed to abuse and neglect, with no one to turn to.

Since its inception three decades ago, the ombudsman program has investigated thousands of elder abuse and other complaints on behalf of residents of California's 1,300 nursing homes and more than 8,000 assisted living facilities. Many of the extraordinarily vulnerable people living in long-term care facilities have no family or friends who visit or advocate for them.

This callous disregard for our institutionalized aged and disabled may result in limited savings in the short term, but will undoubtedly end up costing the taxpayers far more in the long run, as the health and acuity levels of residents deteriorate.

These cuts diminish California as a state that purportedly cares for its elders.

I call on you to immediately restore state funding to California's Long Term Care Ombudsman programs.

Sincerely,

cc: Senator _____
Assembly Member _____