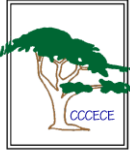


# CCCECE ShoutOut! TAKE ACTION

**Time Sensitive!**



Sent on behalf of Kathi Cliff, CCCECE President:

From Sondra Moe, CCCECE VP Public Policy – South

Child Care and Development has, as Tim Fitzharris stated (see below), “accepted a 15% across-the-board reduction for all programs.” Now it is faced with an additional surprise, apparently even to legislators, a State Reimbursement Rate reduction of 10%. Good news though, this reduction is not finalized. We can still affect the final decisions made by Governor Brown.

These reimbursement rates have not been increased for years and at the current rate already fall below Regional Market Rates. Make your voice heard regarding fair and equitable reductions and the importance of Child Care and Development programs contact the Governor now and many more times until the final decision has been made.

**Please read the CDPI TAKE ACTION BULLETIN below.**

**DATE: March 22, 2011**  
**FROM: Tim Fitzharris, Ph.D.**  
**Legislative Advocate**

**CDPI TAKE ACTION BULLETIN**  
March 22, 2011

**THIS IS AN ACTION ALERT, NOT AN INFORMATION BULLETIN**

**Is the ADDITIONAL 10% cut to the SRR a Done Deal?**

**It's not over.** You have read that the Budget bill and Education trailer bill passed both houses, and that they included the serious cuts to Child Care and Development. So, the fight against the ADDITIONAL (above the 15% across-the-board reduction) 10% cut to the Standard Reimbursement Rate (SRR) is over. Right? Wrong!!!

The Education trailer bill (SB 70) - with most of the Child Care and Development reductions - has passed and is on its way to the Governor's desk. But the additional SRR cut is in the Budget bill (SB 69). SB 69 was passed with only a simple majority vote (all Democrats, no Republicans). The Governor's revenues and redevelopment pieces are missing needed GOP votes. The *Sacramento Bee* reports that the Democrats plan to hold onto the Budget bill "until they know whether they can get additional revenues to pay for it." The Governor has said that he does not want to sign the Budget bill until after the revenues are known.

The bottom line: It's not over yet. There may be amendments to SB 69. Also, Budget changes can be made in a trailing measure. Further, there WILL be Budget changes following the May Revision. The 10% cut doesn't take effect until July 1, 2011. Anything can happen between now and then.

**Is there a chance to convince them to delete it?** Last week, when CCDAA members worked the Capitol halls on the SRR issue, they were told that this cut "was a surprise," and that many legislators - on both sides of the isle - did not know that it was in there. Some said that it was unfair for one program to be singled out for an additional 10% on top of an across-the-board 15% reduction. Worse, it was targeted at the state-funded programs with the highest standard requirements (and therefore the highest costs). Many wanted more information on the impact of the additional cut, especially the impact on the preschools and centers in their districts.

A reminder: This inequity threatens the very existence of the State's highest standard, early learning settings for low income families. A just-completed survey of 500 CDE-funded programs found that 75% of the centers would shut down completely, and 91% would close some of their classrooms. Approximately 30,000 children would lose care. Many of their parents could lose their jobs without child care. Relative to child care workers, 91% of centers surveyed said they would have to lay off staff, ranging from 3 to 150 at each site.

**What is the strategy?** Keep on keeping on! They need to know that we haven't given up. Make calls, emails, texts, tweets, letters (could be just two sentences, signed, and sent) to their Sacramento AND district offices. Bang on their doors! If they want more information, give it to them. Ask them to come to your center and see the classrooms that will close. Coordinate with sister organizations.

Groups representing other interests may be defeated and their advocacy may be diminishing. That's unfortunate but it means your voice will be heard even more. This is the time to BEEF UP EFFORTS. The 10% SRR cut CAN be deleted. Take a deep breath, put on your boxing gloves, and let's go!

Oh, and yes, don't forget to call, email, text, tweet, and write the Governor. Do it now and then again next week, and then again the week after that. Ask staff, families,

providers, neighbors, extended family, service clubs, and others to do the same.

**What is the "ASK"?** When you call, email, text, or write your legislator, you need to be clear about your demand. Try this: *"We ask you to meet with your house's leadership and request the elimination of the additional 10% SRR reduction. We have accepted a 15% across-the-board reduction for all programs. We understand that other reductions must be substituted. Many Early Education organizations have suggested alternative places to cut. During Budget subcommittee hearings, legislative staff and the LAO proposed other options and other funding sources. Here are five: (1) \$150 million deferral (Assembly), (2) \$100 million from TANF (Senate), (3) \$200 million from revenue-wealthy, basic aid, school districts (Legislative Analyst), (4) \$123 million in prior year, unspent Prop 98 reversions (Senate), and (5) \$80 million for proposed suspension of various K-12 mandates (Legislative Analyst).*

*It is not necessary to wipe out our best educational resources for low income preschoolers. Please become a champion for these children. Thank you for your help."*

Do it NOW!

This *CDPI Alert* is being read by over 7,000 professionals. If each of you made one or two contacts, the Legislature will think that this is the hottest political issue to date.

Thanks for all your help. We CAN do this!

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Child Development Policy Institute, Child Development Policy Institute, 1614 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. [www.cdpi.net](http://www.cdpi.net).