



Media Contact: Gustavo Padilla  
(619) 948-0365 Cell.  
[gusespadilla@hotmail.com](mailto:gusespadilla@hotmail.com)

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
Wednesday, February 11, 2009

### People Demand Economic Justice For All Californians

A Message to Sacramento & Washington: "It's Time For The People's Bailout"

SAN DIEGO – On Thursday, February 12, 2009, starting at 5:00 p.m. at the intersection of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Broadway in front of Horton Plaza, downtown San Diego, a coalition of different community groups and organizations, which represent our county's most vulnerable populations, will gather to send a strong message to our legislators in Sacramento and Washington.

Our demonstration plans to send a clear message to our elected officials that we must protect people with disabilities, children, seniors, students, and working families. We seek immediate Federal action to help shore up the state budget & protect homeowners from foreclosure, adequate funding for education, healthcare, unemployment insurance, housing, attendant care, disability benefits, social security, food stamps, cash aid for low income families, other programs people need and increased state revenue through a more equitable tax system where everyone pays their fair share.

On this day, we will be demanding that our legislators protect these services that are important to all of our communities. We will be rallying and marching, with flags of California in hand, to the State Building downtown as their proposed cuts will be devastating to California. Every Californian, not just the populations we collectively represent, will be harmed by these proposed cuts in some way.



Martha McCartney, who is a caregiver in the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) said, "What hurts is that I care, but the system does not care for me, this is my living." She has been providing care through this program since 1992 and currently has five clients that range from 62 to 92 years old.

Helping seniors is in her heart, that's one of the reasons she cooks, cleans, takes them on doctor's appointments and run errands for those who do not have someone to take care of them.

School districts throughout the state are facing many financial issues, including the threat of eliminating the maintenance of proposition 98, which guarantees minimum school funding. Lisa Hoffman, who is a paraeducator in Vista Unified School District says, “we already rank 47<sup>th</sup> in educational spending per student in grades K-12.” Lisa comes from a family where educating children is a tradition, but now she is uncertain about her future and her sister, a first grade teacher, will be receiving a “pink slip” soon. Her school district is proposing to make reductions in classroom teachers and many workers.



Victor Hernandez is a quadriplegic person living independently in San Diego. He receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for \$907 a month. The proposed cuts to this program will affect him directly as it is already difficult to survive on that amount. He believes that already low payments to the in-home care providers make it difficult to find people who will accept this work. Victor, who will be affected, said, “It does not matter if we are disabled, we are still human beings, and my feelings are that the governor must have more compassion.”

“Taking money from the most vulnerable segments of our population will cause immense hardship and sorrow for the people who have trusted our state to provide services that can help them,” said Lisa St. George, who is a regional vice president of an organization that trains individuals in recovery to use their lived experiences as a tool for hope and helping others. If their funding is eliminated, they will lose people that help others get their lives back.

We are coming together, united in a strong voice, to demand economic justice for all Californians.

**List of speakers:**

Rabbi Laurie Coskey, Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice  
Victor Hernandez, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipient  
Martha McCartney, In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program  
Lisa Hoffman, Public School Employee, Vista Unified School District  
Lisa St. George, Regional Vice President, Recovery Innovations of California  
Willie Blair, Representative from Congressman Bob Filner’s Office

**\* Photographs available upon request.**

***Participating organizations include:*** Access to Independence; ACORN; Activist San Diego; Affordable Housing Coalition of San Diego County; California Partnership/Center for Community Change; California School Employees Association (CSEA); Caring Council; Disability Rights California; Latinos y Latinas en Accion; Marriage Equality USA; MidCity CAN; Peace Resource Center; San Diego Alliance for Marriage Equality (SAME); San Diego-Area Pride At Work; San Diego Coalition for Peace & Justice; San Diego Democratic Club; San Diego Disability Action Coalition; Stonewall Young Democrats; Supportive Parents Information Network (SPIN); SEIU Local 221; SEIU 1000; United Domestic Workers