



Sowers of Justice

Catholic Legislative Network

**Action
Alert**

Ask Your Elected Officials to Protect Health & Human Services from Drastic Cuts

December 2008 - January 2009

Send Five Email Messages to Make a Difference!

Background:

The State of Minnesota is facing difficult times. Budget projections for the next two years predict deficits of \$4.8 billion, or 14% of the state's biennial budget. That number does not include the \$426 million gap for the current budget year, which will certainly wipe out the state's current narrow budget surplus. It also neglects to include inflationary spending increases over the next two years, which would raise the projected deficit to \$5.45 billion.

Minnesotans living in poverty potentially face the harshest outcomes through cuts to the Health & Human Services budget and other budgets that contain key anti-poverty programs.

We are aware that officials at the federal, state and local levels of government are in a difficult situation. We realize that hard decisions must be made, but we also recognize our responsibility as Minnesotans to work toward a solution that does not unravel the already tenuous safety net that supports members of our community. If past years hold any indication, public assistance, work assistance programs, health care and child care will be the most likely targets for deep cuts.

The legislative session begins on January 6th, but the budget writing process is already well underway. We ask that you commit to sending five email messages. Tell your legislators that low-income people need to be protected from drastic budget cuts this coming session.

Please voice your concern to the elected officials who represent you, and organize others to join you. Together, we can make a difference.

Recommended Action:

Please write the following decision makers to voice your priorities for the state budget. Ask them to protect low-income Minnesotans from drastic budget cuts and include your reasons for this position. Rather than talk briefly to an aide, give these legislators something to seriously consider.

- Governor Pawlenty – tim.pawlenty@state.mn.us
- Speaker of the House Margaret Anderson Kelliher – rep.margaret.kelliher@house.mn
- Senate Majority Leader Larry Pogemiller – sen.larry.pogemiller@senate.mn
- Find your State Representative & Senator info by calling - (651) 296-2146, or by visiting www.gis.leg.mn/mapserver/districts/

For more information:
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