



***Sowers of Justice***

Catholic Legislative Network

**Action  
Alert**

## **Protect Minnesota's Most Vulnerable Citizens From Drastic Budget Cuts!**

April 24th, 2008

### **Background:**

The Governor released a new budget offer today that directly attacks programs for the very poorest people in the state. On Monday, the Governor had offered to take only \$125 million from the Health Care Access Fund to solve the budget deficit (instead of the \$250 million he initially recommended) in exchange for \$125 million in other budget reductions. Today, he detailed where he would recommend making the reductions - all in health and human services.

A copy of the Governor's letter along with other information about the budget negotiations are posted on the Minnesota Budget Project blog at [www.minnesotabudgetbites.org](http://www.minnesotabudgetbites.org).

In essence, the Governor would recommend cuts to General Assistance Medical Care eligibility, Medical Assistance benefits or eligibility, and "other reductions in health and human services grants and programs".

### **Message:**

- This proposal is targeting health care programs for elderly people with extremely low-incomes, people with disabilities, and the very ill.
- The Governor has described the deficit as manageable, yet he's beginning the negotiations by attacking programs that serve the very poor.
- If the Governor intends to focus on containing growth in Medical Assistance, that would mean targeting the areas of greatest growth - long term care and services for the elderly and disabled.
- The Governor incorrectly states that GAMC and MinnesotaCare are duplicative - GAMC is intended as a safety net for extremely low-income people with disabilities and the uninsured with catastrophic medical needs.

### **Recommended Action:**

Please call the Governor and House and Senate leadership to have your voice heard on the Governors budget proposal.

- Governor Pawlenty – (651) 296-3391
- Senate Majority Leader Larry Pogemiller – (651) 296-7809
- Speaker of the House Margaret Anderson Kelliher – (651) 296-0171

Ask them to protect the vulnerable Minnesotans served by health and other safety net programs for the poorest of the poor.

For more information:

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