

MEDIA ADVISORY
June 29, 2009

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STATE CAPITOL PROTEST:

HUNDREDS OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, PATIENTS AND ADVOCATES RALLY AT THE STATE CAPITOL TO PROTEST THE ELIMINATION OF CRITICAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Millions in California Set to Lose Access to Medi-Cal Benefits on July 1

- Hear from a variety of health care providers, patients, and activists as they speak out against the Legislature's decision to eliminate these vital health care services.

What: Rally Opposing the Elimination of Medi-Cal Optional Benefits and the Proposed Cuts to Health Care

When: Tuesday, June 30, 2009 from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

**Where: California State Capitol Building
West Steps (10th and L Streets)
Sacramento, CA**

**Who: Former Assemblywoman Wilma Chan, Children Now
Carmela Castellano-Garcia, California Primary Care Association
Dr. Jan Cooper, California Optometric Association
Dr. Carla Docharthy, California Podiatric Association
Edith Halberg, California Alliance for Retired Americans
John Iversen, ACT Up/East Bay and Berkeley Needle Exchange
Rev. Tom Lewis, DDS, Unitarian Universalist Minister
Dr. Ariane Terlet, La Clinica de La Raza
Impacted Patients**

Sacramento, CA, June 30, 2009 — Millions of adults in California are losing access to dental, optometry and podiatry, among other critical health services on July 1, 2009, as a result of the Legislature's February decision to eliminate these Medi-Cal so-called "optional" benefits. While the elimination of Medi-Cal benefits will result in only a minor reduction in state outlays, it will cause the significant loss of \$134.5 million of federal matching funds, substitute more expensive services for less expensive treatments and preventive services, and exacerbate the state's problems with already overcrowded emergency rooms.

The rally will provide diverse perspectives on the impact of the loss of these services on various populations that rely on them, including the disabled, children, seniors and the HIV/AIDS community.

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