



October 31, 2008

Via Fax & U.S. Mail

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax No: (916) 558-3160

Re: Tax Assistance Program for Senior and Disabled Renters

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The undersigned organizations represent renters, seniors, persons with disabilities and other concerned Californians. We are writing to express our support for the Senior Citizens Renters Tax Assistance Program, and our opposition to the elimination of tax rebates upon which low-income senior and disabled California renters rely. We urge you to fully fund this program.

We were dismayed to learn of your line-item veto eliminating all funding for tax rebates to low-income elderly and disabled renters. The tax assistance program, in effect for decades, makes senior and disabled renters who earn less than \$44,096 eligible for up to \$347.50 as a tax rebate. Last year, 467,000 renter households received payments under the program, with an average payment of \$316 per household. These are essential funds that struggling renters can use for necessities such as food, medicine and rent.

Low-income senior and disabled renters are facing particularly hard times in the current economy. Now more than ever, low-income senior and disabled renters need these rebates. We believe that continuing to provide these rebates to eligible renters is an issue of fundamental fairness.

We urge you to reconsider your veto and to make sure that this program is fully funded. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Access to Independence of San Diego
AIDS Housing Alliance/SF
AIDS Legal Referral Panel
Alexander Tenants Association
California Alliance for Retired Americans
California Church IMPACT
California Disability Community Action Network

Center for Independent Living – Fresno
Chinatown Community Development Center
Coalition for Economic Survival
Communities Actively Living Independent & Free
Disabled Resources Center
Downtown Women’s Center
Episcopal Community Services
Golden State Manufactured-home Owners League
Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco
Hunger Action L.A.
Independent Living Resource Center San Francisco
LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Los Angeles Coalition to End Hunger and Homelessness
Marin Tenants’ Voice Council
Planning for Elders
San Francisco Tenants Union
Senior Action Network
Services Center for Independent Living
Southern California Rehabilitation Services
Tenant Associations Coalition of San Francisco
Tenderloin Housing Clinic
Tenants Together
Training Toward Self Reliance