

Welfare Moms Protest Schwarzenegger's Budget

Jan. 13 (BCN) — A group of low-income families from throughout California sent a message Monday to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger regarding his proposed state budget.

The message was delivered on 200 T-shirts.

"My child's back is too small to balance the state budget," welfare mom Vivian Hain of Oakland said to a crowd of parents with kids with giant-sized T-shirts behind her.

"This budget will take the shirts off our backs and the diapers off our babies."

Hain was among hundreds of low-income parents who gathered in the state capital Monday for "The Shirts Off Our Backs," a media event designed to decry the governor's proposed budget cuts that many allege unfairly target the state's poorest children.

The event featured nearly 200 T-shirts, each with a message for Schwarzenegger from needy children and their parents about how the proposed cuts would affect them and their families.

"This budget targets poor children and families," claimed Kalia Mullin, a CalWORKs mom from Alameda who said she would be forced to raise her two children on less than \$515 a month.

"My dad and relatives voted for Governor Schwarzenegger and we had hoped that a new governor would meet with the people most impacted by his decisions," added Melissa Johnson another CalWORKs mom and student from Sacramento.

Welfare parents and kids from as far north as Chico and as far south as Long Beach, including many from the Bay Area, spent the afternoon conducting drop-in visits with state Senators and Assembly members to ask them not to allow the governor to "balance the budget on the backs of the most vulnerable."

"We're glad that our state Senators and Assembly people were willing to hear our concerns with the state budget," said CalWORKs mom Rya Frontera. "We found most very supportive and they encouraged our efforts."