

PROTECT POOR CHILDREN

Strengthen Our Safety Net!

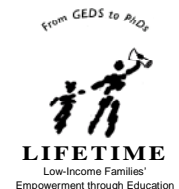
With unemployment rates in California at a 16-year high, welfare rolls are rising. But the Governor has proposed a 2009-2010 budget under which more than 200,000 CalWORKs children – 1 out of every 4 children on assistance statewide - will be permanently cut off the welfare rolls to help solve the state's fiscal crisis. As the economy worsens, the Governor's budget will shred our safety net, at a time when California families need it the most.

Please support LIFETIME in demanding that state legislators pass a budget that protects poor children, and will strengthen the safety net for all California families. LIFETIME recommends that our policymakers:

- **Protect benefits for CalWORKs families** – CalWORKs grants for a family of three are currently more than 50% below the poverty line, averaging only \$723 a month. The 10% cuts being proposed will push 1.2 million low-income children and parents deeper into poverty, and leave poor families unable to meet their basic needs.
- **Reject sanctions on poor children** – when a parent is unable to comply with work requirements, they are removed from their family's cash grant, or are "sanctioned" off aid. Under the Governor's budget, if a CalWORKs parent is sanctioned, their children will be sanctioned, too.
- **No Time Limits for Poor Children** – under welfare reform, low-income parents can only receive welfare for a lifetime limit of five years, but if they remain poor, their children can continue to receive aid. Under the Governor's budget, a five-year limit will be imposed on their children – retroactively.
- **Reinstate CalWORKs Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs)** – CalWORKs cash grants are currently the same amount they were in 1989, when milk only cost \$1 / gallon. Today that same gallon of milk costs \$5 a gallon or more. Reinstate COLAs so CalWORKs families can meet their basic needs.

LIFETIME, Low-Income Families' Empowerment through Education, is a grassroots, membership organization created by mothers at the University of California Berkeley who completed their college degrees while raising their families on welfare, and who are committed to helping other parents do the same.

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**DON'T LET BUDGET CUTS LEAVE OUR
CHILDREN BAREFOOT**

