

Prop. 76 - Education and Health Services Cuts Act Talking Points - “The Governor’s Power Grab”

CUTS SCHOOLS AND VITAL SERVICES

- This initiative cuts funding for vital programs, including education, police and fire protection, and health care.
- Our schools lost two billion dollars when Governor Schwarzenegger broke his promise to repay the money he took from education. If this initiative passes, the Governor will never have to repay that money to our schools.
- The initiative does even more damage to our schools by overturning the voter-approved Proposition 98, eliminating the funding guarantee for education, which will lead to more overcrowded schools, teacher layoffs, and fewer textbooks and classroom materials.
- This initiative cuts school funding by over \$40 billion in ten years - \$6,000 per student, leading to more overcrowded classrooms, teacher layoffs, and fewer textbooks and classroom materials. It will keep us behind states like West Virginia and Kentucky in per pupil education funding.
- It cuts funding for local government — cutting police and firefighters, as well as local health care that protects children and the elderly.
- Even though it requires cuts to vital services and priorities like education and health care, this initiative prohibits cuts to the special interest boards like the California Dried Plum Board and pork barrel road building projects.

ELIMINATES CHECKS AND BALANCES TO GIVE GOVERNOR NEW POWERS

- The Governor’s initiative undermines our democratic system of checks and balances by giving the Governor awesome new powers without legislative oversight — even if you trust this Governor, who knows what future governors will do with this power.
- This initiative allows any Governor to declare a fiscal emergency whenever he or she wants. The Governor would then be able to cut any program without the approval of the Legislature or the people of California.
- Under this initiative, just 14 of the state’s legislators — less than 12% — could block passage of the state’s budget, triggering a fiscal emergency that would automatically give the Governor sweeping new powers to make spending and budget decisions “at his discretion,” with absolutely no legislative oversight or accountability.
- Governor Schwarzenegger has already tried to cut vital programs and even tried to take away pensions from the widows of fallen police and firefighters. This initiative will give him and every future governor the power to do all these things and worse.

RAISES TAXES, DOESN’T SOLVE BUDGET PROBLEMS

- This initiative does nothing to prevent tax hikes. In fact, if it passes, the Governor and Legislature are free to raise car taxes, income taxes or property taxes at their will. Even the California Republican Assembly says that this initiative “actually encourages tax increases.”
- The Orange County Register calls the initiative’s spending limitations “phony.”
- The last two state finance directors say the initiative doesn’t solve the budget problem.
- A study by the Center for Government Analysis says that if the initiative would have been effect over the last 16 years, in 8 out of those 16 years there would have been more state spending, not less.
- County fiscal experts say seniors and disabled homeowners could see increases in their property taxes if cuts are made to their property tax relief programs.