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Media Statement

For Immediate Release

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DRC's reaction to governor's proposed budget

(Sacramento, CA – January 13, 2017) In releasing his 2017-2018 state budget, the governor said this year's spending plan is the most difficult California has faced since 2012 due to possible federal policy and funding changes. While he projects a deficit, we are pleased the proposal continues funding existing health and human service programs. It also contains measures that strengthen the community system; continue funding for the In-Home Supportive Services program; increases the number of community-based waiver services for individuals who live in nursing homes and other facilities; and broadens the use of community placement funds to develop services for individuals with complex needs. The proposals also promote employment for individuals with developmental disabilities by allowing school-aged regional center consumers access to paid internships and requiring regional centers to report data about the numbers of consumers who are employed. However, we are concerned some new programs will not move forward in order to close a projected \$1.6 billion budget shortfall.

- The SSI cost of living increase will remain for 2017, but there will be no increase in 2018. That will make it difficult for people with disabilities to make ends meet.

- The Children's Mental Health Crisis Services will remain, but funding reduced, which means necessary programs will not be as robust as they could be. If children do not receive necessary treatment as early as possible, mental health issues can more negatively affect them as adults.

Unfortunately, the budget does not continue the increase in Equal Access Funds, which allow DRC and 95 other legal aid programs to expand their services to low-income Californians including individuals with disabilities.

DRC is working on a deeper analysis of the state budget over the coming weeks and will publish that analysis, including how key provisions affect the disability community.

Disability Rights California is a non-profit organization created by the governor in 1978 to protect the rights of people with disabilities. Check out our website (www.disabilityrightsca.org), Facebook and twitter @DisabilityCA.