



Friday, April 11, 2008

PETITION: Protest Against Proposed Budget Cuts in Drug Medi-Cal Rates

California Legislators,

We, the board members, of the PAAG (“Patient Advisory & Advocacy Group”) would like to formally protest the proposal made by the Governor for a reduction of 2008 – 2009 Drug Medi-Cal rates. We strongly feel that the present rates and level of services are essential for the continued successful recovery of patients in Narcotic Treatment Programs. We believe that any reduction in the quality and level of services that patients are presently receiving may result in unnecessary relapses, incarcerations, as well as trauma to the patients, their families, and the communities in which they reside.

Furthermore, we believe that the proposed budget cuts will not resolve the budget deficit, but would ultimately result in additional direct and indirect costs to the State. It is important to keep in mind that repeated studies have concluded that for every dollar spent on drug treatment, the State saves seven (\$7) dollars in other costs, including legal, medical, welfare, etc. Additionally, the Federal Government matches 100% of the State’s budget for Drug Medi-Cal, and any cut in the State budget will result in an elimination of the Federal grant in an equivalent amount.

Entered this Friday, April 11, 2008 by the undersigned, Board Members of PAAG.

Two columns of horizontal lines for signatures.