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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE



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August 9, 2004

Dear Constituents,

We did it! The final budget signed by the governor on July 31 had **NO CUTS** to IHSS!

Thanks to your vigilance, the governor withdrew the cuts he proposed to the in-home program. By sharing your experiences and life stories, you changed the outcome. Rest assured, without your letters, emails, phone calls and trips to the Capitol, we would not have succeeded.

I appreciate the governor's willingness to listen and change his mind. It takes a real leader to reverse himself, especially when no Republicans would even temporarily raise taxes for basic services like IHSS. I hope he continues to act in the spirit of goodwill and cooperation in the coming year.

For now, I am heartened that persons with disabilities will continue to receive vital in-home services from familiar care workers who can earn a fair wage with basic benefits.

But neither client nor workers should ever have to undergo threatening cuts like this year. We must plan now to prevent IHSS services from being the scapegoat for the state's financial problems.

Please take pride in our success and in the knowledge that petitioning government does work. I am honored and proud to represent you in Sacramento.

Thank you.

With respect,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Don Perata'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Don Perata