



State of California

Governor's Office
Sacramento

April 18th, 2012

Dear Fine Citizens of California,

I'm writing to you today to ask for support in balancing the state budget. As you may or may not be aware, the current deficit for California is around \$9.2 billion dollars (go ahead, say it in Dr. Evil's voice). Crikey! That's a lot! Well not to fret good citizens, as I promise to get us out of this debt, with a little extra on the side to buy the state something pretty. Don't worry, that something pretty will not be shiny new cars for all of us up here in the oval office. No no, I'm thinking more like improved k-12 education, nutrition education and money into the health and human services, but more to that later.

As you may be pondering as of now, on how exactly did our state get in this well, dismal state (economically speaking of course). Well, it wasn't over night, that's for darn sure. No, quite frankly, it's simply, in theory. The state has been spending more than it has been acquiring in revenue. It is not like our revenue amount is small, no, no. The state revenue fund is about \$85.1 billion dollars! (and you thought the deficit was *a lot*!) And by revenue, I mean taxes, mostly. What on earth, you may ask can we spend \$85.1 *billion* on?? A lot, honestly, and clearly even that gargantuan amount could not cover the needs of the state.

So what does our golden state of California spend that huge amount of money on? Well, the main costs include things you and I usually just take for granted. These include education (yay for books!), higher education (us book nerds need to spread our wings!), medical (as we all know, *everyone* has a right to health care), and the human services (please people, this is what keeps our society stable!). Well can you guess how much the state spends on items such as these? The number comes out to be \$94.3...(wait for it)...bill...(wait for it!)...billio...(waaaait)...*billion dollars!!!* (*Holy gazebo, that's a lot!*) Yet, we are still not properly serving all of our citizens. So what are we going to do about it? I mean after all, the golden state isn't actually made of gold now (or is it...?).

So lets prioritize a bit and decide what we should be spending our precious money (or maybe gold in this case) on. Education? Why yes we like

that, so what do you say we increase our spending on k-12 education a bit to \$4.9 billion? “Oh no”! You’re thinking, “she is supposed to get us *out* of debt, not push us further back in!” Now slow down a little and give the woman (me your governor to be) a chance. Don’t worry; I got some tricks up my sleeve. I will say though, there will be a *small* cut to community college education, miniscule, only \$.1 billion. This will be reflected in an itty-bitty teensy-weensy rise in tuition costs for community college, raising the cost per unit from \$46 to \$64, which really is still far below the national average for junior or community colleges. But there will *still* be financial aid for these folks, so erry-body can get that higher ED! So, you’re not in a community college but in a four-year university, and the tuition increases have really been breaking the bank, huh?? Well guess what, no changes to CSUs or UCs (can I get a hoorah??). Yup, that’s right, no tuition increases and no cute for the next **five (5!!)** years.

All right, so maybe education is not you thing. You don’t have kids, or they aren’t in school (any school), you’re not in school, so education funding just isn’t really prevalent to you. I know something that is...what about healthcare? Yeah, I think we all need that. Good news, my current proposal neither cuts the current healthcare system costs *nor* adds to our deficit by spending more YET still addresses the issue of people not having access to healthcare. How you might ask. Simple; we are doing a one-service provider program so we can cut administrative costs, therefore more efficient, and can allocate funds to providing *more* services. Yes you read that right, more (it’s the way of the future!!). No cute to health and human services either; isn’t that awesome?? All with still supplying those indispensable services in a quality manner. Yeah, told you that you would enjoy my plan.

Want to know an, um, interesting fact about this golden state? We spend waaaay more money on criminal justice than we do an education. Huh? You may be asking. Are we a state of a bunch of out-laws? (Well maybe, considering we are the wild, wild west!) No, that’s not it. We just need to prioritize who should actually be in prisons. There are a few ways to do this, and I chose the one, which would save us the most money (all though if I had my way, I would choose all three options and save us about \$.4 billion). I chose to make criminal justice cuts by release prisoners who were to elderly or sickly to commit crimes, which would save us about \$.2 billion. (I mean come on, they can barely put their socks on in the morning; they aren’t going to rob another bank, right?)

Ahh, all these numbers! Don’t you just want to be *retired*, lounging on a tropical beach somewhere living the good life? Well good luck with that the way our economy is going! Fortunately for you, I also have a plan for that. I’m going to (gasp!) spend \$1 billion on retirement services. But I’m doing it for you; for your dream; to stop slaving away one day and live the good life. Trust me, as your mother probably always said; you’ll thank me when you get

older. And don't you worry; we got your pensions sorted out too, with no changes to the budget, just better organizing.

Man oh man, you are definitely asking now; how in heaven (or which ever you believe in) are we going to *pay* for all this? You are probably thinking that this crazy woman governor has no idea what she is doing, and has just gotten us into a bigger pickle. I will admit, our deficit has now risen to, um, about \$14 billion. But, like I said I have a plan, and it works! Yes, (eeeck, I don't even want to say this dirty little word) it will be through taxes. ***Sigh*** But the money has got to come from somewhere. Anyways, don't worry, you will barely even notice in your everyday lives, especially because you won't have to be worried about not receiving other services (such as health, human services, retirement, etc. etc...) We are going to tax the rich and give to the poor (modern day Robin Hood, don't ya see?). Even better, is we are also going to give to the middle class and pretty much benefit everyone and those of you with yachts and mansions all over the world will still have those things, we are just going to ask you to help a sister (or brother) out a bit. Those big ol' corporations and businesses are going to see some tax increases too (bout time huh?).

Hate to say it, but we are going to also have a *small* (like tiny) sales tax. Thing is, you probably wouldn't even notice it. It's be like paying an extra \$1 for your hair did, .25 for you nails did, and \$.02 for that diet coke. See, barely noticed. And guess what the great thing about that is? That small bit on everything rakes in some BIG bucks. Worth it, huh? Well I seem to think so, and once you see the numbers hopefully you will too!

So let me break this all down for you. We started with a \$9.2 billion deficit. I spent a little more (on good things, we all agreed), and the deficit rose a bit. Then, however, I was able to balance it and more through small tax increases that you, my fine people, hardly notice. In fact, I was able to generate so much more revenue, that we now have a \$3.5 billion surplus! Best part of that is, we are still serving the public, and can further invest into this golden state. Now that makes this state of California **shine.**

I really hope all you, the magnificent citizens of California, will take my proposal into real consideration. I know taxes sound scary, but the benefits of a thriving society out of debt outweigh the miniscule costs.

Sincerely Yours,

Emily Abrahams
Governess of California