

## Letter/Email Writing

- Write your own letter (“Form” letters are thrown away).
- Briefly describe yourself (or your child) and why you (or your child) receives Regional Center services.
- Explain the impact the proposed budget would have on you (or your child).
- Remind them you are a voter.
- Thank them for their time.
- Sign the letter and include your address (same for emails) and include a picture, if possible.
- Being respectful is the best way to assure your letter/email will be read.

# Worksheet

## **Current Situation**

*The Governor is proposing to reduce or eliminate programs in next year's budget. All budget proposals must be approved by the Legislature and could be challenged by the courts. It is important that decision makers in Sacramento hear from concerned people in the state. Take time to think about what you want to say.*

## **My Notes:**

How proposed budget cuts will impact me/my family.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

## **Write your letter**

Based on your notes above, write the letter. Introduce yourself (include a picture). Explain the impact of the proposed cuts on your life (or life of loved one) and what might happen if the cuts are made. Include a note of thanks for their time in reviewing your letter and ask for a response.

## **Send your letter**

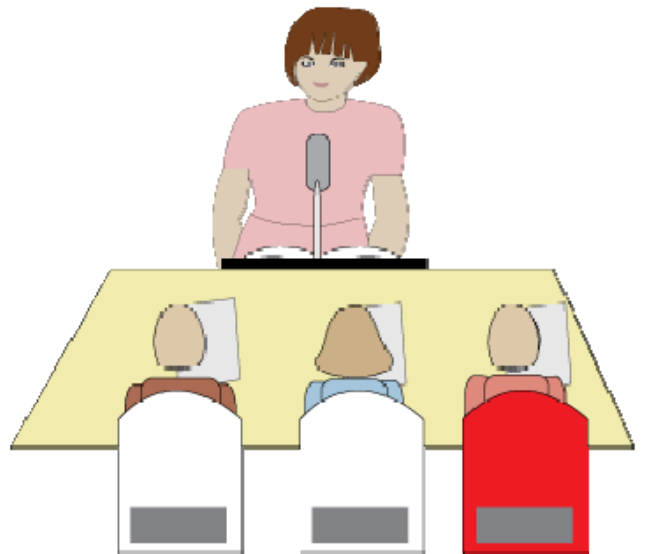
Find your legislators' email and/or mailing addresses and send your letter (or email).  
*Save a copy for yourself.*

## **Follow up call/visit**

You may want to follow up with a call or visit to your legislators' local offices. Refer to the tips on making visits to elected officials.

## **Remember**

Legislators and the governor are elected by voters. They do listen to what is important to people.



## Meeting with your Legislator:

- Introduce yourself, your guests and thank them for their time.
- If you are a voter in their district, point that out and thank them for their hard work in your community. It helps to learn more about them (their interests, backgrounds, etc.) and how this might be linked to what you want to talk about.
- Give them your materials/packet.
- Provide a *brief* overview of personal impacts of proposed budget.