



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, June 29, 2010

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**New Website Aims to Save Medi-Cal Drug Treatment:
Videos of Sheriff Baca, Chief Beck; Patient Stories**
*Costs more than it Saves to End Drug Treatment
for 35,000 Addicts*

SACRAMENTO, CA – California Opioid Maintenance Providers (COMP), today announced the launch of a new website devoted to saving Medi-Cal Drug Treatment. The website provides information showing that eliminating Medi-Cal drug treatment will cost more than it saves, and threaten public safety and health. The site contains video excerpts from news conferences with Los Angeles Sheriff Lee Baca, Los Angeles Police Charlie Beck, and Four-Star General and former U.S. National Drug Policy Director Barry McCaffrey opposing the cut.

To view the new website, please visit www.savemedi-caldrugtreatment.org

COMP, a coalition of community-based drug-treatment clinics, said the proposal to effectively eliminate California's Drug Medi-Cal program would do irreversible damage to individuals, businesses and communities. "35,000 people addicted to drugs will hit the streets the day after their treatment is withdrawn. Many of these individuals have already been to prison multiple times. Their lives are now stabilized and they are in treatment, but that stability will end with this cut," said Jason Kletter, Ph. D., president of COMP. "Studies prove that most of these individuals will relapse to heroin use. The governor's proposal will immediately increase crime, and cause chaos in our hospitals and other social services. The costs are much greater than the savings."

For more information, please visit www.savemedi-caldrugtreatment.org

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