



## Disabled celebrate 10th anniversary of Olmstead Decision with budget protest, vigil and demands

LOS ANGELES – “Reduce home care by 90 percent and spend \$25.2 Billion for institutions?”

“Over our dead batteries!” shout hundreds of people with disabilities as they marched down to the Governor’s office on 300 N. Spring Street, along with other groups like Cal works mothers, children recipients of Healthy Families, students, teachers and immigrants targetted by a state budget laden with devastating program cuts, devoid of revenue sources.

The Olmstead Supreme Court decision

on June 22, 1999 declared that people with disabilities have a right to live in the community of their choice, thus freeing disabled people from nursing homes as the only alternative to long-term care. On the day of such a momentous decision, what should be a celebration is turning out to be a nightmare with the Governor’s proposal to cut the In Home Supportive Services program by 90 percent

“IHSS is only \$1.2 Billion to care for 400,000 senior and disabled Californians.

The Governor’s proposals let frail seniors and disabled to lose their safety net and go without help while extending \$2 Billion in tax loopholes to rich oil companies that do not pay taxes! Where is the justice there? We need a budget that shares the responsibility equitably” says Lilibeth Navarro, former IHSS recipient and now Executive Director of Communities Actively Living Independent & Free, an independent living center assisting the disabled in Central LA with independent living services. ■



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