



# A DEFINING MOMENT

*Community College League of California*

March 15, 2011

Martha--

I am on BART after having just landed in a rainy San Francisco after speaking to the CalWORKs Training Institute in a very sunny San Diego. Of course, while I was taking advantage of Virgin America's Internet service, budget news broke.

But, did it break in a positive "breaking" news sense, or as in the very "broken" news sense? Unfortunately, it appears to be the latter.

Both the Assembly and the Senate have scheduled floor votes for 1pm tomorrow on the governor's budget. At this point, however, it appears that the requisite two-thirds vote to place the tax extensions on the ballot are not yet available. And, with the state Republican convention coming to Sacramento this Friday, most insiders see this as the final possible vote this week, and thus the last chance for a June 7 and possibly June 14, ballot.

We will be [tweeting](#) the latest news.

Now is our chance. This is the defining moment. [Call the remaining swing legislators.](#)

Tell them to ignore John and Ken and the Washington special interests who threaten to put their "heads on a stick," and **tell them that California's community college students, faculty, staff and supporters will put them on a pedestal** for letting the voters decide the very difficult budget choices ahead for California. This gives the voters a chance to stop \$2.5 billion in cuts to community colleges and lost educational opportunity for 400,000 of California's college students.

Finally, take note of the great work your CalWORKs staff members are doing for their students. In this awful budget environment, there is no constituency that is under attack from all angles--education, subsistence, health care--than our CalWORKs students. Be proud of the hand up that we are giving them, and let's continue to fight to open doors of opportunities for these mostly single parents and their children, our next generation of students.

Sincerely,

Scott Lay  
President and Chief Executive Officer, The League  
Orange Coast College '94

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