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MEDIA STATEMENT

Senior Advocates Grateful Conference Budget Committee Recognized the Value of the Adult Day Health Care Program and Compromised to Protect the Most Needy

(Sacramento, CA) – The two-house budget conference committee deciding the fate of the Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) program voted late Thursday to find a way to keep ADHC centers open to serve the most medically needy seniors and disabled adults while the program is revamped as a new medical model for the future.

ADHC was targeted for elimination in the Governor's budget. But due to tireless grassroots efforts by members of the California Association for Adult Day Services (CAADS) and pleas by senior care advocates, patients, families and ADHC providers, both lawmakers and the administration recognized the need to forge a compromise that would score 50 percent budget savings while redesigning a program they see as vital in protecting our most disabled and medically fragile, elderly population for the future.

Following the vote, CAADS Executive Director Lydia Missaelides issued this statement:

"We are heartened by the committee's decision to consider how to continue to meet the medical needs of the 37,000 frail elderly and disabled patients served in our centers so they may stay in their homes and communities where they belong. We know both the Assembly and Senate worked hard to find a compromise in the face of a severe budget crisis, and we extend our thanks to Assembly member Blumenfield and Senator Leno for their leadership in forging what we hope will be a workable solution. We are grateful to lawmakers for saving Adult Day Health Care in a new redesigned form, and recognize the hard work ahead to balance a 50 percent cut in funding with the needs of those currently in the care of our members.

"We will continue to educate the Legislature and public about the ramifications of the committee's decision as details are worked out on what Assembly member Blumenfield calls 'a rebirth of the program.' As we work with lawmakers and the Administration on the many unanswered questions about this budget, our goal will be to protect Adult Day Health Care for the people who need it most."

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