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[www.helpmegrowoc.org](http://www.helpmegrowoc.org)

July 10, 2008

The Honorable Dick Ackerman  
State Capitol Building, Room 305  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Ackerman,

Recently we learned of a possible attempt to abolish local funding for children's programs in our community. **Help Me Grow** is a recipient of these funds in Orange County. The funds are voter approved resources, Proposition 10, designed to meet the needs of children under age 5 in local communities.

Help Me Grow is a program that connects children and families to necessary developmental and behavioral services in Orange County. Parents, caregivers and professionals call the toll free #866.GROW.025 if concerned about a child's development, behavior or learning. Research shows that ensuring children and families are connected with appropriate, existing support and services may significantly improve outcomes for children. Since January 2007, Help Me Grow team members have handled over 1,800 calls and provided more than 3,450 referrals. Of the parents who call:

- ◆ 48% reside in Anaheim, Santa Ana, Garden Grove and Costa Mesa
- ◆ 42% are Spanish speaking
- ◆ 53% are MediCal recipients

While we understand the need to responsibly balance the state budget, we strongly oppose it being done on the backs of children and their families. The programs funded by Proposition 10, including the program described in this letter, fill gaps in the system and provide critical services otherwise not offered. The needs of many of the children served by Proposition 10 funding would go neglected or be greatly diminished if these local funds were eliminated.

We know you share our concern and commitment to the children of California. Therefore we urge to oppose any attempt to eliminate Proposition 10 funding at the local level.

We appreciate being able to express our concern, and thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Hernandez, M.S.Ed.  
Manager, Help Me Grow



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July 10, 2008

The Honorable Bob Huff  
State Capitol Building, Room 4098  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assemblyman Huff,

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Help Me Grow is a program that connects children and families to necessary and already existing developmental and behavioral services in Orange County. We help facilitate appropriate utilization of resources. Parents, caregivers and professionals call the toll free number 866.GROW.025 if concerned about a child's development, behavior or learning. Research shows that ensuring children and families are connected with appropriate support and services may significantly improve outcomes benefiting their families and society at large. Since January 2007, Help Me Grow team members have handled over 1,800 calls and provided more than 3,450 referrals. Of the parents who call:

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