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California's  
Statewide Organization  
for Renters' Rights

## **Statewide Day of Action to Save the Renters' Rebate November 19, 2008**

Californians across the state will take action on November 19, 2008, to save the renters' rebate, a popular program recently eliminated by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Organizers seek to send a loud and clear message that Californians do not accept elimination of this crucial program for low-income senior, blind and disabled Californians.

The statewide day of action comes in response to Governor Schwarzenegger's unprecedented use of the line-item veto power to eliminate \$191 million in tax rebates to low-income elderly and disabled Californians. This was the governor's single biggest line-item veto in the budget, defunding the entire Senior Citizens Property Tax Assistance program.

The program, commonly known as the renters' rebate, has been in effect for decades and makes senior and disabled renters who earn less than \$44,096 eligible for up to \$347.50 as a tax rebate. Last year, 467,000 renter households received payments averaging \$316 per household. Although the bulk of the tax assistance payments -- \$150 million -- are directed to renters, the program also provides \$41 million in rebates to low-income homeowners who are senior, blind or disabled. With no forewarning whatsoever, the Governor simply struck all funds from the program, taking critical funds from low-income renters and homeowners.

Events are planned on November 19 in multiple cities. Press conferences and rallies will feature elected officials, senior advocates and affected renters and homeowners. Spokespeople will also be available in other communities to speak with local media about how these cuts have impacted them.

Allied statewide organizations will urge thousands of their members to call the governor and legislators on November 19 to state their opposition to the Governor's elimination of renters' rebates.

The coalition opposing the Governor's veto is remarkably broad. Over 30 organizations have signed onto a letter to the governor urging the governor to fully fund the tax assistance program. Signatories included Access to Independence of San Diego, California Alliance for Retired Americans, Center for Independent Living -- Fresno, Episcopal Community Services, Coalition for Economic Survival, the San Francisco Tenants Union and dozens more. The letter is available at [www.tenantstogether.org](http://www.tenantstogether.org).

For more information about the statewide day of action to save the renters' rebate, contact Tenants Together at 415.495.8100 or visit the renters' rebate page at the Tenants Together website, [www.tenantstogether.org](http://www.tenantstogether.org).

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