

# Protect Critical Supports and Services For Vulnerable Populations

## The Facts:

- Funding for essential services for children and adults with disabilities, seniors and other vulnerable populations is at risk.
- These services are subject to the majority of cuts in times of budget shortfalls, as many other parts of the budget are protected.
- Critical services are vulnerable because they are the few parts of the state budget that are not protected. These services include:
  - Home and community based waiver services
  - Individual and family supports for people with disabilities
  - Mental health services
  - Hospice
  - Services provided by Councils on Aging
  - Primary care
  - EarlySteps
  - Employment supports for people with disabilities
- LA has been funding much of the nursing home program with money from a trust fund that is quickly being depleted. Even without spending increases for nursing homes, legislators will soon need to come up with hundreds of millions of new dollars just to maintain existing services.

## What Legislators Can Do:

- Protect health care and support services such as waiver services, primary health care, and mental health services for vulnerable populations. SB 355 would provide this protection.

