



30 Ways in 30 Days Service Cuts Will Hurt Pennsylvanians

Throughout the month of June, the Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center (PBPC) shared information on a daily basis about the impact of service cuts included in Senate Bill 850, a Senate-passed budget bill for the 2009-10 Fiscal Year. The House Appropriations Committee reported SB 850 to the floor on July 13. Many of the proposed cuts are still under consideration, which would impact millions of Pennsylvania children, senior citizens and working families. Below is a summary of how the impact of those cuts will be felt in people's lives.

- **5,000 newborns would be denied state-funded health screenings of preventable life-threatening illnesses** due to a proposed \$450,000 cut.
- **Hundreds of severely disabled Pennsylvanians would be denied the skill-building training programs** they need to obtain employment if a proposed 50% cut to vocational training is passed.
- **Libraries would be cut almost 50%** leading to the loss of millions of matching federal dollars, as demand for library services increases due to the recession.
- **35 state parks and 1,000 miles of state forest roads would be closed**, with an estimated cost to businesses of at least \$57 million in lost revenues from tourists.
- **Cuts to the Department of Agriculture would impair tracking of food borne illnesses.**
- **Thousands of senior citizens and disabled individuals would lose access to nursing homes and home-based healthcare** due to a \$363 million cut to the Departments of Aging and Public Welfare.
- **Hundreds of Pennsylvania workers would be squeezed out of homes** due to a proposed 38% cut to the state's emergency mortgage assistance program (HEMAP), as thousands struggle to stay in their homes. Pennsylvania had 43,000 foreclosure filings in 2008, a 127% increase compared to 2007.
- **Property taxes would be increased if a proposed \$730 million cut in state funding for basic education is passed.**
- **Thousands of Pennsylvania families living near flood zones would be endangered** due to a 24% cut to DEP flood protection, storm water management and sewage control projects.
- **Low-birth-weight babies would face even more risk with a \$5 million cut to hospitals** for state Medical Assistance funds.
- **7,500 families would be left without representation** due to a proposed \$3.2 million cut in funding for Legal Aid.
- **DCED business and community grants would be eliminated**, leading to job loss and slower job growth.
- **Police protection across Pennsylvania would be reduced** if an \$8 million funding cut to state police is passed.
- **\$200 million would be lost in tax revenue** if a \$36 million cut to the Department of Revenue is adopted, eliminating tax collection staff and enforcement technology upgrades.
- **26,000 students would be denied needed financial help, fees would be raised at state-related schools and a physician training program would be eliminated** if \$145 million in college aid is cut.
- **Local taxes or court fees would be raised to make up a proposed \$1.3 million cut to county courts.**
- **A 50% cut to Head Start – at a time when demand is expected to increase by 30% over the next two years – would deny thousands of children early education opportunities.**
- **Hundreds of veterans would be displaced from nursing facilities** if an 18% cut to veterans' homes is passed.
- **Community revitalization projects in cities and small towns across the state would be stopped** if cuts to Elm and Main Street assistance programs are passed.
- **More staff cuts would follow if funding for public television is eliminated.**
- **Hospitals would reduce services making it harder to access healthcare** if a proposed cut of nearly \$280 million in Medicaid funding to hospitals is passed.
- **Thousands of at-risk children would be denied educational opportunities** proven to help children stay in school and avoid a life of crime if a proposed 50% cut to Pre-K programs is enacted.
- **Hundreds of disabled Pennsylvanians would be forced to leave their homes** and enter nursing homes if a proposed 10% funding cut for key programs is adopted.
- **3,400 children, whose parents have left welfare for work, would be denied state childcare, as well as an additional 2,000 low-income children**, if a proposed \$24 million cut is passed.
- **12,000 children would be denied CHIP coverage** if a proposed \$8 million funding cut to the Children's Health Insurance Program is adopted.
- **Pennsylvania tourism would be adversely impacted** if proposed cuts to non-state owned museums are passed.
- **Budget cuts will result in higher local taxes** in order to fund human services, public safety, and community and economic development.
- **The Governor's Office of Health Care Reform and its cost-saving initiatives would be eliminated.**
- **A \$16 million cut to workforce development would eliminate crucial job training programs** that keep businesses competitive.