Petition to Save Cal-SAFE Programs

We, the undersigned ask that legislators and the Governor of the State of California reverse the proposal to cut 10% of funds going to the California School Age Families Education programs (Cal-SAFE). This money funds over 150 programs around the state, which in turn serve more than 30,000 teen parents and 20,000 of their young children. The Cal-SAFE program has been very successful in preventing second pregnancies, helping teen parents complete their high school education, and providing excellent child development services for the young children of teen parents, helping them to grow and develop into health, school-ready children. Our communities need these programs, to help break the cycles of poverty, academic failure and teen pregnancy.

We encourage lawmakers to find creative ways to close the budget gap and balance our State's budget, without placing the entire burden on underprivileged communities. The Cal-SAFE program is vital to increasing opportunities for young parents and their children, to help them better provide for and protect their families. Cuts to this program would place an unfair burden only on our most vulnerable populations, and would only increase California's fiscal problems in the future. Without adequate funding to Cal-SAFE, these and other young families will no longer have access to the programs and services Cal-SAFE offers, and will instead rely increasingly on public assistance, or receive no support whatsoever. Rather than cut the Cal-SAFE budget, we believe that Governor Schwarzenegger should find a balanced way that includes new revenue, new taxes, and budget cuts so that ALL Californians can receive needed services while contributing to the solution to our current fiscal crisis.

These programs are too important to the youth of California to eliminate them. Please reconsider the proposed cuts and let your constituents know that you care about the youth of your community—the future of all of us.

Name	Zip Code	Age	Gender	Race