

February 1, 2010

Edward J. Zogby
Director, Bureau of Policy
PA Dept. of Public Welfare
Room 431 Health and Welfare Bldg.
Harrisburg, PA 17105

RE: Opposing SSP Cuts to Low Income Elderly, Blind and Disabled (40 Pa. B. 479)

Dear Mr. Zogby:

We are writing to voice our opposition to the SSP cuts going into effect in February to over 345,000 low income elderly, and disabled and blind adults and children across Pennsylvania. DPW is reducing the state supplement payment to the federal SSI benefit by \$5.30/month (down 19%) and by \$10.40/month for a couple (down 24%). These are our comments on the Pa. Bulletin notice of these reductions, and copies are being sent to the Governor and Legislature.

[Insert one short paragraph describing you or your organization.]

Individuals living on SSI are among the most vulnerable citizens in Pennsylvania. They are either too disabled or too elderly to work. Their total SSI grants only pay 77.7% of the federal poverty line so every dollar counts. And this year, SSI grants did not receive a cost-of-living allowance. A reduction of \$5.30 per month is a missed meal, a medical co-pay that cannot be met, or a paratransit ride that cannot be taken.

The state plans to save \$22 million per year after July 1, but there are other revenues that can be used to restore the SSP for these periods. We request that all cuts be rescinded now.

Sincerely,

Cc: Governor Ed Rendell
Acting Secretary Harriet Dichter, Dept of Public Welfare
Sen. Joseph Scarnati, Senate President
Sen. Donald Pileggi, Majority Leader
Sen. Robert Mellow, Minority Leader
Sen. Jake Corman, Chair, Appropriations Comm.
Sen. Jay Costa, Jr., Ranking Minority Member, Appropriations Comm.
Rep. Keith McCall, Speaker of the House
Rep. Todd Eachus, Majority Leader
Rep. Samuel Smith, Minority Leader
Rep. Dwight Evans, Chair, Appropriations Comm.
Rep. William Adolph, Jr., Ranking Minority Member, Appropriations Comm.
Members of the General Assembly