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To: Honorable California Legislative Leaders

From: Frank J. Mecca, CWDA Executive Director
Kelly Brooks, CSAC Legislative Representative

Re: Myths vs. Facts in Social Services Programs

Much has been said lately regarding waste, fraud, and abuse in social services programs. Counties are staunchly committed to operating high quality and efficient programs, rooting out fraud and abuse, and ensuring that only people who are entitled to services receive them. There are numerous existing state and county efforts in all programs to achieve those goals and we stand ready to work with the Legislature and Governor to further them.

However, there been much misinformation and inaccuracies provided in statements made to the press, which paint a distorted picture of the success of these programs. Attached is a document that debunks the myths and fallacies in recent press articles.

Counties welcome the opportunity to work with the Legislature and the Administration to build upon our current efforts to maximize efficiencies and eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse in social services programs, while maintaining program quality and access. However, these efforts should be based in facts and reality rather than anecdotes and misinformation.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding this memo.