



California Association of Psychiatric Technicians

May 14, 2020

CAPT Brothers and Sisters:

The governor today released his revised budget, otherwise known as the May Revise, for the State of California. The May Revise is drastically different from the budget presented in January. The latest budget projects an estimated \$54 billion deficit, whereas the January budget projected a \$5.6 billion surplus. As we all know, the deficit is a result of the nearly unprecedented COVID-19 global pandemic and the state's efforts to slow its spread.

The May Revise calls for a 10 percent reduction in state payroll to be negotiated through collective bargaining. This would allow us to be a part of the process in determining how to reach the state's budget needs. Unlike past administrations where furloughs were unilaterally implemented, the governor has stated he intends to bring unions to the table. The governor also made mention of the Hero's Act. The Hero's Act, which is supported by numerous governors throughout the nation, would provide federal assistance to states to lessen the impact on state operations and cuts. Our members should contact their local congressperson, US Senator, and the President of the United States to urge them to support the Hero's Act.

CAPT's primary objective is to ensure our MOU is ratified by the Legislature and signed by the governor. Due to the current administration's transition into office, the state's bargaining team, despite CAPT's timely readiness and preparedness, was not ready to negotiate until June. CAPT entered negotiations in good faith, and after six months of lengthy and vigorous bargaining, was able to secure a Tentative Agreement with resounding membership approval. From there, our TA went to the state Legislature; however, due to the pandemic and state of emergency, our TA was put on hold to allow the state to mitigate the effects of COVID-19.

Throughout this crisis, one thing has been absolutely certain. CAPT members up-and-down the state have responded to the call of duty. We have continued to treat our patients and provide excellent care that has become synonymous with the Psych Tech profession. Facing dangers every day is part of our jobs. We work in unpredictable, often very volatile settings. Our Psych Tech brothers and sisters constantly work long hours. Psychiatric Technicians are and have always been vital components to the state workforce. As essential workers, we have been excluded from the Families First Corona Virus Response Act and the Family Medical Leave Expansion Act. Most of the state is able to work from home. Most of the state is able to shelter at home. Our jobs do not allow us to shelter in place. Every day, we must risk getting infected and infecting our loved ones at home.

While our members certainly understand the unique situation the state is in, our members demand to be treated with respect. Our members fully expect that the negotiated contract will be ratified, as initially agreed upon. With a ratified contract, CAPT is more than willing to sit down and work with the state to address some of its budget issues.

We need to stand together during this time and make sure our voice is heard. We encourage our members to contact their State Senators and Assembly members and the governor's office. Explain to them the vital service you provide to the state and that you expect them to respect and honor California's essential workers.

Now more than ever we need to stand united in common purpose! Now more than ever we need to band together in working class solidarity!

CAPT will provide you with the most current information as it develops.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Soto', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eric Soto
CAPT State President

Contact your state legislators:

http://www.legislature.ca.gov/your_legislator.html

Contact your U.S. Representative:

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

Contact your U.S. Senator:

<https://www.senate.gov/general/contacting.htm>

Contact President Trump:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>