



# Children's Action Alliance

*A Voice for Arizona's Children since 1988*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 21, 2009

CONTACT Dana Wolfe Naimark

(602) 266-0707

[dnaimark@azchildren.org](mailto:dnaimark@azchildren.org)

## **STATEMENT ON GOVERNOR BREWER'S BUDGET MEASURES**

Today Governor Brewer announced a series of budget actions that will have devastating effects on Arizona's jobs, economy, and families. These are emergency budget measures designed to help the state balance its books. But there are no policies here designed to help families or businesses cope with the economic emergencies facing us or to help Arizona emerge stronger from this recession.

To date, there has been a stunning lack of problem-solving from our elected leadership. It is painful that the Governor's promise to convene legislative leadership of both parties during the first week of the New Year comes AFTER these emergency budget measures are begun.

It is clear that the legislature is too divided to refer a potential sales tax increase to the ballot and dump the problem into the laps of voters. To avoid a budget of complete destruction, we call upon Governor Brewer and state senators and representatives to pursue additional short term strategies – like more roll-overs and securitizing the lottery funds – and long term strategies like restoring staff at the Department of Revenue to collect taxes that are already owed. We urge support for alternative revenue strategies – like raising the qualifying tax rate for school funding and suspending tax credits.

If our leaders allow these emergency measures to be our only answer as we begin the next decade and next 100 years of our statehood, they will have failed Arizona. Will we be the first Arizona generation to leave a legacy for our children that has *less* opportunity rather than more?