



Over 1 million times each year, the regional Children's Hospitals treat the most serious injuries and illnesses like childhood leukemia, cancer, heart problems, sickle cell anemia, diabetes and cystic fibrosis, without regard for a family's income or ability to pay. As our population grows, so must our Children's Hospitals. More children need services at Children's Hospitals than there is currently room.

Proposition 3 - the Children's Hospital Bond Act - will help Children's Hospitals meet the current and growing needs of California's children with these serious and life threatening diseases and traumatic injuries. Proposition 3 will provide funding for the improvement and expansion of Children's Hospitals and for the purchase of new medical equipment and technologies by authorizing \$980 million for grants of not more than \$98 million for each of the eight eligible regional, not-for-profit Children's Hospitals. The University of California Children's Hospitals would each get just under \$39 million.

The Children's Hospital Bond is an investment in the lives of millions of children who will be cared for over the next 30 years at these premiere pediatric facilities, and the cost of this bond represents less than 1/10th of one percent of the State's annual budget. In 2004, more than 58% of California's voters approved a \$750 million bond for expansion, renovations and equipment purchases in Children's Hospitals. However, the capital needs far exceed the funding available from that bond and nearly 70% of the funds authorized in 2004 will have been committed for approved projects by the end of this year.

Statewide, every Children's Hospital is either under construction or in the planning stage, and is using every possible means to finance the increasingly expensive costs. Examples of current and planned projects include construction of complete new hospitals and inpatient units, as well as the expansion and renovation of outpatient centers, Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU), Pediatric Intensive Care Units (PICU), Emergency Departments, surgical suites and cancer centers and the purchase of state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment equipment. Without continued capital investment in medical equipment and facilities, California's Children's Hospitals cannot meet the needs of California's expanding pediatric population which the State Department of Finance projects to grow by 35% over the next two decades.

Children's Hospitals are major employers in California. Thousands of jobs will be created during the construction and expansion phase, as well as upon completion of the facilities. Recent polling shows California voters want to help Children's Hospitals meet the needs of California's most seriously ill and injured children notwithstanding the need to also enact comprehensive healthcare reform and address the current state budget deficit.

In addition to the endorsement of the League of Women Voters of California, other Proposition 3 endorsements of note include the American Academy of Pediatrics, California, the Children's Specialty Care Coalition, the Children's Defense Fund, Children Now, Children's Partnership, the California Parent Teacher Association (PTA), and the California Federation of Teachers. It has also been endorsed by local Chambers of Commerce, the California Medical Association and the California Hospital Association, State Treasurer Bill Lockyer and former Governor Pete Wilson as well as many other elected officials and organizations. And the list of endorsements is growing every day.

Proposition 3 is an essential investment in the health of all children. Please vote Yes on Proposition 3.