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**CPPP STATEMENT ON TIERS/IE SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS**

Yesterday, April 19, 2007, the Subcommittee on TIERS and Integrated Eligibility, chaired by Representative Abel Herrero and including Representative Tan Parker and Representative Bryan Hughes, presented its unanimous recommendations to the House Human Services Committee for addressing the problems in the TIERS/IE system and establishing a more efficient and effective eligibility system.

The Center for Public Policy Priorities applauds the work of the subcommittee and urges the full committee to adopt its recommendations in their entirety and move quickly to incorporate the recommendations into legislation.

The subcommittee's recommendations present a sound and thorough approach for achieving an "enhanced eligibility system" capable of delivering timely and accurate services to clients in a cost-effective manner for the state. The recommendations emphasize the following principles:

- The need for clear goals;
- The importance of careful planning, thorough testing, and independent evaluation;
- The need for legislative oversight to ensure that goals are met and to take action when they are not; and
- The importance of a highly trained and adequately staffed workforce.

The subcommittee sets out goals and performance measures for the new eligibility system. The subcommittee recommends an independent review team. The subcommittee also recommends a legislative oversight committee to monitor the transition, review the recommendations of the independent review team, and make recommendations to the legislature for any action necessary to support the new system.

The subcommittee would also require HHSC to conduct a staffing analysis to determine the necessary staffing levels for the eligibility system to ensure program access and integrity.

Finally, the subcommittee would require an independent study of TIERS to assess its functionality, capacity, and usability.

The full subcommittee recommendations are available on our web site at <http://www.cppp.org/research.php?aid=660>.