

Fact vs. Fiction

Analyzing the Governor's Alarmist Claims

FICTION	FACT
<i>Senate Bill 850 would force 12,000 children off of CHIP.</i>	Senate Bill 850 maintains funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program at the 2008-09 level, and there is currently no waiting list for these services. No children would be removed from CHIP.
<i>Senate Bill 850 would force 300 veterans out of Pennsylvania's homes for veterans.</i>	Senate Bill 850 funded all currently-filled positions at Pennsylvania's homes for veterans. No veteran would be forced out of a veterans' home.
<i>Senate Bill 850 would cut funding for autism treatment.</i>	Senate Bill 850 includes a total of \$41.3 million in state, federal and ARRA funds for autism treatment – an increase of nearly 17 percent over 2008-09. Senate Bill 850 provides funding for exactly the same number of individuals as the Governor's proposal.
<i>Senate Bill 850 would require the closure of "at least 35" state parks.</i>	DCNR claims that no state parks would close under Gov. Rendell's proposed 4.5 percent cut, yet nearly one-third of all state parks would close under Senate Bill 850's 15 percent reduction. The numbers do not add up.
<i>Senate Bill 850 would cut the State Police budget from both the General Fund and the Motor License Fund, requiring 800 troopers to be laid off.</i>	Senate Bill 850 maintains funding for State Police operations at the 2008-09 level. There is no reduction from the Motor License Fund.
<i>Senate Bill 850 would cut funding for basic education.</i>	Under Senate Bill 850, school districts would see an average increase of 11.7 percent over 2008-09 when federal stimulus funds are accounted for. (They will also receive an additional \$500 million in stimulus funds for school construction and renovation.)

More information about all of these issues, and the entire 2009-10 state budget process, is available at www.PaSenateGOP.com.