



Who is CURB?

QUESTION	ANSWER
Who is Californians United for a Responsible Budget or CURB?	CURB is a broad-based, statewide coalition of 40 organizations. Our mission is curb prison spending by reducing the number of people in prison and the number of prisons in the state.
When and how did CURB come together?	CURB was launched in early 2004 when newly elected Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger began to speak of the need to reduce the number of people in prison and to close prisons, and the head of the Department of Corrections pledged to cut the number of people in California prisons by 15,000. CURB came together to push those efforts.
What is the CURB Commission?	In 2004, the Governor appointed a commission to study and recommend an overhaul of the bloated California prison system. The Governor's commission, however, was made up of people like former Governor George Deukmejian, who were responsible for much of the expansion of the California prison system. Because the Governor's commission failed to include the different constituencies impacted by the prison crisis, most notably people who have been in prison and their families, CURB appointed its own Commission, which includes people who have been in prison, scholars, and community advocates.
What work has CURB done?	The CURB Commission issued a report recommending closure of 4 state prisons. CURB held People's Hearings in Sacramento, Fresno & L.A., demonstrations in Oakland, S.F., Fresno, Delano & L.A. CURB informs elected representatives and conducts extensive media campaigns. CURB has helped defeat over 140,000 new prison and jail beds proposed since 2004!!

How Can I Support CURB?

1. Talk to organizations you work with about joining CURB

Do you belong to a community group, union, house of worship, student group or political organization? Would they be willing to hear about CURB? Would you be interested in being a part of CURB.

2. Write a letter or call your state assemblyman or senator or the Governor and tell them no prison expansion in California.

Politicians often think people don't really care about prison issues. We need to remind them again and again, that we do care, that we oppose prison expansion and favor reducing the number of people in prison. You can find out who represents you at <http://www.legislature.ca.gov/>

3. Attend a CURB event or mobilization.

CURB holds events and mobilizes people through the year, join the CURB email list serve or give us your phone number so we can keep you informed.

4. Bring a CURB speaker to my school, house of worship or home.

CURB welcomes the opportunity to speak to you about our prison crisis and what to do about it

5. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper opposing prison expansion.

Prisons are very much in the news today. Every news article is an opportunity to write a short letter to the editor emphasizing CURB's messages: no prison expansion, reduce prison spending by reducing the number of people in prison and the number of prisons.

**To learn more about CURB Contact Us
at 510-444-0484 or email curb@riseup.net**

**Also check out our website at
www.curbprisonspending.org**