The governor's address and reaction

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Highlights and excerpts from Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's State of the State address to a joint session of the Legislature:

What he said: Proposed a constitutional amendment to guarantee that CSU and UC spending exceeds prison spending by 2014.

How he said it: "I will protect education funding in this budget. ... And the way we get this done is to find more cost-effective ways to run our prison system."

What he said: Called for less lucrative pension benefits for future public employees.

How he said it: "For the current employees, these (public) pensions cannot be changed, either legally or morally. We cannot break the promise that we already made. ... But we are about to get run over by a locomotive, and we can see the lights coming at us."

What he said: Asked Congress to reject the federal health care bill unless funding for California is increased.

How he said it: "Health care reform ... has become a trough of bribes, deals and loopholes. ... California's congressional delegation should either vote against this bill that is a disaster for California or get in there and fight for the same sweetheart deal that Senator Nelson of Nebraska got for the Cornhusker State. Because that senator got for the Cornhusker State the corn, and we got the husk."

What he said: The state faces a $19.9 billion deficit through June 2011.

How he said it: "The budget crisis is our Katrina, and we knew it was coming. We have known it for years. And yet Sacramento would not reinforce its economic levees."

What he said: Proposed a $500 million job creation package to train 140,000 workers and create 100,000 jobs.

How he said it: "The first priority for the coming year, obviously, is to get the economy and to get jobs back. Jobs, jobs, jobs."

What he said: Proposed tax credits of up to $10,000 for a new or existing home purchase.

What he said: Urged the Legislature to consider an government overhaul plan pushed by California Forward.
REACTION

"The real question, as it was last year, is do you have an effective budget plan with sound solutions, and do (lawmakers) act upon it immediately?"
John Chiang, state controller

"There will be probably an over-reliance on potential federal money to make the numbers work."
Bill Lockyer, state treasurer

"After $18 billion of cuts and reductions, to hold the line will not restore the teaching positions that have been eliminated."
Jack O'Connell, state superintendent of public instruction

"In order to bring jobs back to California, we're going to need to be bigger and bolder."
Steve Poizner, insurance commissioner

"I could support an amendment that says from here on out we spend more money on higher education than corrections. I wish the governor had made that proposal six years ago."
Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento, Senate president pro tem

"They don't need a constitutional amendment. They can decide now to put more money into schools rather than into putting people in jail."
Jerry Brown, attorney general

"After public safety, education should be the next one we try to protect from spending cuts. However, I just don't believe there should be sacred cows that we completely take off the table."
Dennis Hollingsworth, R-Murrieta, Senate Republican leader

"The problem is that we lock too many people up in California. What we need to look at is sentencing reform."
Karen Bass, D-Los Angeles, Assembly speaker

"I don't think California should seek a (federal) bailout, but we should seek a fair shake."
Sam Blakeslee, R-San Luis Obispo, Assembly Republican leader

"I always love the optimism. But there's just a bit of discord between the rhetoric and the record."
Sen. Mark Leno, D-San Francisco

"What we've seen is a preview of his budget release. ... It's essentially going to cause, I think, kind of an all-hands-on-deck scramble in May and June."
Assemblyman Chuck DeVore, R-Irvine

"It's not just going to be this year's budget cycle – it will be beyond that. We need to approach it as a multiyear problem."
Assemblyman Roger Niello, R-Fair Oaks