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CHILD-FOCUSED SUMMIT CONVENES ADVOCATES AND EXPERTS TO STREAMLINE EFFORTS TO HELP CALIFORNIA CHILDREN THRIVE

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The first of its magnitude in California, the 2015 Child Health, Education, and Care Summit will be held February 10–12 in Sacramento. Presented by First 5 California in conjunction with seven other state agencies representing education and health and human services, the Summit's goal is to build and strengthen powerful partnerships to support the optimal health and well-being of California's children ages 0 to 5 and their families.

"We will gather together to find common ground on best practices and policies that will prepare our youngest children to be healthy, well-educated, and successful," said First 5 California Executive Director Camille Maben. "We hope to leverage our efforts to maximize outcomes for kids and ensure we're doing all we can to help them thrive."

Summit organizers and supporters represent a broad coalition of state agencies and organizations that provide valuable services to children ages 0 to 5 and their families, including the California departments of Education, Developmental Services, Veterans Affairs, Public Health, and Social Services along with the state's Health and Human Services Agency and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

The event will highlight the recent partnership between First 5 California and Too Small to Fail, the joint initiative between the Clinton Foundation and Next Generation which helps parents and businesses take meaningful actions to improve the health and well-being of children ages 0 to 5 so that more of America's children are prepared to succeed in the 21st century.

In addition, thanks to First 5 California's partnership with the California State Library, Summit attendees can also catch a special advance screening of an episode of "The Raising of America: Early Childhood and the Future of Our Nation," the highly anticipated documentary coming to PBS this spring.

"A plethora of research shows that investments in quality programs for kids more than pay for themselves in terms of increased earnings and revenues and a stronger overall economy, and decrease health care, corrections, and other public costs later on," said Ted Lempert, president of Children Now, creator of the Pro-Kid Agenda, and moderator of Thursday's "Local Community Partnerships Panel" at the Summit.

With workshops focused on empowering families, uprooting childhood poverty, mitigating effects of stress and trauma on young minds, early education workforce development, the latest brain development science, and much more, the Summit will highlight innovative research and cross-sector best practices, with provocative keynote speakers that include:

- Neera Tanden from the Center for American Progress in Washington, D.C.
- Nadine Burke Harris, M.D., MPH, from the Center for Youth Wellness in San Francisco.

- Ross A. Thompson, Ph.D., from the University of California, Davis.
- Dowell Myers, Ph.D., from the Sol Price School of Public Policy at University of Southern California.

The Summit will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 2001 Point West Way in Sacramento. For more information visit www.first5california.com/about/about_annual_summit.html.

About First 5 California

First 5 California, also known as the California Children and Families Commission, was established after voters passed Proposition 10 in November 1998, adding a 50-cent tax on tobacco products to fund education, health, child care and other programs for children ages 0 to 5 and their families. We are the only state affiliated Commission working to improve the quality of California's preschool programs. We fund programs that educate parents, grandparents, caregivers and teachers about the critical role they play during a child's first five years. Since our creation, we've supported millions of families with programs and services designed to help more California kids grow up healthy and ready to succeed in school — and in life. For more information, please visit www.first5california.com/parents.

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