



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 25, 2015

Contact: Erin Gabel
(916) 708-8895

Children Win With California's Budget Agreement

Governor and Legislature make inroads into supporting children and families

(Sacramento, CA)—Camille Maben, Executive Director of First 5 California, praised Governor Brown, Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de Leon and Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins today for the approved state budget, which commits increases over \$400 million to continue rebuilding our early learning and care system.

"With the addition of 7,000 new preschool slots and 6,800 child care slots, balanced with rate increases, the Governor and Legislature recognize California's children and families need more access to high-quality child care," said Ms. Maben.

This agreement also makes a significant policy statement that commits to a multiple-year strategy for rebuilding our early learning system by providing rate increases to fund the backbone of high-quality care—providers and teachers. In addition, the agreement includes a one-time \$24 million commitment to the Quality Rating and Improvement Systems for infants and toddlers.

"I want to specifically acknowledge the hard work and support of leadership in both houses, and particularly the Legislative Women's Caucus for their consistent, multi-year vision in building the high-quality child care system every child and family deserves," added Ms. Maben. "We estimate that nearly two-thirds of eligible children in California do not currently have access to subsidized early learning, and this year's investment is another important step toward our goal."

Research shows children, their families, and all Californians will reap long-term benefits from these budget investments as children who have access to high-quality early learning and care have demonstrated reduced healthcare costs, are better learners, citizens, and ultimately better earners.

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, which added a tax on tobacco products to fund education, health, childcare, and other services for children ages 0 to 5 and their families. Its programs and resources are designed to educate teachers, parents, grandparents, and caregivers about the critical role they play during a child's first five years – with the overarching goal of helping more California kids grow up healthy and ready to succeed in school and in life. For more information, please visit www.first5california.com.

#