



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **First 5 California's Executive Director Hails Proposed ESEA Rewrite**

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** — First 5 California's Executive Director Camille Maben released the following statement on a proposed compromise by Congress regarding the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA):

"First 5 California is delighted to see that early learning remains a key point in the ESEA framework. Assuming California can compete for these new funds, ESEA could help us piece together the means to achieve our preschool promise—the promise made by Governor Brown and echoed by the Legislature to provide all low-income 4-year-old children with access to a high-quality pre-kindergarten experience.

"The early childhood education community is pleased with President Obama and Senator Murray's strong commitments in providing federal leadership on preschool access and quality. ESEA should contain support for high-quality preschool programs that will help California and other states in continuing to build necessary bridges between our early learning and K-12 learning systems. A strong start, along with a unified system, can better prepare teachers to serve all students more effectively."

### **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](http://www.first5california.com).*

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