



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Erin Gabel
916.708.8895

First 5 California Applauds Legislature's Approved Budget
Budget package makes significant multi-year investments in early childhood education

SACRAMENTO, CA – Camille Maben, Executive Director of First 5 California, praised legislative leadership for passing the state budget today, which commits significant multi-year increases in early childhood education investments.

“On behalf of First 5 California and the 1.5 million young children we serve, I am extremely pleased to see another year of continued strategic reinvestment in our state’s early learning system. This year’s focus on rebuilding the foundation of our child care and early learning system — the per child funding rate — with a multi-year commitment is a necessary step to help our system recover from the Great Recession,” said Ms. Maben.

“We look forward to working with the Legislature and Governor Brown in the months ahead to tackle outstanding issues within our existing programs, including family income eligibility and continuity of care, as addressed by AB 2150 (Santiago). We will continue to work diligently to establish additional resources in future budgets that address the still-desperate gaps in access low-income babies and young children face to high-quality child care.

“At First 5 California, we also look forward to working with the Speaker of the Assembly’s Blue Ribbon Commission, and we hope this Commission will spur action toward a comprehensive, affordable, and high-quality early learning system for all our youngest learners, ages 0 to 5.

“I want to thank the Legislative Women’s Caucus and Legislative leadership for their ongoing commitment to our children and for finding a way to ensure the youngest Californians and their families benefit from our growing economy. I strongly urge the Governor to support this approved budget,” said Ms. Maben.

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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.cafc.ca.gov.