



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jamiann Collins-Lopez | (916) 316-1924
jlopez@ccfc.ca.gov

Statement on the Passing of Dolly Parton

SACRAMENTO, CA – August 27, 2026 — First 5 California joins families across the country and around the world in mourning the passing of Dolly Parton, whose extraordinary legacy extends far beyond music and entertainment. Dolly understood that giving children access to books from their earliest years can open doors, strengthen families and create opportunities that last a lifetime.

Through her Imagination Library, founded in honor of her father, she helped put hundreds of millions of books directly into the hands of young children, regardless of their family's income, and made early literacy a cause recognized around the world. She was also a remarkable force for compassion, equity and social good, using her platform and resources to support children and families, expand educational opportunities, provide scholarships, advance health and medical research, help communities recover from natural disasters, address poverty and food insecurity, and promote acceptance and dignity for people from all backgrounds.

First 5 California honors Dolly Parton for a remarkable life defined by her deep commitment to children, families and community. Her belief in children, and in their ability to dream bigger when given the opportunity to learn and thrive, will continue to inspire generations and work of this Commission.

###

About First 5 California

First 5 California was established in 1998 when voters passed Proposition 10, which taxes tobacco products to fund services for children ages 0 to 5 and their families. First 5 California programs and resources are designed to educate and support teachers, parents, and caregivers in the critical role they play during a child's first five years--to help California kids receive the best possible start in life and thrive. For more information, please visit www.ccfc.ca.gov.