

External and Governmental Affairs.

- LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.
- STATE BUDGET UPDATE.
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October 30, 2024



Legislative Update



As we continue to advocate for policy initiatives that promote the well-being and development of California's youngest residents, it is crucial that our legislative agenda remains firmly aligned with First 5 California's (F5CA) North Star and Audacious Goal statements.

We supported bills focused on:

- ACEs
- Childcare and Development
- Education
- Healthcare
- Social Services and Welfare
- Infrastructure and Public Services
- Equity and Inclusion
- Regulatory and Legal Matters

Updates on Bill Positions and Highest Priority Bills



AB 1895 (Weber, Wilson): Maternal Health – Maternity Ward Closures

Public health: maternity ward closures. Requires hospitals to notify state health agencies if they anticipate challenges that may lead to the closure of maternity wards and mandates a community impact assessment before such closures.

Position: Support. **Current Status:** Vetoed

AB 2319 (Wilson): Maternal Health – California Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act

California Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act. Expands implicit bias training requirements for healthcare providers involved in perinatal care, emphasizing the recognition of intersecting identities and associated biases.

Position: Support. **Current Status:** Passed and Chaptered.

SB 1112 (Menjvar): Medi-Cal – Families with subsidized childcare

Medi-Cal: families with subsidized childcare. Requires Medi-Cal managed care plans and childcare agencies to enter agreements to improve coordination of services for families receiving childcare subsidies, ensuring that children from prenatal to age five who need further services after screening are referred for additional assessment and intervention at no cost to the parents.

Position: Support. **Current Status:** Passed and Chaptered.

AB 1967 (Jackson): Food Insecurity Officer

Food Insecurity Officer. Creates a Food Insecurity Officer within the State Department of Social Services to coordinate efforts to address food insecurity across state agencies.

Position: Support. **Current Status:** Senate Committee on Appropriations – Dead.

SB 1090 (Durazo):

Unemployment insurance: disability and paid family leave: claim administration. Provides working families with more timely access to Paid Family Leave and State Disability Insurance benefits by allowing workers to apply for these benefits prior to the start of their leaves.

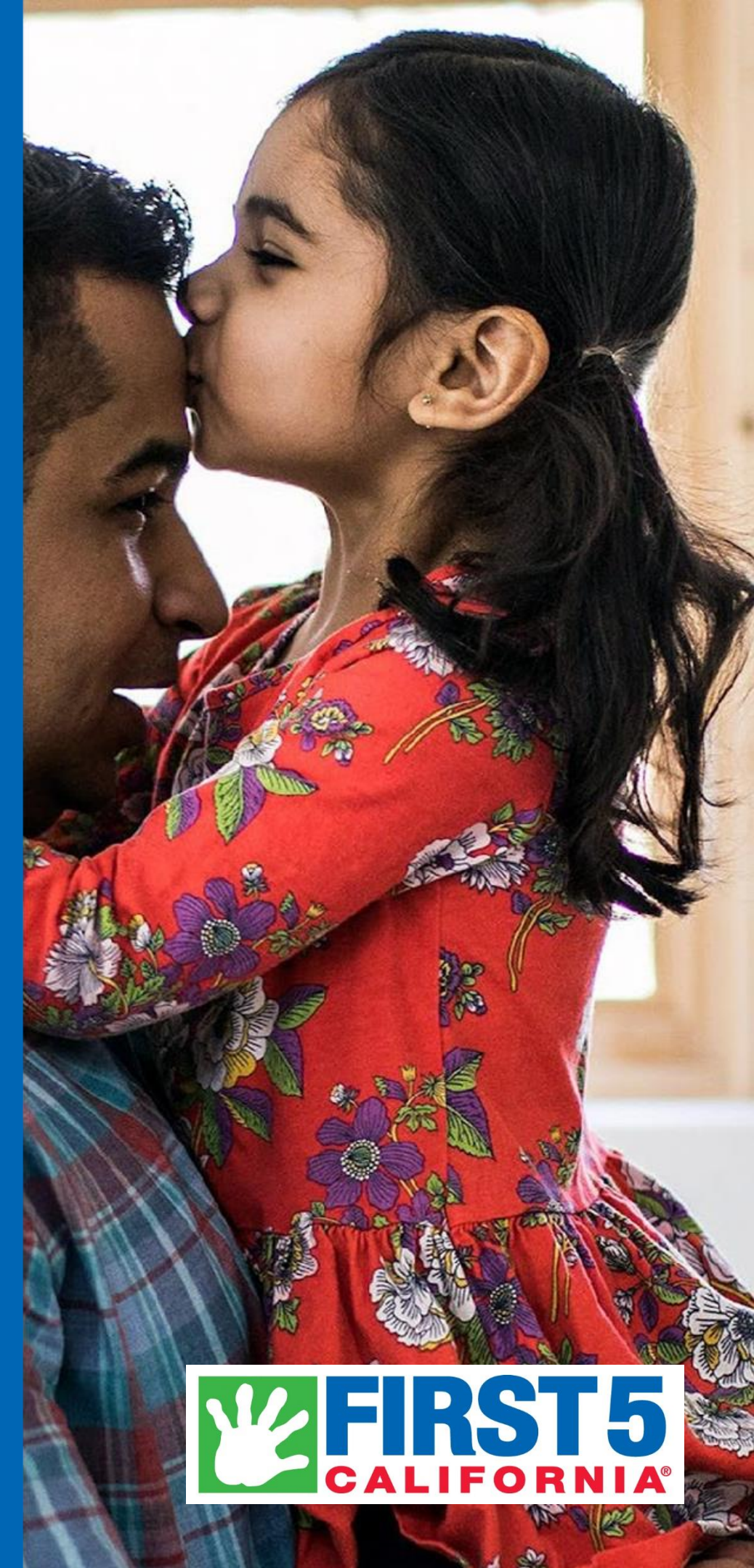
Position: Support. **Current Status:** Passed and Chaptered.

AB 2123 (Papan):

Disability compensation: paid family leave. Removes an unnecessary barrier for individuals seeking to access the Paid Family Benefits they pay for, by allowing individuals to take care of their loved ones without having to use up their vacation time.

Position: Support. **Current Status:** Passed and Chaptered.

Future-Impact Legislation



AB 3218 (Wood):

Establishes an “Unflavored Tobacco List” (UTL) to enforce regulations around tobacco products that lack a characterizing flavor, which are still subject to sales restrictions. Under this bill, the Attorney General shall, by no later than December 31, 2025, establish and maintain on the Attorney General’s internet website a list of tobacco product brand styles that lack a characterizing flavor, as defined., and it introduces civil penalties for distributors or retailers selling tobacco products not on the UTL. This bill is part of ongoing efforts to regulate flavored and unflavored tobacco products, ensuring stricter oversight and compliance.

Position: Monitor. **Current Status:** Passed and Chaptered.

Potential Impact:

First 5s are funded through tobacco tax revenues, and a shift in the tobacco market due to more stringent regulations on tobacco products could impact revenue.

Budget Update



Budget Strategy Updates

Resisting Cuts, maintaining existing funding, and avoiding the "sweep" of funds

- Worked closely with the Administration, Pro Temp, and Speaker
- Letters of Support
- Testifying in support of bills
- Assembly Select Committee Participation: Happiness and Public Policy Outcomes

Identifying Champions

Assembly Member Wilson, Assembly Member Weber, Assembly Member Jackson, Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry, Assembly Member Bains, Senator Menjivar, and Senator Blakespear.

2024 State Budget

- **Total Spending:** The Budget Act of 2024 allocates \$211.5 billion in General Fund spending, with an additional \$86.4 billion from other state funds and \$153 billion from federal funds.
- **Balanced Budgets:** The budget successfully balances the 2024-25 and 2025-26 budgets, addressing projected deficits of approximately \$45 billion and \$30 billion, respectively.
- **Education Funding:** The May Revision includes an \$8.4 billion withdrawal from the Public School System Stabilization Account to ensure consistent funding for local educational agencies and community colleges.
- **Achieving Fiscal Balance:** The budget implements several tax suspensions and reductions, alongside a complete drawdown of the Safety Net Reserve, to achieve fiscal balance.
- **Health and Human Services:** While some fund sweeps from Health and Human Services programs were approved, the Legislature preserved all or part of the funds for several critical programs.

2024 State Budget

Child Care: The May Revision postponed a \$550 million investment in the California Preschool, Transitional Kindergarten (TK), and Full-Day Facilities Grant Program, leading to a revenue increase of \$489 million in 2024-25 and \$951 million in 2025-26. Additionally, it delayed a \$10 million allocation for the Preschool Inclusion Grant Program.

The budget now includes the following childcare investments:

- **Childcare Expansion:** The plan will grow the state-subsidized childcare system to serve over 200,000 additional children.
- **Funding:** It fully funds all 11,000 awarded expansion slots and offsets new ongoing federal funds with a \$48 million General Fund allocation.
- **Restoration of Funds:** Restores \$100 million for the Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program.
- **Preschool Program Eligibility:** Expands eligibility for the California State Preschool Program to include children aged 24 to 35 months, effective until 2027.

2024 State Budget

Health and Human Services:

- Includes funding to implement 0-5 continuous Medi-Cal eligibility, effective January 1, 2026.
- Reappropriations \$1 million of expenditure authority from the Mental Health Services Fund, previously authorized in the 2021 Budget Act, until June 30, 2026, to support the Mental Health Wellness Program.
- Requires CDPH to develop a system for online shopping and food delivery for eligible recipients of California Special Supplemental Nutrition Food Program for Woman, Infants and Children (WIC).



Federal Update





Adjournment

Questions?



Thank you!

