



✓ BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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June 25, 2008

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Community Representative

Dan Souza, LCSW
Chair
Community Representative

John Walker, MD
Public Health Officer

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John Sims
Executive Director

Board of Supervisors
Stanislaus County
1010 10th Street
Modesto, CA 95354

Dear Honorable Board Members:

Since 1998, when the initiative known as Proposition 10 was approved by the State's voters, the Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission has funded programs and projects to improve the development and well-being of children 0-5 in Stanislaus County. Our efforts to effect positive changes in the lives of children in our County have been documented through a series of evaluations by internal and external evaluation professionals. If you are unfamiliar with our work, I would urge you to review the evaluation materials on the Commission website <http://www.stanprop10.org/publications.shtm>. You will find that the programs funded by the Commission have reduced public and societal costs and improved the school readiness and literacy skills of children.

Proposals have been introduced in the California State Legislature that would divert Commission funds to the State of California to support State programs. And while the diverted money may be used to support existing State programs for children, it is important to note that many locally Prop 10 funded programs would be eliminated under these proposals: school readiness, child abuse prevention, emotional health, parent education, family resource centers, and safety. The latest of these proposals is SBX3 16 (Cox). This proposal would divert:

- Existing local Prop 10 reserves to cities, counties, and schools as a one-time windfall
- Prop 10's future funding stream to the State General Fund to support the State's Medi-Cal and Healthy Families programs

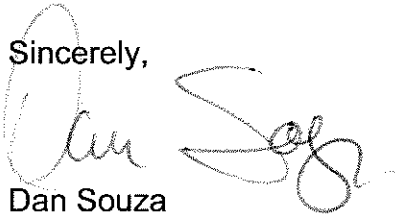
Furthermore, the proposal would eliminate the Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission, effectively removing all local control of the \$6,500,000 currently collected annually by Stanislaus County.

The Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission is opposed to SBX3 16 and is opposed to any other measures that would divert Prop 10 resources and/or remove local control of how the resources are used in Stanislaus County. On June 24, 2008, the Commission took action requesting that the Board of Supervisors and the Board of Education take similar actions in opposition of these proposals. The purpose of this letter is to communicate the Commission's request.

I would appreciate receiving a copy of any action taken by your Board.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact John Sims (the Commission's Executive Director at 558.7272) or me. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Souza', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Dan Souza
Commission Chair

Resolution No. 2008-159

RESOLUTION OF THE SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SUPPORTING PRESERVATION OF PROPOSITION 10 AND OPPOSING ANY EFFORTS TO DIVERT OR REPROGRAM PROPOSITION 10 FUNDS

WHEREAS, the first 5 years of life establish a foundation for the future success of children and their ability to reach their full potential, and it is our responsibility to provide them with the best possible start; and

WHEREAS, First 5 California and 58 county First 5 commissions were established in 1998 by the voters of California through Proposition 10 and funded by a tax on tobacco to provide for the development of programs that focus on children's early development in the areas of health, education and safety; and

WHEREAS, the nature of Proposition 10 funding, which is a declining funding source, followed that best and most prudent practice would be for local First 5 commissions to establish reserves and long-range financial plans to ensure an effective, stable and reliable early childhood service system; and

WHEREAS, the First 5 Solano Commission have been highly responsible and effective stewards of these funds by making strategic and targeted investments across the local early childhood system, leveraging Proposition 10 funds to almost double the amount available for local services, establishing long-term funding commitments to local public and non-profit partners and putting in place a results-accountability evaluation system that supports measurable improvements for young children; and

WHEREAS, First 5 Solano is a catalyst that brings together the collaborative partners of Solano County to provide resources and services for families, and takes the lead in uniting organizations, business and schools on behalf of the welfare of children from the prenatal stage through age 5, creating and supporting collaboratives for preschool services, countywide early developmental health strategic planning, positive parenting, parent education and family support and prenatal services; and

WHEREAS, First 5 Solano has faithfully served the children and families of Solano County by creating and supporting a wide range of initiatives that are critical for thousands of underserved children, thereby providing 97% health care insurance for young children, award-winning prenatal services for high-risk mothers resulting in significantly higher numbers of babies born healthy, hundreds of early mental health screenings and treatment services for young children, comprehensive school readiness services resulting in marked improvement in competencies of entering kindergarteners, homevisiting programs that succeeded in keeping 98% of high-risk children served out of foster care placement and substantial support for the most comprehensive and cohesive parent and family resource center network in California; and

WHEREAS, the possible diversion or reprogramming of First 5 funding to address the State's budget crisis will result in a tremendous loss for First 5 programs across California and compromise the future of California's youth; and

WHEREAS, the local impact of diversion or reprogramming of Proposition 10 funding to address the state budget crisis would result in substantial local harm to public agencies funded by First 5 Solano, which has long-term commitments of over 50% of its \$4 million annual grant budget to Solano County Health and Social Services and local School Districts; and

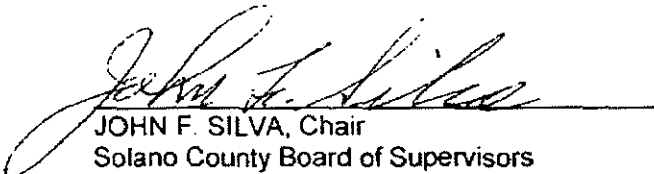
WHEREAS, the impact of diversion or reprogramming Proposition 10 funding to address the state budget crisis would be exacerbated by the loss of almost double this amount in matching funds drawn down by local public agencies using First 5 Solano dollars, much of which flow in turn to local faith- and community-based non-profits to fund vital prevention and early intervention services for young children and their families; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the local benefits of leveraging First 5 Solano funds to increase the overall funding base for young children in Solano County. First 5-funded services have been proven to save local, state and federal dollars by preventing the need for crisis services, thereby reducing pressure on the already-beleaguered education, health and social service agencies; and

WHEREAS, the unique and diverse nature of Solano's communities demands local control and local solutions to issues that affect young children and their families, making it critical that First 5 Solano retain its ability to receive and distribute Solano County's fair share of revenue generated by the Proposition 10 tobacco tax; and

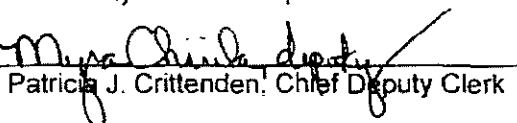
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Solano County Board of Supervisors supports the preservation of Proposition 10 structure and funding and opposes any efforts to divert or reprogram Proposition 10 funds.

Dated this 24th day of June, 2008


JOHN F. SILVA, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

MICHAEL D. JOHNSON, Clerk
Solano County Board of Supervisors

By: 
Patricia J. Crittenden, Chief Deputy Clerk

RULES & GOVERNMENT

RESOLUTION
First 5 LA

APR 18 2008

WHEREAS, the first 5 years of life establish a foundation for the future success of children and their ability to reach their full potential, and it is our responsibility to provide them with the best possible start; and,

WHEREAS, First 5 and its independent county commissions were established in 1998 by the voters of California through Proposition 10, a tax on tobacco, to provide for the development of programs that focus on early child development in the areas of health, education and safety; and,


WHEREAS, First 5 LA has faithfully served the children and families of Los Angeles by creating and supporting a wide range of initiatives that are critical for tens of thousands of underserved children, thereby providing health care insurance, high quality early childhood education, and safety and domestic violence prevention services; and,


WHEREAS, First 5 LA is a catalyst that brings together the diverse communities of Los Angeles to provide resources and services for families, and take the lead in uniting organizations, business and schools on behalf of the welfare of children from the prenatal stage through age 5; and,

WHEREAS, the unique and diverse nature of Los Angeles' communities demands local control and local solutions to issues that affect young children and their families, it is critical that First 5 LA retain its ability to receive and distribute Los Angeles' fair share of revenue generated by the tobacco tax and carry out the will of the people of California who approved Proposition 10; and,

WHEREAS, the possible reprogramming of this funding to resolve the State's budget crisis will result in a tremendous loss for California's First 5 programs and future of California's youth; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Los Angeles City Council opposes any efforts to reprogram the funds allocated by the voters for First 5 to resolve the budget crisis of the State of California.

PRESENTED BY: 
WENDY GREUEL
Councilwoman, 2nd District


JOSE HUIZAR
Councilman, 14th District

APR 18 2008

SECONDED BY: 
ALL COUNCILMEMBERS

08-0966

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Champions For Our Children

For Immediate Release (June 4, 2008)
Contact: Sharon Woodson-Bryant
(213) 482-7507
swoodson@first5la.org.

**L.A. CITY COUNCIL APPROVES RESOLUTION
IN SUPPORT OF FIRST 5 LA
*Council Calls on State to Keep Funding Local***

LOS ANGELES -----The Los Angeles City Council passed a resolution introduced by Councilmembers José Huizar and Wendy Greuel today that opposes any efforts to resolve the state budget crisis by redirecting funds allocated by the voters for First 5 LA through Proposition 10, which provides programs for children ages 0-to-5 in education, health and school readiness.

“We are so thankful to Councilmembers José Huizar and Wendy Greuel for being champions of children and families by introducing this resolution to council,” said Evelyn V. Martinez, First 5 LA’s executive director. “This resolution creates awareness about the important work that we do in our local communities that often goes unnoticed by many, but is critical to those who most benefit from the services we fund – the children,” Martinez said. “Today is a special day for our families.”

The L.A. City Council resolution highlighted the contributions and impact of First 5-funded initiatives that provide health care insurance, high-quality early childhood education, as well as safety and domestic violence prevention services. More importantly, the resolution urged that state elected officials preserve this valuable resource for local communities.

"As the mother of a four-year-old, I know that it's critical to provide a safe community along with quality health care and education for our children to learn and grow," said L.A. City Councilwoman Wendy Greuel.

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"Last year, First 5 LA served 14,054 children in the City of Los Angeles through family literacy, school readiness, community development and health births initiatives. We need First 5 LA to continue to make long-lasting and profound impacts in the lives of our children," Greuel said.

According to Councilmember José Huizar, the diverse nature of Los Angeles demands local control and local solutions to issues affecting young children and their families. "When California voters approved Proposition 10 in 1998, they clearly signaled that the welfare of the state's children is their priority. We cannot balance the budget on the backs of the children and families who rely on First 5 LA for critical supportive programs and services."

The resolution comes during a time when state legislators are looking at additional sources of revenue – and some have raised the prospect of diverting Prop. 10 funds. "First 5 LA's funding must remain in tact so that local leaders can find local remedies to offset state budget cuts in L.A. County," Martinez said. "We want to be part of a state budget solution, but we can't do that if the state hamstring us by diverting our funds."

For more information about First 5 LA's programs for parents and children call 1-888-FIRST5LA (1-888-347-7855) or visit www.first5la.org.

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