



**PRESS RELEASE
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Supervisors Take Position to Keep Local Control of Prop 10 Dollars *Yolo officials vow to preserve the benefits for children*

Woodland, CA — Yolo County Supervisors took a stand at their meeting on February 14, 2011 against the diversion and reprogramming of Proposition 10 funds to backfill deficits in the state budget. Saying “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,” the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution calling for the preservation of the current Proposition 10 structure and funding.

For more than a decade First 5 has operated under a system whereby each county commission is given the flexibility to identify and address the most pressing needs of children in their local areas. In Yolo County, First 5 Yolo has made an impact through the annual funding of programs and services that support early childhood health, education and child care services.

According to Supervisor Don Saylor, chair of First 5 Yolo, “This has not only helped the early development of local children, but also reduced the need for crisis services due to the healthy development, early learning, prevention and early intervention services for Yolo County children. “Currently, First 5 Yolo funds nearly \$3 million in programs and services each year. Under the current proposal by the Brown Administration, half of that money and a portion of the reserve would go to reduce the state budget deficit.”

This reprogramming and diversion of Proposition would have devastating consequences for not only First 5 Yolo, but all of Yolo County. More than 50 percent of the services First 5 Yolo provides to the most vulnerable children and families would be drastically reduced; children and families would receive fewer services in healthcare, early education, child abuse prevention, and childcare. Currently, First 5 Yolo spends an average of \$199 on each of its 13,000 benefitted children. Under the new program, only \$87 would be allocated to the 6,000 children it would be able to help. Finally, at least half of the people currently employed by First 5 Yolo funds, about 42 individuals, could lose their jobs.

In 1998, voters approved Proposition 10, which established a tax on cigarettes and tobacco products for programs and services for the benefits of children from prenatal through age 5. These early years of a child’s life have been proven to be the most important in brain development and therefore have a critical impact on a child’s ability to succeed in school and become a productive and responsible member in society.

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About First 5 Yolo

Research shows a child's brain develops most dramatically in the first five years and what parents and caregivers do during these years to support their child's growth will have a meaningful impact throughout life. In November 1998, California voters passed a statewide ballot initiative to add a 50-cent-per-pack tax on cigarettes. The funds collected are utilized to fund education, health and childcare programs that promote early childhood development from prenatal through age 5. For more information about First 5 Yolo, please visit www.First5Yolo.org.