



## Talking Points for Kris Perry

### Valuable Services Provided by Proposition 10

Jan. 5, 2009

- Redirecting Proposition 10 funds would have a **grave and immediate impact** on our state's youngest children. It would strip away the **2.7 million health and education services** that form a critical safety net for California families in need – and with rising unemployment rates, more families fall into this category every day.
- First 5 is the **largest and most stable funding source of health coverage** for children up to age 5 in our state.
- Last year, First 5 spent more than **\$48 million on children's health insurance**.
  - And on Dec. 17, First 5 California offered an additional \$16.7 million to the Healthy Families program, safeguarding more than 65,000 infants and children from waiting lists for health coverage due to the budget crisis.
- But our mandate is broader than children's health coverage.
  - First 5 is also the only statewide provider of special needs screenings to children up to age 5.
  - First 5 is a key supporter of medical and oral health services across the state.
  - First 5 is funding what experts consider some of the best preschools nationwide.
- To continue fulfilling our voter mandate under Proposition 10, First 5 California is working closely with the Legislature to determine how we can keep serving California families to lessen the impact of the budget crisis on our state's youngest children.
- Any proposal that changes the intent of Proposition 10 requires voter approval.

### **Long-Term Fiscal Planning:**

- To safeguard against the impending decline in Proposition 10 revenues, First 5 commissions have developed long-term fiscal plans which allocate funds for future expenses, such as multi-year programs.
- This is prudent fiscal planning and responsible governance.
- Just as the state would not break ground on a new bridge unless it had the funds to see the job through to completion, the same goes for First 5-funded programs.
- This kind of future-oriented planning ensures that First 5 can fulfill its commitments today and tomorrow, and sustain the programs that hundreds of thousands of children and families rely upon.
- By making long-term fiscal plans, First 5 will avoid having to make unexpected, drastic cuts to ongoing programs, especially during difficult economic times.