



From the Desk of **STEVE BENNETT**
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT
(805) 654-2703
FAX: (805) 654-2226
E-mail: steve.bennett@ventura.org

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD
PETER C. FOY, CHAIR
STEVE BENNETT
LINDA PARKS
KATHY I. LONG
JOHN K. FLYNN

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF VENTURA**

GOVERNMENT CENTER, HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
800 SOUTH VICTORIA AVENUE, VENTURA, CALIFORNIA 93009

July 28, 2008

Honorable Roger Dickinson
Supervisor, First District
County of Sacramento
700 H Street, Suite 2450
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Supervisor Dickinson,

Local control of Prop 10 funding is being threatened. When the voters approved the California Children and Families Act (Prop 10) in 1998, they voted for local flexibility to meet local needs.

As you know, the state of California is experiencing a budget shortfall that is expected to have significant negative impact on state-funded children and family services. Among the many proposed remedies include ideas to divert or reprogram Prop 10 funding or reserves to address the state budget crisis.

On July 22, 2008, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors passed the enclosed resolution in supporting preservation of Prop 10 and opposing efforts to divert or reprogram Prop 10 funds.

The people of California have voted twice to support Prop 10 demonstrating their commitment to a comprehensive range of services preparing children for success in school, and the ability for each County to allocate funds in a manner that best meets their unique needs. I hope your Board will consider similar support.

Regards,

Steve Bennett
Supervisor, First District
Chair, First 5 Ventura County

Enclosure

Cc: Supervisor Kathy Long, County of Ventura

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

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 an unprecedented investment in our youngest children 0-5 and their families, focusing on early childhood development; and

WHEREAS, research shows that the first 5 years of a child's life establishes a critical and life-long foundation for children to learn, grow and thrive, helping them to enter school eager to learn, succeed, and to reach their fullest potential; and

WHEREAS, the partnership between FIRST 5 VENTURA COUNTY and the COUNTY OF VENTURA'S HUMAN SERVICES AND HEALTH CARE AGENCIES have significantly improved the health and well-being of children and strengthened families through increased health care enrollment, access to oral health prevention and treatment services, mental health services, developmental screenings, and family supports; and

WHEREAS, working in partnership the COUNTY OF VENTURA and FIRST 5 VENTURA COUNTY have been able to leverage significant federal dollars for Ventura County, expanding services to young children, 0 – 5, and their families; and

WHEREAS, through its countywide Neighborhoods for Learning, First 5 Ventura County has brought community-based services to children and families, removing barriers of transportation and access and laying the foundation for 1,100 new pre-k spaces and 18 family resource centers countywide connecting families with essential services; and

WHEREAS, FIRST 5 VENTURA COUNTY has been a major sponsor of 2-1-1, connecting families to resources, and a catalyst for building an early childhood system of services in Ventura County, through the development of sustainable partnerships with parents, community leaders, community-based organizations, schools and local businesses; and

WHEREAS, the unique and diverse nature of Ventura's communities demands local control and local solutions to issues that affect young children and their families, it is critical that FIRST 5 VENTURA COUNTY retain its ability to receive and distribute Ventura County's fair share of revenue generated by the Proposition 10 tobacco tax and carry out the will of the people of California who approved Proposition 10.

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

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 22ND DAY OF JULY, 2008 by the Board of Supervisors of the county of Ventura.

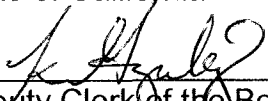
Upon motion of Supervisor BENNETT, seconded by Supervisor FLYNN, and duly carried, the foregoing resolution was approved on July 22nd, 2008.



Supervisor Steve Bennett
CHAIR, PRO TEMPORE

ATTEST:

MARTY ROBINSON
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors,
County of Ventura,
State of California

By 
Deputy Clerk of the Board

