

Subject: Resolution No. **94-28A3**

In Opposition to Proposition 1D

- Commissioners Norman Yee and Kim-Shree Maufas

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 as a caring society 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: In 10 short years, First 5 has dramatically increased public awareness, improved systems, and built an effective array of direct services for prevention and early services in every County in California reaching nearly 1 million young children; and

WHEREAS: 300,000 California children benefit from school readiness services: health screenings and immunizations, early literacy interventions, parenting classes, and community-wide outreach services to ensure on-time enrollment and supported transition to kindergarten, and

WHEREAS: Schools in low income neighborhoods where First 5 has invested in a wide range of school readiness strategies – including preschool, home visiting, family literacy, and kindergarten transition programs – are increasing their test scores at rate a significantly faster than other schools, demonstrating that closing the school readiness gap is closing the achievement gap, and

WHEREAS: First 5 is working with 200 schools districts in California, from the smallest to the largest, partnering and providing critical supports including funding for child development and preschool programs, staffing, playground improvements, professional development, parent engagement, and classroom materials and supplies, and

WHEREAS: First 5 commissions have increased the supply of child care and preschool spaces in every county, enhanced training and retention rates of the early education workforce, reduced preschool expulsions by providing mental health consultants, and increased full inclusion of children with disabilities and other special needs, and

WHEREAS: First 5 San Francisco has faithfully served the children and families of San Francisco by creating and supporting a wide range of initiatives and programs that are critical for thousands of underserved children and families, thereby providing health care insurance, high quality early childhood education, family support services; and school readiness services, and

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WHEREAS: First 5 San Francisco is a catalyst that brings together the diverse communities of San Francisco to provide resources and services for families, and takes the lead in uniting organizations, parents, and providers on behalf of the welfare of children from the prenatal stage through age 5; and,

WHEREAS: If Proposition 1 D on the California ballot for the May 19, 2009 special election passes, locally controlled First 5 funding would divert to the state to close the budget deficit; and

WHEREAS: More than 4,000 San Francisco children and their parents/caregivers would no longer receive early literacy and family support services; and

WHEREAS: 550 San Francisco children would lose comprehensive medical and dental health insurance coverage; and

WHEREAS: More than 3,000 San Francisco children would no longer have access to vision, hearing, and dental screening; and

WHEREAS: Over 200 agencies and several thousand families would lose early childhood mental health consultation services to foster health social and emotional development; and

WHEREAS: Over 500 San Francisco children would lose access to early screening, assessment and treatment of disabilities and special health care needs, and

WHEREAS: The possible reprogramming of this funding to resolve the State's budget through proposed Proposition 1 D on the ballot for the statewide election will result in a tremendous loss for San Franciscans and young children throughout the State of California; and

WHEREAS: The funding at risk with Proposition 1 D is a drop in the bucket of the state budget deficit but has brought a sea of change locally for San Francisco's youngest children, especially in terms of school readiness, and

WHEREAS: Research has shown that children who are behind academically in school at an early age have difficulties catching up with their peers.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District hereby opposes Proposition 1 D on the California ballot for the special election to be held May 19, 2009.