



RESOLUTION TO PARTNER FOR ACCESS TO CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE

WHEREAS, the California Children and Families Act tasks the First 5 California Children and Families Commission (hereinafter First 5 California or Commission) and the 58 county commissions with promoting, supporting, and improving the early development of children from the prenatal stage to five years of age through the creation and implementation of an integrated, comprehensive and collaborative system of information and services to enhance optimal early childhood development and to ensure that children are ready to enter school; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined by First 5 California that health care coverage is an essential means by which to promote, support, and improve the early development of children from the prenatal stage through five years of age and beyond; and

WHEREAS, for the past six years First 5 California has provided leadership in helping uninsured young children obtain affordable health insurance by providing a match for the dollars invested by local First 5 Commissions in their county Children's Health Initiatives (CHIs); and

WHEREAS, on July 19, 2007, First 5 California approved a resolution to assist with the expansion of statewide health care to cover all children; and

WHEREAS, on December 15, 2008, First 5 California, in partnership with many county commissions, approved up to \$16.75 million to pay the health care premiums of children ages 0 through 5 who were new enrollees to the Healthy Families Program (HFP) administered by the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (MRMIB) from December 18, 2008, through June 30, 2009, thereby expanding the HFP and avoiding the implementation of a waiting list for new enrollees ages 0 through 5; and

WHEREAS, the State of California is experiencing an unprecedented fiscal crisis and the Governor has declared a fiscal emergency and, due to this budget crisis, all program funding, including funding for health care services for children ages 0 through 5, is subject to possible reduction and/or elimination; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is committed to providing access to health care for all children ages 0 through 5 as well as improving and extending the health care workforce; and

WHEREAS, in this unprecedented state budget crisis, First 5 California believes in a shared responsibility approach to ensure all young children have access to affordable health care; therefore, now be it

RESOLVED, that the First 5 California Children and Families Commission, by this resolution, commits to join with like-minded public and private partners, including but not limited to health plans and philanthropic organizations, to provide financial assistance in Fiscal Year 2009-10 to the extent practicable and feasible within the constraints of the California Children and Families Act to ensure young children have access to affordable health insurance coverage. Be it further resolved that this commitment is contingent upon the availability of funds in the applicable First 5 California accounts.

Subscribed this 15th day of July, 2009



DAVID KEARS, Vice Chair

DON ATTORE, Commissioner



CARLA DARTIS, Commissioner



MARIA E. MINON, Commissioner



MOLLY MUNGER, Commissioner

ELENI TSAKOPOULOS-KOUNALAKIS, Commissioner