



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **First 5 California's Executive Director Comments on President Obama's Budget Proposal for Universal Preschool**

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** — First 5 California's Executive Director Camille Maben released the following statement in response to President Barack Obama's 2014 budget proposal for universal preschool:

"We're enthusiastic about the prospect of universal preschool for all 4-year-olds and are encouraged that the President understands the importance of high-quality early education.

We're looking forward to seeing how California can actively participate in this important effort while continuing to keep our successful state programs whole. We are hopeful that Governor Jerry Brown and the Legislature see the benefits that universal preschool will bring to California's youngest residents.

We are at a pivotal point where we know unequivocally that the investment in high-quality early childhood education has substantial payoffs. Providing our neediest children with early education and care leads to higher graduation rates, lower crime, lower substance abuse and higher employment. For the future of our economy and that of our kids, it's important to help ensure that all children benefit from a quality preschool experience. It's what we at First 5 California have been doing successfully since 1998 when voters passed Proposition 10."

### **About First 5 California**

*First 5 California, also known as the California Children and Families Commission, was established after voters passed Proposition 10 in November 1998, adding a 50-cent tax on tobacco products to fund education, health, childcare and other programs for children ages 0-5 and their families. We are the only state affiliated Commission working to improve the quality of California's preschool programs. We fund programs that educate parents, grandparents, caregivers and teachers about the critical role they play during a child's first five years. Since our creation, we've supported millions of families with programs and services designed to help more California kids grow up healthy and ready to succeed in school – and in life. For more information, please visit [www.first5california.com/parents](http://www.first5california.com/parents).*

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