



**For Immediate Release**  
May 16, 2019

**Contact:** Erin Gabel  
916.708.8895

## **Governor's Paid Family Leave Task Force Convenes with First 5 California Appointment**

**SACRAMENTO** – Today, Governor Gavin Newsom convened a Paid Family Leave Task Force for their first in a series of meetings. The Task Force is intended to design a policy and funding roadmap to achieving the Governor's vision for providing all California newborns with six months of bonding time with their parents. Erin Gabel, Deputy Director of External and Governmental Affairs for First 5 California, was appointed to the newly-established Paid Family Leave Task Force.

"I want to thank the Governor for his commitment in creating a California for all vision that starts with our children," said Ms. Gabel. "Paid Family Leave, during those crucial first months of a baby's life, is a developmental necessity."

Governor Newsom has appointed a diverse group of representatives from across the state, including members of the business, legal, policy, science, and early learning communities, to put their collective expertise together and design real options to meet the family leave needs of newborns, employers, employees, and their families. The Governor's goal is to leverage Paid Family Leave to reap greater lifetime benefits for all.

The Task Force will examine California's nation-leading Paid Family Leave Program and develop options to increase leave access, provide better job protections, and to expand the length of coverage for California's workers. Studies have shown that paid family leave allows parents and caregivers to bond with their newborns, and set our littlest community members on a course for better health and greater success in life.

"Having a Governor who understands the brain science and how Paid Family Leave plays a role in allowing parents the precious time to *Talk. Read. Sing.*<sup>®</sup> with their babies, is a once in a lifetime opportunity," said Ms. Gabel. "Children and families thriving will help lift all of Californians."

The Task Force is due to provide its recommendations to the Governor by the end of 2019.

###

### ***About First 5 California***

First 5 California was established in 1998 when voters passed Proposition 10, which taxes tobacco products to fund services for children ages 0 to 5 and their families. First 5 California programs and resources are designed to educate and support teachers, parents, and caregivers in the critical role they play during a child's first five years – to help California kids receive the best possible start in life and thrive. For more information, please visit [www.cfc.ca.gov](http://www.cfc.ca.gov).