

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
95814

Jan. 26, 2021

Nadine Burke Harris, MD MPH
Chair, First 5 California
2389 Gateway Oaks Drive #260
Sacramento, CA 95833

RE: Small Population County Funding Augmentation – Item 8

Dear Dr. Burke Harris,

As the legislators representing rural northeastern California, we write to support the Small Population County Funding Augmentation, which equitably distributes resources to ensure that children living in small population counties access services they otherwise would not have. We applaud First 5 California's longstanding commitment to the 21 small population counties and respectfully request reauthorization at the First 5 California State Commission meeting on Jan. 28.

The rural First 5 commissions are committed to the mission that all children grow up healthy, safe, and ready for success in school and life. This is accomplished through building systems and funding programs that intentionally serve the most vulnerable and hardest to reach children and their parents/caretakers throughout our region. First 5 Commissions in our districts support community-based investments to build protective factors including Family Resource Centers, Home Visitations Programs, Early Literacy Initiatives. The First 5 Commissions are also the cornerstone for family support and early childhood leadership systems

The increased costs associated with geographical distance and the lack of available outside funding partners creates significant barriers to adequately supporting children and families in our counties. The augmentation helps address these exact barriers and enables our counties to provide critical services and build better systems of care.

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to our youngest children.

Sincerely,



BRIAN DAHLE
Senator, 1st District



MEGAN DAHLE
Assemblywoman, 1st District