

Please use this template to customize a letter that you can send to your Legislators. Fill in your information and place on your organization letterhead or send it as an individual.

Date

Honorable _____

Address

Address

RE: Governor's proposal to divert Prop 10 funds

Dear Senator/Assembly Member _____:

Less than nine months ago, California voters overwhelmingly rejected cutting funds from critical local children's health and education programs to backfill gaps in the state budget – an initiative that was soundly rejected, nearly 2 to 1. Yet the Governor has proposed going back to the ballot this June to ask voters the very same thing.

The Governor's proposed budget includes a one-time sweep of \$308 million from First 5 funds, regardless of the current commitments for those funds, and another \$242 million every year for five years. That is a take-away of \$1.5 billion -- \$1.2 billion of which will come directly from local children's programs.

What does this take-away mean for **(insert your county)** County?

[List programs that could be cut if you suddenly lose more than half your revenue.]

Statewide, last year county First 5 commissions provided access to health care to 159,000 children and dental care to more than 140,000. In many counties, First 5 is the primary source of funding for child abuse prevention programs, home visiting for at-risk newborns, and specialized prenatal care for women at risk of poor birth outcomes. More than 25,000 children – most of them low income -- attended preschool last year because of First 5 funding, and more than 134,000 participated in a range of school readiness activities, including summer pre-K camps, family literacy programs, and enhanced child care programs.

The Governor's proposal will harm children in **(insert your county)** County and statewide. It cuts funding for First 5 by 53% in the first year, and more each subsequent year because it takes the same amount every year, even though revenues continue to drop annually.

Please support our county's young children and reject this recycled concept.

Sincerely,

To locate your Legislator, please go to <http://www.legislature.ca.gov/> and enter your zip code in the section titled "Find My District" at the lower right corner.