



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**First 5 Sacramento's Pledge for Racial Equity and Social Justice**  
*Commissioners Unanimously Approve Resolution*

It was an historic February meeting of the First 5 Sacramento Commission, resulting in unanimous approval for a [Resolution on Racial Equity and Social Justice](#).

The Commission understands that the adverse impacts of racism begin prenatally, and are reflected in large, racially-based disparities in rates of maternal mortality, infant mortality, developmental and behavioral challenges, childhood asthma, lead poisoning and other health issues;

The document is a first step in First 5 Sacramento's efforts to center racial equity, diversity and inclusion into the agency's critical early childhood services. The resolution is the Commission's pledge to actively and intentionally engage in work to dismantle racism both within and outside the First 5 network.

"As stewards of resources and programs that support our community's youngest people and their families, we have an obligation to clearly articulate First 5's intent to ensure racism has no place in what we do and how we do it" said First District Supervisor and Chair of the First 5 Sacramento Commission Phil Serna. "The resolution we adopted is the road map to ensure concern for racial equity and social justice permeates everything we do, and that we're held accountable," he continued.

**About First 5 Sacramento**

Research shows that 90% of a child's brain develops in the first five years and what parents and caregivers do during these years to support their child's growth will have a meaningful impact throughout life. Based on this research, California voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998, a tobacco tax, to support programs for expectant parents and children ages 0-5. In the last year, First 5 Sacramento distributed approximately \$12 million a year in Prop 10 revenues to programs and services that meet local needs in Sacramento County. All 58 counties have a First 5 Children and Families Commission providing unique local services for that county. More information available at [www.first5sacramento.net](http://www.first5sacramento.net), Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube and Pinterest.

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