



Champions For Our Children

### **Statement of Health Care Reform Principles**

First 5 LA seeks to ensure that *all* children are physically and emotionally healthy, safe, and ready to learn. Every child has the right to be born healthy; to be safe from abuse and neglect; to be given a fair opportunity to succeed in school; and to grow and thrive in healthy communities. None of these goals, however, can be fully realized without significant changes to our health care system.

We invite you to consider the following seven principles for health care reform:

#### **Every Child in L.A. County Deserves....**

1. **ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE**, including:
  - a) **Universal Eligibility:** All residents should be covered.
  - b) **Portable Coverage:** Reduce gaps in coverage by making all plans transportable.
  - c) **Consumer Friendly:** Coverage should be simple to apply for and easy to use.
  - d) **No Wrong Door:** Enrollment and retention in a range of health and social services programs could be available at a range of locations; eligibility could be determined through one single point of entry such as the One E-App to access all public benefits for which children qualify.
2. **COMPREHENSIVE CARE** which is holistic in nature. Such care would include mental health, vision, dental, primary care, and full perinatal coverage.
3. **QUALITY CARE.** Standards of care must be uniform across all health insurance plans so that every child receives excellent medical care. Programming and services should be tailored to communities' needs. Programs which work to reduce health disparities merit support and expansion.
4. **AFFORDABLE COVERAGE.** This includes offering reasonable, sliding fees for family co-payments.
5. **PREVENTIVE CARE AND WELLNESS-ORIENTED SERVICES.** Plans should offer incentives for healthy and fit lifestyles.
6. **A DIVERSE AND HIGH QUALITY HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE.** This involves several components such as cultural competency, utilization of a variety of training models including community health workers, and cross-training across disciplines to better meet the needs of young patients.
7. **CHOICES OF COVERAGE PLANS.** Families should have options when it comes to health insurance plans, including the option of selecting a public plan.

**First 5 LA** is a unique child-advocacy organization created by California voters to invest tobacco tax revenues in programs for improving the lives of children in Los Angeles County, from prenatal through age 5. First 5 LA champions health, education, and safety causes concerning young children and families.