June 20, 2011

The Honorable Felipe Fuentes
California Assembly
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0039

RE: Support for AB 1072

Dear Assemblymember Fuentes:

I am writing to express our support for AB 1072, which would establish the California Promise Neighborhood Initiative. This legislation would develop a successful community revitalization model across the state that relies on a place-based funding strategy to invest resources in targeted high-need communities.

First 5 LA, a child advocacy and public grant-making organization, was created by California voters to invest Proposition 10 tobacco tax revenues to improve the lives of children from prenatal through age 5 in Los Angeles County. As exemplified by First 5 LA’s strategic plan, we believe in the value of a place-based funding strategy that recognizes the importance of a family’s environment to the health, safety and school readiness of young children.

The California Promise Neighborhood Initiative would identify and designate 40 Promise Neighborhoods in California’s most economically and socially distressed communities. These neighborhoods would receive priority in various state or federal competitive funds for education, workforce development, health and public safety. The creation of these Promise Neighborhoods would also increase the ability of the selected communities to better serve families by maximizing public-private partnerships. The bill would reward and incentivize cross-community planning and alignment, and help establish a network of support systems for children from birth to workplace.

We are grateful for your leadership on this important issue, and hope you will use First 5 LA as a resource in your continued pursuit of policy improvement. If you need additional assistance on this bill, please contact Tessa Charnofsky, Government Affairs Manager, at 213-482-7555 or tcharnofsky@first5la.org.

Sincerely,

Evelyn V. Martinez
Chief Executive Officer

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