Champions For Our Children

May 14, 2012

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0014

Re: AB 1970 (Skinner) - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Skinner:

On behalf of First 5 LA, I am writing to state our support for AB 1970, which would establish the Social Services Modernization and Efficiency Act of 2012. The bill would update the CalWORKs, CalFresh and Medi-Cal programs to make them more effective and efficient, and in the process remove some barriers to participating in the programs.

First 5 LA oversees the Los Angeles County allocation of funds from Proposition 10, which added a 50-cent tax on tobacco products sold in California. Funds raised help pay for health care, education and child development programs for children from the prenatal stage to age 5 and their families. First 5 LA’s mission is to increase the number of young children who are physically and emotionally healthy, safe and ready to learn. One of our goals is to support the integration and sharing of data in order to create high quality, responsive programs for young children and their families.

AB 1970 would bring the state into conformity with federal law regarding the modernization of eligibility for CalWORKs, CalFresh, and Medi-Cal. The bill would permit counties and recipients to communicate directly through electronic means; better integrate the use of existing electronic verification systems; and reduce the face-to-face time necessary to process an individual’s eligibility for a program. These improvements would limit overhead costs to counties; create a more transparent system for applicants; and create a more coordinated and efficient approach to providing social services for working families.

Given the new enhancements available in technology, it is critical that California’s Social Services programs adopt new systems that increase transparency, efficiency and effectiveness. For these reasons, we support the passage of AB 1970.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Steele
Interim Chief Executive Officer
First 5 LA

cc: California Assembly and Senate - Los Angeles County delegation