

Date: April 20, 2017

To: First 5 Alameda County Commission

From: Janis Burger, CEO, First 5 Alameda County

Subject: Resolution on Immigration

ACTION REQUESTED

That the Commission review and approve the following resolution.

BACKGROUND

The advent of new Executive Orders from the President of the United States and the uptick of inhumane deportation practices is causing fear, isolation and anger in the communities we serve. Many of our partners report families are less likely to seek out services such as food and income supports because they fear deportation. Overall, First 5 Alameda County believes separating families and destabilizing young children threatens their safety, development and health.

The following proposed Resolution will be distributed in the F5AC FYI newsletter, to our community partners, to other First 5's and to local elected officials.

WHEREAS, Alameda County is the fourth most diverse county in the United States, with foreign-born residents comprising over 34% of the county's total population, and 54.5% of children ages 0-17 live with one or more parent who was born outside of the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, due to Executive Orders and stepped up deportation efforts, large numbers of undocumented immigrants now face challenges with access to need basic support and feel their safety is threatened due to their status; and

WHEREAS, Children live in constant fear their parents will be taken away at any moment and children feel ostracized by policies that promote racial hatred; and

WHEREAS, Immigration policies that break families apart threaten young children's safety, stability, and development having long term impact, and

WHEREAS, First 5 Alameda County continues to stand by our mission of partnering with the community to support a county-wide continuous prevention and early intervention system that promotes optimal health and development, narrows disparities and improves the lives of children 0 to 5 and their families – regardless of their immigration status; and

WHEREAS, California School Superintendent Tom Torlakson urges school districts to remain safe havens for students; to date 15 of the 18 school districts in Alameda County have declared themselves safe havens; and

WHEREAS, California Gov. Jerry Brown has promised to defend laws protecting immigrant rights; State Senator President pro Tempore Kevin de León (D-Los Angeles) has introduced the “California Values Act” to prevent the use of state and local resources for federal immigration enforcement that would separate families and hurt the state’s economy; and

WHEREAS, Alameda, Oakland, Emeryville, San Leandro and Berkeley passed resolutions supporting sanctuary city policies; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution entitled “Upholding Due Process and Protecting Civil Rights of Immigrant Residents” and another resolution designating Alameda County a Welcoming County for Immigrants and Refugees.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, First 5 Alameda County wholeheartedly refutes policies that threaten and separate families and will work with our partners to keep our communities secure. We commit to protecting children and their families by:

- 1) Training service providers and other partners on immigration policies and resources;
- 2) Supporting sanctuary city and safe haven policies at school districts across the county;
- 3) Providing trustworthy information for early childhood educators, community based organizations, partners and families; and
- 4) Advocating for just immigration policies.

THE FOREGOING was **PASSED**, and **ADOPTED** on this 20th day of April, 2017.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission approve the proposed resolution.

Submitted by:

Reviewed by:

Janis Burger
Chief Executive Officer

Kristin Spanos
Chief Operating Officer