

California children deserve our protection. The state of California has a long history of approving special dedicated funds for children's services. Given the state's current and ongoing budget challenges, we need to take extraordinary steps to once again protect services for children under the age of 5.

This measure is a common-sense solution to California's budget crisis while also protecting important services for children under the age of 5. It will redirect up to \$340 million in reserves currently held by the state First 5 Commission and transfer \$268 million annually for the next five years into programs such as child welfare services, early intervention and prevention services for infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities, adoption assistance, foster care, kinship guardianship assistance and direct health care services.

Proposition 1D is consistent with the original intent of voters when they passed Proposition 10 in November 1998. The original initiative added a \$0.50 tax on tobacco products to promote, support and improve the early development of children under the age of 5. State and local First 5 commissions have used this money to fund important programs that benefit infants and toddlers, as well as their families. Unfortunately, in tough economic times, families suffer greater stress and larger numbers of children are seen in the child welfare and foster care system. Now, more than ever, the state must use all of its available resources to protect and sustain existing programs. This measure will ensure that children under the age of 5 continue to receive the services currently available to them.

**SUBJECT TO COURT
ORDERED CHANGES**

Voting for this measure will not permanently shift these funds away from their original purpose. This solution will help solve California's current budget crisis and prevent further cuts in services to children under the age of 5. Please vote yes to help our state continue critical services to children under the age of 5.

Robert J. Baldo

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