

## First 5 Commission of San Diego

April 5, 2010  
SB 1109 (Cox)

### Background

If passed by the legislature, SB 1109 (Cox) (Attachment 1) would place a measure on the ballot to eliminate the California Children and Families commission (First 5 California) and all county First 5 Commissions throughout the state. These commissions are the result of Proposition 10, the 1998 voter initiative created to meet locally determined needs for prevention and early intervention programs and system improvement activities for children aged 0 – 5, their families and providers of services.

This bill could result in the loss of \$38.8 million in annual locally controlled funding. These funds will be redirected to the State General Fund for appropriation by the Legislature to two state programs, Medi-Cal and Healthy Families. In addition, approximately \$129.7 million in local reserves would be redirected from the First 5 Commission to school districts (50%), cities (25%) and the County General Fund (25%).

If approved by voters, this bill would disband the First 5 Commission of San Diego County within 90 days of passage and may put additional burdens on the County of San Diego. Funds for 19 full time positions paid by Prop 10 will be eliminated, as well as funding for 44 Health and Human Services (HHSA) Child Welfare Services positions. Responsibility of oversight for 41 contracts and approximately 100 subcontracts, and other current obligations of the First 5 Commission of San Diego would be transferred to the County of San Diego.

The loss of First 5 funds will eliminate a comprehensive range of local services targeting low income children and at-risk families: child welfare services, child health screenings and services (vision, hearing, developmental and behavioral), access to health insurance, pediatric oral health, nutrition and anti-obesity efforts, early education/preschool, parenting programs and information and referral services. Over 70,000 children and 40,000 parents and caregivers are at risk of losing these services. In addition, more than 100 community organizations, hospitals, & health clinics will reduce or close programs and lose funds that support operations and infrastructures.

### Commission Policy on Legislative Advocacy

Commission Policy F5C-002 Legislative Advocacy states (Attachment 2) "It is appropriate for the Commission to advocate positions on matters impacting local control over the use or the administration of Proposition 10 tax revenue and on issues that relate to improving outcomes for all children ages zero through five." The policy further states "The Commission's efforts at legislative advocacy shall be limited to initiatives that have a direct and significant impact on the Commission's vision, mission, values or its ability to fulfill its core functions."

In addition, the policy states "The Board of Supervisors governs all legislative advocacy for the County and has established Board policy for legislative advocacy. Positions recommended by the Commission for legislative advocacy shall comply with established Board policy. In addition, County procedures for legislative advocacy shall be followed."

According to the policy, Commission advocacy before legislative bodies is appropriate if: "The Commission or the Commission's Executive Director makes a finding that there is a need for the Commission and the County to take a position on legislation or a policy which impacts the Commission's mission or operation and the issue is consistent with the Commission's Strategic Plan or with policy adopted by the Commission. In appropriate cases, the Executive Director shall bring an agenda item before the Commission to seek a Commission determination on the advocacy position; **and**

The Director of the County Office of Strategy and Intergovernmental Affairs makes a finding of, or coordinates action necessary for making a finding that, an identified issue is consistent with Board policy contained in the County Policy Manual, County Legislative Guidelines, or a specific Board action."

**SB 1109 Analysis**

Commission staff have provided a detailed analysis of the potential impact of SB 1109 to the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). HHSA has used this information to prepare a general analysis of the bill (Attachment 3).

**Current Status of SB 1109**

SB 1109 was introduced into the legislature on February 17, 2010. Identical bills have been previously introduced; SBX3 16 (Cox) introduced June 17, 2008 and SBX8 41(Cox) introduced February 10, 2010, both of which failed in committee. SBX8 41 was heard and failed in the Senate Health Committee on February 24, 2010. The Senate Health Committee is scheduled to hear SB 1109 on Wednesday April 14, 2010. Letters of opposition or support must be received by the Health Committee Chair no later than Wednesday, April 7 to be included in the official committee analysis.

According to the committee analysis, SB X8 41 was officially opposed by:

- California State Association of Counties,
- California Nurses Association,
- The Dental Health Foundation, and
- First 5 Association of California.

Several other organizations and individuals also opposed the bill; there were no support positions on file.

**Staff recommendation:**

Commission policy supports taking a position on SB 1109, as it would have a direct impact on the ability of the commission to carry out its strategic plan and would have a direct and significant impact on the Commission's ability to fulfill its core functions. Staff recommends that the Commission consider taking a position on SB 1109, to be submitted to the Senate Health Committee Chair by Wednesday, April 7, 2010 for inclusion in the committee's analysis of the bill.

**Fiscal Impact**

SB 1109 could result in the loss of \$38.8 million in local annual Proposition 10 revenues (plus leveraged dollars). In addition, Commission reserves of approximately \$129.7 million that are currently designated for serving local children ages 0 through 5 and their families in future years, would be dispersed among cities, school districts and the County General Fund with no requirement to serve the 0 through 5 population as stipulated by Proposition 10.