

Campbell Union School District
Johanna VanderMolen, *Superintendent*

Cambrian School District
Barry Groves, *Superintendent*

Luther Burbank School District
Richard Rodriguez, *Superintendent*

Moreland School District
Leslie Adelson, *Superintendent*

Union School District
Phil Quon, *Superintendent*

Campbell Union High School District
Rhonda Farber, *Superintendent*

January 26, 2006

Frederick J. Ferrer, Chairman
First Five Commission of Santa Clara County
4000 Moorpark Avenue, Suite 200
San Jose, CA 95117

REC'D FEB 02 2006


Dear Commission Chairman Ferrer:


For several years, we have partnered with Supervisor Beall on the Westside Children's Health Initiative Stakeholders Collaborative (WCHI). The purpose of the WCHI is two fold: 1) to develop and implement an effective health insurance enrollment outreach plan to six school districts in the West region of the County (Campbell Union Elementary, Cambrian, Luther Burbank, Moreland, Union, and Campbell High school districts), and 2) to raise parents' awareness about the importance of health insurance for children. Our partnership has experienced tremendous success. As a result of our efforts, over 1000 children in our schools have applied for health insurance. Without the outreach efforts of our collaborative, many children in need of health insurance may have gone unnoticed.

As members of the Westside Children's Health Initiative, we wish to express our strong support for Supervisor Beall's budget request submitted to Santa Clara County First Five on November 18, 2005. His request to allocate additional money to Component B will allow more children in need to be served. Given that First Five's mission is to serve all children, we think the Commission has an opportunity to use some of the money set aside in their reserve to expand preschool more equitably and serve more children in need of preschool. The Commission's Preschool plan as currently proposed spends the majority of their Preschool funds in one geographic location, the six zip codes along the Guadalupe Corridor, known as Component C. We strongly believe that eligibility should be based on the individual need of the child and not on a geographic location. We understand these six zip codes have highest number of children 0-5 with multiple risk factors. We also understand that families in this area need programs. However, there are families in all of our school districts with multiple risk factors who desperately need services. We are all painfully aware that after multiple years of budget cutbacks, there are fewer programs to provide critical services to help families in need.

We truly appreciate the Commission members' dedication devoted to serving those in need in our community. We share your commitment to the healthy emotional, physical and academic development of young children in our communities. There are many impoverished children with multiple learning barriers in our schools who can benefit from the Proposition 10 taxes. We strongly urge you to vote in support of Supervisor Beall's proposal.

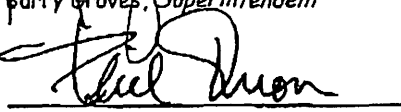
Respectfully,


Johanna VanderMolen, *Superintendent*


Barry Groves, *Superintendent*


Richard Rodriguez, *Superintendent*


Leslie Adelson, *Superintendent*


Phil Quon, *Superintendent*


Rhonda Farber, *Superintendent*