



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Inter-Departmental Correspondence  
Board of Supervisors



**Date:** August 15, 2012

**Board Meeting Date:** August 28, 2012

**Special Notice / Hearing:** None

**Vote Required:** Majority

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**From:** Supervisors Don Horsley and Carole Groom

**Subject:** Support Children Now's "The Children's Movement of California"

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Recommending that the President of the Board send a letter supporting Children Now's Children's Movement of California

**BACKGROUND:**

Children Now is a nonpartisan, multi-issue research, policy development, and advocacy organization dedicated to promoting children's health and education in California. Its mission is to find common ground among individuals, influential opinion leaders, interest groups, and policy makers, who together can develop and drive socially innovative policy changes to help all children achieve their full potential. The organization has taken a leadership role in uniting the voices of those individuals and organization concerned about children's well-being. In an effort to bring children's policy issues directly to the policymakers in a unified manner, Children Now established "The Children's Movement of California". The Movement's goals are as follows:

1. Adopting a comprehensive P-to-12 education revenue and reform package that establishes an equitable and adequate finance system, ensures transparency, enables greater local decision-making flexibility, and strengthens human capital and accountability.
2. Clarifying the state's role in the education system by focusing it on developing standards for student success and holding districts accountable for meeting those standards, including a greater emphasis on knowledge and skills in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and mathematics.
3. Implementing a comprehensive, high-quality early learning and development system for all children from birth to age five to ensure children's life-long success, and improving the system's alignment with early elementary through the use of such tools as a kindergarten readiness observation assessment.

4. Strengthening the state's afterschool infrastructure and building summer programs to deliver high-quality expanded learning opportunities and to support the preparation of future teachers.
5. Establishing a comprehensive, longitudinal data system that connects early learning and development through higher education, health, juvenile justice, child welfare and other data in order to better track and address the educational outcomes and well-being of children throughout their lives.
6. Better coordinating and streamlining the state's delivery of children's services, establishing a children's cabinet and promoting healthy homes as well as integrated school-based health centers and other student supports to improve access, cost efficiency and effectiveness.
7. Providing every California child with affordable health coverage and access to quality care.
8. Decreasing the number of children with dental caries to achieve better health outcomes and improve school attendance and student achievement.
9. Significantly reducing obesity rates among California children by implementing a more coordinated, multivariate approach.
10. Providing children at risk of entering the child welfare system with the supports and services they need to remain safe and stable, and ensuring that all children who enter the foster care system find legal permanence and are supported to become thriving adults.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

The Board has been asked to support Children Now's "The Children's Movement of California" by First 5 San Mateo County. The First 5 San Mateo County Commission approved a resolution to support "The Children's Movement of California" In March 2012.

By supporting the Movement, the Board is signifying its desire to have policy makers prioritize children's health and education. In doing so, the Board is not endorsing The Children's Agenda or any specific policy proposals. Nor is it prioritizing these needs about other key County priorities.

The Board has, in the past, indicated its support for children's issues through its unanimous adoption of the Bill of Rights for Children and Youth. The Children's Movement also reflects the same values as the County, in our work to enhance the quality of life for children and their family and to ensure their safety and wellbeing.