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Commissioners
First 5 Alameda County
1115 Atlantic Ave
Alameda, CA 94501

Dear Chair Herzfeld and Commissioners,

I am writing to inform you that at our meeting last Friday, the Steering Committee of the Planning Council voted to endorse Senator Feinstein's S. 3036, the Keep Families Together Act, and First 5 Alameda County's June 21, 2018 "Opposing Resolution for the Immigration Zero-Tolerance Policy." Thank you for your local leadership on renouncing these misguided policies that will have permanent repercussions on today's young children and families who are undergoing forced family separation when entering the United States.

The First 5 statement aligns with our Performance Measure related to Increasing Access to Early Care and Education (ECE) and our 2018 Policy Platform's priorities to take positions on federal issues that significantly impact ECE access and racial disparities, and protect access for immigrant families, among others.

In related work, last year the Planning Council hosted a meeting for ECE programs with immigration policy experts to equip them with tools for assisting families participating in their programs, and it has convened two trainings for ECE staff on working with children who have experienced trauma. We have recommended to the California Blue Ribbon Commission that California provide training for family child care providers and others on how to improve outreach to immigrant families and increase program enrollment.

We offer our partnership in implementing your enumerated Resolution commitments related to training community providers, supporting safe haven school policies, disseminating trustworthy information, and advocating for policies that minimize child harm and optimize their well-being.

Sincerely,

Melanie Mueller
Chair

