

Communications & Outreach Update

June 24, 2026



FIRST 5 ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA Weekly Digest



First 5 Association Testifies in Support of Bill Focused on Addressing Child Poverty

First 5 Association of California Executive Director Avo Makdessian testified before the Senate Human Services Committee this week in support of AB 1996, legislation authored by Assemblymember Mia Bonta (D-Oakland) to establish a 19-member California Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council charged with cutting statewide child poverty in half.

Assemblymember Bonta introduced an amendment in the committee adding a First 5 Network representative to the council, emphasizing that poverty in the earliest years causes the most lasting harm, shaping brain development, health, and school readiness. With First 5 at the table, the council's work will be informed by early childhood expertise and grounded in how state policy reaches families with young children in every county.



[Watch the Testimony »](#)

First 5 Association Co-Sponsors Bill Focused on Ending Child Poverty

Child poverty in California rose from a historic low of 7.5% in 2021 to 18.6% in 2024 after pandemic-era supports ended, but reversing that trajectory is within reach. First 5 Association of California proudly co-sponsors AB 1996 by Assemblymember Mia Bonta, which would establish a California Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council with a mandate to cut child poverty in half over the next decade. First 5's inclusion on the council ensures the plan is grounded in early childhood expertise and shaped by local implementation experience across every county.



[Read the Press Release »](#)



FIRST 5
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

FIRST 5
ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

F5 Association Policy Alignment

Comprehensive Care and Development

Preserve access to essential health and social services for young children and their families: AB 2756 creates the accountability infrastructure needed to ensure young children on Medi-Cal are actually receiving the vision services they are entitled to.

- Improve prevention, care coordination, screenings, navigation, and re-certification supports for Medi-Cal and other systems of care — Performance measures tracking time to exam, time to eyeglasses, and screening utilization will help identify where children are falling through the cracks between screening and follow-up care.
- Improve maternal and infant health outcomes in communities of color impacted by disparate outcomes — The bill's required equity stratification by race, ethnicity, and language will surface disparities in vision care access and utilization, enabling targeted interventions in communities experiencing the greatest gaps.

Strengthening Medi-Cal Vision Services Act

PROCLAMATIONS



June 2026 as Immigrant Heritage Month





Funded Partners

Points of Pride





PARENT-CHILD PARTICIPATION
Summer '26 Learning Pod Series

Topics include:
**Art, Movement, Sensory Play,
Nutrition, Music & More!**





Community Connection & Family Fun

City of Atascadero presents

**At Colony Park
5599 Traffic Way**

**SUMMER
MOVIES
IN THE PARK**

NOW SHOWING

**JUNE 13
ZOOTOPIA 2
PG**

**AUGUST 29
FOOTLOOSE
PG**

**Colony Park
5599 Traffic Way**

**Showtimes are
shortly after sunset**

**Bring Blankets &
Low-Back Chairs**

STARTING AT 7 PM! Join us for Family Fun,
Games & Activities before the Movie!
Food available for purchase! FREE to attend!

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SILVER SPONSOR

**Kenneth's
Heating and Air**

FRIEND SPONSORS

IDLER'S HOME

Father's Pizza

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 County of SLO
Public Libraries

FREE

BACK TO SCHOOL

EXTRAVAGANZA

SLO - CUESTA COLLEGE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1ST

10AM-2PM

Decorative elements include: a red apple, a stack of books, a red alarm clock, a globe, a pink backpack, a cluster of colorful balloons, and a star.

SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT INSTITUTE

FALL 2026



ROOTED TOGETHER

Empowering Families, Schools, and Communities to Support Children with Disabilities

Join Parents Helping Parents and the SLO County SELPA and CAC for our annual special education parent institute. It is a day filled with learning and connection.

September 26, 2026
 Loma Vista Community School
 San Luis Obispo
 9:00am-2:30pm

To Register:
 Scan QR Code or use the link
tinyurl.com/ParentEvent2026

Free Event
 Keynote Speaker
 3 Breakout Session Opportunities
 Exhibitors of Local Agencies
 Snacks and Lunch



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 Se habla español

September
Sneak Peak!

“Building Connections”
Program Update



Have a Super Summer! 🌞

