



CITY OF SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

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JUDY CHIRCO
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 9

February 15, 2006

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

Dear Commission Chairman Ferrer:

As a Councilmember representing a western City Council District and a former Cambrian School Board member, as well as a community member who worked on Access for All Children as a member of PACT, I am experienced and knowledgeable regarding the need for services in this area of San Jose. I am in full support of Supervisor Beall's budget request submitted to Santa Clara County First Five.

While working on the Westside Children's Health Initiative, we found a high level of need in this area. There are pockets of incredible need, which aren't being addressed in the current strategy. There are many children who live in the western region of the county who are not receiving needed services, and one of the major services these children would benefit from is undoubtedly preschool. I believe the Commission has an opportunity to expand preschool more equitably and give more children a chance to be school ready.

Supervisor Beall's proposal to reallocate additional money to Component B would help to rectify this situation and therefore allow more children to attend preschool. Simply put, a child in need is a child we must be committed to reaching. I urge the Commission to support this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy Chirco".

Councilmember Judy Chirco