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Early Childhood Development Leader Kris Perry Appointed to California Children and Families Commission

SACRAMENTO, CA – September 8, 2025 — First 5 California announces the appointment of Kris Perry to the California Children and Families Commission, also known as First 5 California. Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas appointed Perry to the Commission effective August 27, 2025. Her term will run through December 12, 2026.

Perry will replace outgoing Commissioner Jackie Majors and join the State Commission in advancing its mission to ensure California's youngest children get the best possible start in life.

"We are thrilled to welcome Kris Perry to the Commission," said Jackie Thu-Huong Wong, Executive Director of First 5 California. "Her experience and lifelong commitment to children and families will strengthen our efforts to support early childhood development, expand access to resources, and champion equity across California."

"Since joining the First 5 movement in 2000, I've been deeply committed to the optimal development of children from birth to five. My appointment as a Commissioner is a new opportunity to support the work of partners across the great state of California in their effort to move all young children forward," said Kris Perry.

About Kris Perry



Kristin "Kris" Perry is a nationally recognized leader in early childhood development and social justice. She began her career in child protective services in Alameda County before serving as Executive Director of First 5 San Mateo County, where she helped launch Preschool for All and universal healthcare initiatives. From 2005 to 2012, Perry served as Executive Director of First 5 California, elevating the Commission's role as a leading voice for young children and families.

Perry went on to serve as Executive Director of the First Five Years Fund in Washington, D.C., and later as President of the Save the Children Action Network, where she championed bipartisan support for early learning and care. In 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom appointed her as Deputy Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency for Early Childhood Development and

Senior Advisor to the Governor on Early Childhood, where she helped shape the state's Master Plan for Early Learning and Care.

Perry is also widely recognized as the lead plaintiff in the landmark Hollingsworth v. Perry case, which restored marriage equality in California. Perry is currently the Executive Director of Children and Screens: Institute of Digital Media and Child Development, a bipartisan organization that translates research to action around children's wellbeing in the digital age. She is a licensed clinical social worker, with an appointment to the California Social Workers Hall of distinction and holds degrees from UC Santa Cruz and San Francisco State University. Perry resides in Berkeley with her wife, Sandy, travelling often to visit their four sons and growing family.

About First 5 California

First 5 California was established in 1998 when voters passed Proposition 10, which taxes tobacco products to fund services for children ages 0 to 5 and their families. First 5 California programs and resources are designed to educate and support teachers, parents, and caregivers in the critical role they play during a child's first five years--to help California kids receive the best possible start in life and thrive. For more information, please visit www.cffc.ca.gov.