



September 02, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Request for Signature on SB 1083 (Skinner) – Helping Families Out of Homelessness

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of First 5 Alameda County, **we request your signature on Senate Bill 1083 (Skinner), the Helping Families Out of Homelessness Act of 2022.** SB 1083 would reinforce the state's investments to provide stable housing for families and amplify interventions that are successful by expanding the type of documents accepted for eviction and requiring a county to provide a caseworker.

Our mission at First 5 Alameda County is to continually invest and innovate to support young children and their families and caregivers. Experiencing prolonged homelessness has a permanent, damaging impact on the development of children. Our biennial [Kindergarten Readiness Assessment](#) (KRA) consistently finds that kindergarten readiness is strongly linked to family access to basic needs, with housing at the center. Findings from our 2021/22 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, a participatory research project that surveyed over 3000 parents/caregivers, early care and education professionals, TK and Kindergarten teachers in Alameda County, show that *family health & well-being and access to basic needs are associated with school readiness.* These findings identify **housing and basic needs as a top priority for families** and [build on the evidence](#) highlighting that the cost of living in Alameda County has far outpaced families' abilities to make ends meet, and those structural inequities result in disparate outcomes for families of color and those with low incomes.

Recent data shows that there are more than [8,000 families experiencing homelessness](#) in California. In 2018, the Alameda County homeless management information system showed 969 families with 2,917 members as



homeless, including 433 children ages birth to 5. We know that this is an undercount that does not accurately paint the narrative of families experiencing homelessness. The high costs of housing and population growth have made Alameda County a hot spot for housing instability and homelessness in the State of California. As a county agency that works with community partners serving families, many who are low income, we understand the impact of this crisis on the families we serve.

By increasing the capacity of programs that work, California can increase their homeless prevention impact. For these reasons, **First 5 Alameda County supports SB 1083 (Skinner) and respectfully requests your signature on this important measure.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristin Spanos".

Kristin Spanos
Chief Executive Officer
First 5 Alameda County

cc: Office of Governor Newsom
Office of Senator Nancy Skinner