



## **Statement from First 5 Alameda County on the Death of Supervisor Wilma Chan**

The tragic death of Supervisor Wilma Chan, the first Asian American to be elected to the Board of Supervisors, is a moment of profound sadness for the County of Alameda. Few have served our County for so long and with such honor and commitment to our children, families, and communities.

As an Assembly Member, and again serving as the first Asian American to hold the distinction of majority leader of the Assembly, she authored historic legislation to end the practice of hospitals overcharging uninsured and underinsured patients and to cover California's 800,000 uninsured children. She also secured approval of \$100 million to expand State Preschool.

Supervisor Chan was a founding Commissioner for the First 5 Alameda County Commission, serving twice for a total of 11 years. Her leadership and devotion increased access to services for thousands of children and families, while also championing and impacting educational opportunities for our youngest learners. She adeptly worked on family-centered issues such as addressing poverty, food insecurity, health, and job creation. Most recently, in partnership with First 5, her leadership called attention to "place," recognizing that neighborhood conditions are inextricably linked to child and family well-being, and the role public policy must play in rectifying long-standing practices that produce disparate life outcomes.

Her dedication to community partnership, coalition building, and racial justice was a gift of 30 years of public service. Her tireless upholding of the ideals of commitment to a greater good will be dearly missed and while we mourn her passing, we celebrate her life and thank her for the advancements she helped to achieve. First 5 commits to honoring Supervisor Chan's legacy in our work towards making this community a better place for our children and families.

On behalf of the First 5 Alameda County Commission and the staff, we extend our deepest condolences and heartfelt prayers to her loving family and dedicated staff.

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