



Children's Law Center
of Los Angeles



CWDA

NEWS RELEASE

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Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care Releases Recommendations to Reform California, Nation's Foster Care System

Panel's Effort Moves Child Welfare Issues, Urgent Need for Reform into National Spotlight

Sacramento, CA -- Calling a report released today by the Pew Commission on Foster Care a "first step towards reform" and "an opportunity for change," state child welfare experts and advocates today acknowledged the role that information in the report can play in addressing child welfare issues at the federal level and in California. The recommendations focus on financing and court improvement—issues hampering troubled foster care systems nationwide.

"The needs facing children in foster care and families in need are enormous and daunting," said Frank Mecca, Executive Director of the County Welfare Directors Association of California. "Today, the Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care took an important first step towards reform of our nation and our state's troubled foster care systems."

"The Pew Commission has moved the issues faced by half a million abused and neglected children into the national spotlight where they belong," said Miriam Aroni Krinsky, Executive Director of the Children's Law Center of Los Angeles. "It will give us the opportunity in California for further discussion for the needs of more than 89,000 children in foster care in this state."

The County Welfare Directors Association of California is a non-profit association representing the human service directors from each of California's 58 counties. The Association's mission is to promote a human services system that encourages self-sufficiency of families and communities, and protects vulnerable children and adults from abuse and neglect.

Children's Law Center of Los Angeles is a nonprofit, public interest law corporation funded by the Los Angeles Superior Court to serve as the "voice" in the foster care system for the vast majority of the 30,000 children under the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles County dependency court. As the largest representative of foster youth in California, if not the nation, CLC strives to identify areas where systemic reforms are needed and has worked effectively locally and statewide to bring about those more far-reaching changes.

The Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care is a national, nonpartisan panel composed of leading experts in child welfare and supported by a grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts to the Georgetown University Public Policy Institute. For more information and to see the recommendations, visit <http://www.pewfostercare.org>.

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