

Media Advisory

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LOS ANGELES EDUCATION SUMMIT TO FOCUS ON CHALLENGES FACING FOSTER YOUTH:

*Second gathering seeks to develop strategies to close the
education achievement gap for children in foster care.*

WHAT: “The Los Angeles Education Summit on the Needs and Challenges Facing Foster Youth: Identifying Obstacles and Forging Solutions” will be held in conjunction with the May, 2004 Foster Care Awareness Campaign. More than 100 Los Angeles leaders and decision-makers from the education, judicial, child welfare and advocacy community will build on last year’s summit and seek to develop new approaches to address the tremendous educational challenges of foster youth.

WHY: About three quarters of children in foster care currently perform below grade level, and nearly half have been held back in school. 46% of foster youth fail to complete high school, compared with 16% of non-foster youth. Once they leave the foster care system, typically around age 18, more than half of foster youth are unemployed, almost a third will become homeless, and one in five will be incarcerated within two years.

WHO: Featured Speakers include: **Congressman Adam Schiff**
Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich
Los Angeles Unified School District Board Member Julie Korenstein
Department of Children and Family Services Director Dr. David Sanders
Probation Chief Richard Shumsky
Los Angeles Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Michael Nash

WHEN: Friday, May 14, 2004
Breakfast and Registration begin at 8:00 AM

WHERE: St. Anne’s Maternity Home
155 N. Occidental Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90026