

University of San Diego

Digital USD

---

Children's Legislative Report Card

Children's Advocacy Institute

---

1-1-2000

## 2000 Children's Legislative Report Card

Children's Advocacy Institute, University of San Diego School of Law

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digital.sandiego.edu/law\\_cai\\_clrc](https://digital.sandiego.edu/law_cai_clrc)

---

### Digital USD Citation

Children's Advocacy Institute, University of San Diego School of Law, "2000 Children's Legislative Report Card" (2000). *Children's Legislative Report Card*. 21.

[https://digital.sandiego.edu/law\\_cai\\_clrc/21](https://digital.sandiego.edu/law_cai_clrc/21)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Children's Advocacy Institute at Digital USD. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Legislative Report Card by an authorized administrator of Digital USD. For more information, please contact [digital@sandiego.edu](mailto:digital@sandiego.edu).

# CHILDREN'S LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD

**LEGISLATIVE SESSION:** 1999 – 2000  
**REPORT CARD TERM:** 2000 (Final Report)

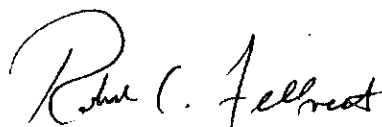
Dear Californians,

This *Report Card* reflects the final grades attributed to California legislators for their votes on child-related legislation during the 1999–2000 legislative session. The final grades you will see reflect each legislator's votes on 23 bills that were allowed to run their democratically-envisioned course through policy committees and fiscal committees, to their eventual votes on the Assembly and Senate floors, which are presented herein.

Frustrating our efforts to command accountability, many significant child-related bills are not part of the grading process. Legislative leaders held these important bills captive in the Senate and Assembly Appropriations Committees, refusing to allow the bills to come up for a vote, thus ensuring their demise while avoiding a public "nay" vote. When one has the power to determine which measures will come up for a vote, a 100% rating is not difficult to achieve. By hand-choosing the bills that will be voted upon, legislative leaders avoid having to make difficult choices and assure themselves of high grades on this and similar report cards. Consider a legislator who otherwise scored 100% on the 23 bills featured herein. If that legislator had the power to pull ten more important child-related bills out of suspense for a public vote, but he or she did not do so, a more appropriate grade might be 70%.

To the extent possible, this *Report Card* is intended to educate and inform you of your legislators' progress on improving the status of and outcomes for children in this state. We cannot tell you all there is to know about your legislators in this *Report Card*. Therefore, we urge you to communicate frequently with them so they know your expectations for California's children. Only through complete cooperation among child advocates, constituents, and their legislators can every California child be assured the opportunity to reach his or her full potential.

Sincerely,



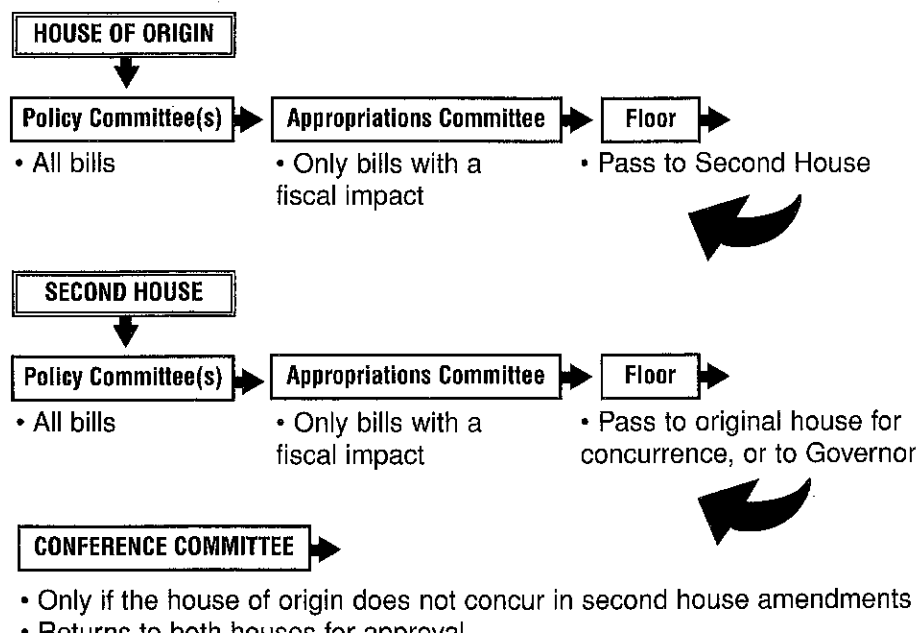
Robert C. Fellmeth  
Executive Director, Children's Advocacy Institute



## A Primer THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

After introduction by a legislator, a bill is heard in the appropriate policy committee(s), and if it has a fiscal impact is then heard in the Appropriations Committee in the house of origin (either Assembly or Senate). If a bill passes those committees, it is next voted upon by all members of that house (the "floor vote"). If the bill passes a floor vote in the house of origin, it then goes to the other house and begins the process all over again (policy committee(s), Appropriations Committee, and floor vote). At any of these points, the bill may be changed or "amended." If the bill is amended in the second house, it must return for a second vote on the floor of the house of origin (the "concurrence vote").

Once a bill passes both houses of the Legislature (and, if necessary, passes a concurrence vote in the house of origin), the Governor may sign it into law, veto it, or take no action within the constitutionally-prescribed time limit, thereby allowing it to become law without his/her signature. The only change a Governor may make in a bill, without sending it back to the Legislature, is to reduce or eliminate the money allocated in the bill.



## How the California Legislature Performed in 2000 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The California Legislature and Governor Gray Davis successfully collaborated to achieve some significant gains in 2000 for children and youth, particularly in the areas of child care, K-12 education, higher education, and juvenile crime prevention. A record budget surplus of more than \$18 billion over last year's revenue projections provided policymakers with an opportunity to begin the long overdue, significant investment in our children that is so badly needed. But for the most part, only baby steps toward that investment were made: one-time infusions of cash, without the long-term commitment to the base that the Children's Advocacy Institute (CAI) advocates as critical to sustaining the economic health of this state for future generations.

Child care chalked up important wins legislatively and in the state's 2000-01 Budget Act. Significant investment in California's child care infrastructure is critical to furthering the successful welfare-to-work activities of California's CalWORKs program, as well as assisting the hundreds of thousands of non-aided low-income working families that struggle on a daily basis to find and keep affordable, quality child care. The Children's Advocates Roundtable, convened by CAI, singled out child care as a top priority for Roundtable members to support as a coalition this year. Although Senator Martha Escutia and Assemblymember Dion Aroner deserve special thanks and enormous credit for their leadership again this year in expanding child care opportunities, the entire Women's Legislative Caucus is applauded in this *Report Card* for making significant expansion in child care funding their "bottom line" in the Budget Act. The Caucus truly made a difference in the final budget product by standing firm for child care. Due in no small part to those efforts, the 2000-01 Budget Act includes reinstatement of the child care tax credit and significant increases (\$138 million) in new spending for child care and development programs, including:

- cost of living adjustments (COLAs) of 3.17% for child care program reimbursement rates and "catch-up COLAs" to partially reimburse centers for past years when no COLA was provided;
- modest increases in subsidized child care programs. While the Legislature approved \$75 million in half-year costs for 24,000 new subsidized child care slots for infants to five-year-olds, the Governor approved only \$40 million of that appropriation and set aside a total of \$42 million in gubernatorial vetoes of Legislature-approved child care spending for one-time child care expenditures to be determined later;
  - a \$47 million increase to expand State Preschool for an additional 100,000 children over a two-year period that began in January 2000;
  - \$40 million for half-year expansion of full-day general child care for children up to age five;
  - \$55.1 million for Quality Improvement Activities (an increase this year of \$29.6 million), including \$15 million for a child care salary retention incentive program, \$6 million to bring child care center playgrounds into compliance with

back to life after the midnight deadline. As Republican Caucus members debated whether they would contribute the votes to allow a life-saving urgency clause to be added to the bill, Women's Caucus members rallied outside the closed door chanting, "CHILD CARE, CHILD CARE, CHILD CARE, CHILD CARE...." Several male members joined in the chant started by the Women's Caucus.

Notwithstanding these advances, three major deficiencies remain: (1) child care supply remains concentrated in middle class neighborhoods and is unavailable for many impoverished children; (2) compensation for child care workers remains among the lowest of any occupation; and (3) the increases do not allow assured child care for working poor parents, leaving the vast majority with limited opportunity to work their way out of poverty.

K-12 education continued to be a relative priority for the Davis Administration. Per pupil spending in California public schools was increased in the Budget Act to \$6,694 per pupil, an increase of \$669 per pupil (or 11%) over last year—an amount still lagging in comparison to per pupil spending nationally. This and other spending was enough of an increase to scuttle a California Teachers' Association-sponsored signature gathering effort to place an initiative on the ballot to raise per-pupil spending to the national average. The Budget Act also includes:

- \$143 million for teacher recruitment and retention at low-performing schools;
- \$85 million to provide bonuses to teachers and other certificated staff at low-performing schools that achieve improvements in pupil test scores;
- raises in the beginning salaries for school teachers;
- \$26 million to expand advanced placement (AP) course offerings;
- teacher tax credits (ranging from \$250 to \$1,500 each depending on the number of years of service in teaching);
- Governor's Merit Scholarship Program (\$1,000 scholarships to be awarded to each of the top-performing 10% of students in grades 9 through 12 at each public high school, without regard to family income); and
- \$109 million in K-12 professional development for teachers provided by a higher education consortium led by the University of California (UC), California State University (CSU), and private colleges.

One-time expenditures of current year funds for K-12 education include:

- \$425 million for the School Improvement and Pupil Achievement Block Grant, \$245 million of which is provided to school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools for specified improvements and the remaining \$180 million to school sites for local priorities as determined by school site councils;
- \$350 million in one-time spending for bonuses to school sites and school employees for meeting test score improvement criteria;
- \$250 million for the English Language and Intensive Literacy Program, a new summer school/after school program for English language learners in grades K-12; and
- \$175 million in education technology investments.

CSU system posted a 13% increase over last year. Both UC and CSU budgets will reduce summer enrollment fees to the same level charged in the fall, winter, and spring. California's community college spending increased 16% increase over last year's funding totals.

However, inflation and population increases reduce these raw number percentages by one third to one-half in actual impact. And more important, higher education capacity is not increasing to match population growth from 1991, even though a much higher percentage of youth need that education now for future jobs.

The most significant achievement of the Legislature and Governor this year was the enactment of SB 1644 (Ortiz/Poohigian) which, beginning in the 2001-02 budget year, will entitle all academically and financially-eligible students to a Cal Grant for higher education. No longer will Cal Grants be available only to the earliest applicants; if a student makes the grades in high school and meets the financial requirements for student aid, he or she will get a Cal Grant to help achieve higher education goals. While important as a benefit to many youth in need, the scope of this help is not as significant as press releases suggest. It funds tuition for public college at about \$1,500 per year and will pay for less than one-half of typical private school tuition. Taking room, board, and other costs into consideration, the grant will offset from 10%-25% of annual college costs.

Another significant win for California children and youth is contained in the agreement ultimately reached by the Legislature and Governor Davis to dramatically increase state investment in juvenile crime prevention strategies in AB 1913 (Cardenas/Schiff). Among other things, this bill appropriates \$121.3 million for local juvenile justice programs. To gauge the scope of this investment, consider that California spent only \$200 million total in 1997 on all juvenile crime prevention activities, compared to \$1.8 billion that same year to prosecute and incarcerate juveniles, according to a study by The California Wellness Foundation. No significant increases in state juvenile crime prevention spending have occurred since that report. And with the voter approval of Proposition 21 in March 2000—Pete Wilson's "Juvenile Crime Initiative" (which was also supported by Governor Davis)—considerably more is expected to be spent on prosecution and incarceration of juveniles after they have gotten into trouble, after people have been victimized.

AB 1913's \$121.3 million boost to juvenile crime prevention spending is significant—a 61% increase in the state's commitment to protect public safety by preventing juvenile crime before it happens, while preserving and enhancing future opportunities for California's at-risk youth. Countless academic studies, Governor-appointed blue ribbon task forces, the League of Women Voters, and various commissions have studied the problem of juvenile crime. All have come to the same conclusion: long-term reductions in juvenile crime will only result from significant investment in crime prevention strategies. It is time for California to heed those recommendations. CAI applauds the enactment, at long last, of the policy in AB 1913.

legislators consider available revenues and political priorities, some are voted out of suspense. The remainder are left to die without a public vote.

CAI's top priority bill for this year, SB 949 (Speier), was among the casualties in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. This important bill would have increased the number and the quality of licensed foster family providers available to care for abused and neglected children removed from their homes, by raising the reimbursement rates and instituting financial incentives for them to seek additional training. The bill also required the Department of Social Services to enhance its recruitment of foster families and adoptive parents for these vulnerable children. The measure enjoyed considerable Republican and Democratic support, yet it died on the Appropriations "suspense file," never receiving a public vote by that Committee.

Despite the fact that SB 949 would have increased family foster care rates in a four-step process (5% increase per year for four years), the bill actually would have resulted in immediate (and considerable) savings to the state and counties who share the cost of alternative placements in group homes and foster family agencies at up to ten times the cost of licensed foster family homes. More importantly than saving money, the bill would have resulted in more family-like placements—settings in which most foster children fare better and in which many are adopted by their foster parents.

Sometimes bills with minor fiscal implications, or no costs, also die on the suspense file. Such was the case for another CAI-sponsored bill, SB 1391 (Schiff) would have provided more accountability in the child welfare system by reversing the presumption of confidentiality in dependency court proceedings in a five-year pilot project in interested counties. Academic and media scrutiny of how the child welfare system responds to the needs of children in foster care is stymied by the current secrecy of the system. CAI has concluded that, instead of protecting children's privacy, current law serves more to protect the overburdened, under-resourced bureaucracy of social workers, dependents' counsel, and court officials—a system that needs fundamental reform by anyone's standards. CAI has joined the growing ranks of child advocates calling for more openness and accountability in the dependency court. Several states have already made the change. This bill was quite controversial, but—here's the kicker—had no costs, other than a Judicial Council study on the effectiveness of the five-year pilot project, costs considered by Judicial Council to be absorbable. Still, the bill was placed on and improperly died on the suspense file.

So who do we hold accountable for the demise of these two important bills and countless other child-friendly bills that met the same fate? Who should we work on to make our case next year? A select few decide which bills will be voted off the suspense file. In the Assembly, such decisions are made by Appropriations Committee Chair Carole Migden, Vice Chair Bill Campbell, Speaker of the Assembly Bob Hertzberg, and Minority Leader Scott Baugh. In the Senate, suspense file decisions are made by Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Patrick Johnston, Vice Chair Tim Leslie,

be transferred to any other candidate. Particularly in an election year, there must be a powerful urge to please this Governor. Who knows what really happened to these bills? Nobody will say.

The suspense file policy of setting aside policy items with major cost implications until the Budget Act is passed and revenues are accounted for is fiscally sound. But suspense file decisions should ultimately be made in a public forum with public votes for accountability. Henceforth, we shall publish a supplemental rating of the membership of the Senate and Assembly Appropriations Committees. That rating will include those meritorious child-related measures which were killed by the membership's failure to vote them out of the "suspense" file. Although this failure to act avoids a public negative vote, the consequence for children is the same. Some of these committee members may accede to the party's leadership or the Governor's veto threat in not insisting on release from suspense. However, their decision not to so release cost-saving measures for even a public vote by this "suspense" method precludes accountability by the legislative leadership or by the Governor who may defeat a measure without the properly required public veto. Since Appropriation Committee members are the officials in whom the People and the Legislature vest the authority to clear bills from suspense, they are properly held accountable for their termination.

Also troubling is the fact that so many of the bills lost on the suspense file and in the budget process would have improved the lot of children stuck in foster care—the system charged with addressing the needs of the 100,000 children removed from their homes because of parental abuse or neglect. Foster children, who figure so prominently in school drop-out, runaway, teen pregnancy, incarceration and other "youth failure" indices, need our help desperately and they need it now. Efforts to significantly reform the foster care system remain largely on hold—just as they have languished, with only modest improvements, for at least a decade. One notable improvement provided for in the Budget Act: Medi-Cal eligibility was expanded for foster children from the current age cut-off of 18 to age 21. The Governor and Legislature also approved a modest cost-of-living increase (roughly 3%) for foster care rates across the board in the Budget Act, but also approved a 10% increase for service providers (non-administrative) to the costliest placements at foster family agencies and group homes, further exacerbating the disparity in resources provided to licensed foster family providers that CAI's SB 949 would have addressed. Legislative champions for children in foster care this year included Senators Dede Alpert, Debra Bowen, Martha Escutia, Bruce McPherson, Kevin Murray, Deborah Ortiz, and Jackie Speier. In the Assembly, Dion Aroner, Roy Ashburn, Sheila Kuehl, Kevin Shelley, Darrell Steinberg, Ellen Corbett, and Carl Washington stand out on the issue. However, the Governor vetoed three major foster care bills—AB 1235 (Ashburn), AB 2392 (Corbett), and AB 2012 (Shelley)—all with veto messages indicating a lack of understanding of their terms, justification, and impact.

As mentioned in last year's *Interim Report Card*, Governor Davis and his staff continue to outpace Davis' predecessors in scrutinizing bills, sending them to the

September 30, 2000. California's share of the state Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) block grant was the largest of any state due to our shameful number one ranking in both the number of children living in poverty and the number of uninsured children. California was awarded \$859 million per year for the first three years, beginning in 1997. States had three years to use their allocations to provide health insurance for the growing ranks of uninsured children, and most recently, were allowed to apply for waivers to provide health insurance to the parents of those uninsured children. Unspent monies from California's first year allocation—\$590 million of the first \$859 million—will be reallocated to states for whom insuring the uninsured was a higher priority and that used their allocations. Without intervention by the President of the United States, in response to a late plea by Governor Davis and legislative leaders to give the state more time, California will certainly be the big loser. The only bigger losers: the swelling ranks of California's medically uninsured.

Because the Governor has repeatedly balked at committing tobacco settlement money to any specific purpose, rumors abound that this bill did not really run out of time, but was scuttled because Davis preferred to capture the CHIP millions administratively. Senate President Pro Tempore John Burton loudly and flatly denies that scenario. Both Assembly and Senate leadership and our U.S. Senators Boxer and Feinstein are now assisting the Governor's waiver request for more time to invest the \$590 million. Hopefully, their joint efforts will be successful and California will get another chance to place children's health insurance on the front policy burner.

Nevertheless, this *Report Card* includes notable legislative action to expand health coverage and simplify eligibility processes for children and families. CAI applauds the efforts of Senator Martha Escutia and Assemblymembers Gil Cedillo, Martin Gallegos, and Carole Migden to expand the ranks of the medically insured in California as noted in the "Subjects Graded" section.

One last major legislative disappointment for children's advocates must be mentioned. AB 273 (Scott), which would have instituted a handgun licensing and registration system (the number one priority of the Million Mom March, of which CAI was a part), died in the Senate without being taken up for a vote, at the author's request. The decision to abandon the bill came largely because Governor Davis urged a lull in gun control legislation after last year approving two major, long stalled gun control measures. Besides Assemblymember Jack Scott, who has long taken heat from gun owners' groups for his leadership on gun control issues, other champions include Assemblymember Kevin Shelley and Senator Don Perata. Interestingly, Senator Perata is considering launching a signature gathering effort to place a handgun licensing and registration initiative on the November 2002 ballot—the ballot on which Governor Davis would be running for reelection—if a gun licensing and registration measure is not enacted in the next legislative session. Let's hope that is not necessary.

## Subjects Graded 2000 BILLS

### POVERTY

#### Safety Net

##### **AB 1233 (Aroner) — CalWORKs program**

This bill clarifies counties' authority to offer "grant-based on-the-job training" activity in CalWORKs, as post-assessment or as community service, permitting diversion of grants for use in payment of wages to participants, making them eligible for earned income tax credit and other benefits of wage-based labor.

*STATUS: Passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Davis (Chapter 933, Statutes of 2000).*

##### **SB 962 (Escutia) — Public assistance payments**

This bill requires counties to offer recipients of CalWORKs the option of direct deposit banking if they offer it to county employees.

*STATUS: Passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Davis (Chapter 795, Statutes of 2000).*

### Child Support

##### **AB 1995 (Aroner) — Child support amnesty program**

This CAI-sponsored bill would have created a welfare debt forgiveness program for child support obligors on the condition they pay current child support obligations in full and on time until the child support obligation is discharged (when the child turns 18 or graduates from high school). Only the debt owed to the county and state government to reimburse for welfare benefits would have been forgiven (not debt owed to the family) and forgiveness would occur only after the child support obligation has been discharged upon child's reaching majority. During the time the obligor is making regular child support payments, interest would have ceased to accrue on the welfare debt owed to counties. If the obligor gets 60 days behind without satisfying a good cause exception, the welfare debt would have fallen back upon the child support obligor.

*STATUS: Passed by the Legislature but vetoed by Governor Davis. In his veto message, the Governor said: "While it eventually might produce increased collections sufficient to offset the cumulative costs of the program, this measure would result in*

*STATUS: Passed by the Legislature but vetoed by Governor Davis. In his veto message, the Governor said: "While this program may have merit, it will cost an additional \$1.2 million currently not appropriated in the 2000 Budget Act. This program should compete with other meritorious programs in next year's budget."*

**SB 2013 (Committee on Health and Human Services) — Food Stamp program**  
This bill requires DSS to develop (with the participation of stakeholder groups) a simpler and shorter application form for non-CalWORKs food stamp cases.

*STATUS: Passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Davis (Chapter 682, Statutes of 2000).*

## HEALTH

### General Health/Access to Health Care

**AB 93 (Cedillo) — Medi-Cal eligibility determination**

This bill would have made it easier for families to remain on Medi-Cal by eliminating the authority of the Department of Health Services to require status reports of enrollees more frequently than once a year.

*STATUS: Passed by the Legislature but vetoed by Governor Davis. In his veto message, the Governor said: "This bill would, in effect, result in continuous eligibility for every Medi-Cal beneficiary for a minimum of one year from the date that eligibility is established. This bill would go beyond the expansion of Medi-Cal eligibility agreed upon as part of the Budget Act of 2000 and could result in benefits for persons no longer in need of Medi-Cal."*

**AB 1722 (Gallegos) — Medi-Cal eligibility**

This bill would have eliminated burdensome and unnecessary paperwork to determine the assets of families (aside from income) that is not required by federal law in determining eligibility for Medi-Cal. Besides an immediate savings in administrative costs of \$3 million, this change in law would have made the program more user-friendly for the estimated 7.3 million uninsured Californians.

*STATUS: Passed by the Legislature but vetoed by Governor Davis. In his veto message, the Governor said: "This bill would exempt all assets, other than income, from Medi-Cal eligibility determinations under the 1931(b) program, beginning January 1, 2001. This bill is inconsistent with the eligibility rules agreed upon as part of the Budget Act of 1999 and related budget trailer bill legislation."*

**AB 2415 (Migden) — Healthy Families program**

This bill allows qualified immigrant children to enroll in the Healthy Families children's insurance program, regardless of their date of entry into the United States,

the Healthy Families program.

*STATUS: Passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Davis (Chapter 945, Statutes of 2000).*

**SB 87 (Escutia) — Medi-Cal eligibility**

This bill simplifies the Medi-Cal redetermination process for families of former CalWORKs recipients, and makes it easier for families to stay on Medi-Cal when they leave cash assistance for work.

*STATUS: Passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Davis (Chapter 1088, Statutes of 2000).*

### Injury Prevention/Safety

**SB 567 (Speier) — Child passenger restraints**

This bill expands the requirement to use child passenger safety restraints in vehicles for all children up to six years of age or 60 pounds. (Prior law only required use of child passenger safety restraints for children up to four years or 40 pounds.) This bill will sunset in one year, unless extended by additional legislation.

*STATUS: Passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Davis (Chapter 675, Statutes of 2000).*

**AB 2260 (Shelley) — School safety**

This bill establishes the Healthy Schools Act of 2000, requiring that the preferred method of managing pests at schoolsites be effective least toxic pest management practices. The bill requires each schoolsite to maintain records of all pesticide use at the schoolsite for a period of four years and make the records available to the public upon request; require, on an annual basis, the school district designee to provide to all staff and parents or guardians of pupils enrolled at a school written notification addressing, among other things, expected pesticide use; requires that the recipients be afforded the opportunity to register with the school district to receive information regarding individual pesticide applications; and requires the school district designee to post warning signs prior to application of pesticides at a schoolsite.

*STATUS: Passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Davis (Chapter 718, Statutes of 2000).*

## CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT

**SB 1703 (Escutia) — Child care**

This bill appropriates \$42 million for one-time child care expenditures for child care facility grants and loans.

training to access AB 212 monies—a plan that must be approved by the State Department of Education.

*STATUS: Passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Davis (Chapter 547, Statutes of 2000).*

## EDUCATION

### SB 1644 (Ortiz/Poohigian) — Student financial aid

This bill recasts the Cal Grant financial assistance program beginning with the 2001–02 school year to entitle all eligible students who make the grades and exhibit the financial need to obtain Cal Grant financial assistance. The program will no longer be administered on a “first come, first served” program funded at 25% of each graduating class. This bill is one of the greatest education investments in terms of enhancing California’s continued economic growth and exhibiting a commitment to equality in educational opportunity since the G.I. bill.

*STATUS: Passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Davis (Chapter 403, Statutes of 2000).*

### AB 1197 (Firebaugh) — Public postsecondary education

This bill would have allowed California students who are applying for a lawful immigration status to pay in-state tuition to attend state community colleges or public universities if they meet other requirements.

*STATUS: Passed by the Legislature but vetoed by Governor Davis. In his veto message, the Governor said: “In order for undocumented students to be exempt from paying non-resident tuition charges as called for in this legislation, [the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996] would require that all out-of-state legal residents be eligible for this same benefit. Based on Fall 1998 enrollment figures at the University of California and the California State University alone, this legislation could result in a revenue loss of over \$63.7 million to the State.”*

## CHILD PROTECTION

### SB 1348 (Vasconcellos) — Parenting education

This bill would have required the Superintendent, in consultation with the Secretary for Education, to submit a proposal to convene a summit, on or before September 1, 2001, regarding the advisability of developing a master plan for parenting education in nonschool settings. The bill would have required the superintendent to convene and conduct the summit pursuant to the approved plan, and would have required the various state departments to participate in the summit and collect, complete, and submit to the summit available research regarding, among other things, the causal relationship between the presence or absence of parenting skills and dysfunctional behavior.

youth until age 21. When that provision was adopted into the state Budget Act, this bill was amended to specify that, for the purpose of establishing eligibility for benefits under the Medi-Cal program for independent foster care adolescents under that option, there shall be no income or asset test applied.

*STATUS: Passed by the Legislature but vetoed by Governor Davis. In his veto message, the Governor said: “This bill does not appear necessary. The Department of Health Services currently does not impose income or asset tests on eligibility for this new optional eligibility group.”*

### SB 2091 (Ortiz) — Emancipating foster youth

This bill would have required the Department of Social Services to administer pilot programs in three counties (selected through a request for proposals process) to provide enhanced services to emancipating foster youth. This bill would have begun the long overdue process of identifying ways to promote success for this highly vulnerable population of young adults.

*STATUS: Passed by the Legislature but vetoed by Governor Davis. In his veto message, the Governor said: “[T]he services component of this bill is duplicative of the existing Independent Living Program, which currently operates in each county, providing services to all youth between the ages of 16 and 21. Implementing a pilot project to provide the same or similar services that currently are provided to all youth on a statewide basis is unnecessary. This bill permits an emancipated youth to reside with under age foster care youths. I believe this raises significant public policy concerns.”*

### SB 2160 (Schiff) — Dependent children: detention hearings

This CAI-sponsored bill establishes a legal presumption that children in dependency court would benefit by the appointment of independent legal counsel. In the event a court decided not to appoint counsel for a child, it must list the reasons why in the court record.

*STATUS: Passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Davis (Chapter 450, Statutes of 2000).*

### SB 1368 (Brulte) — Abandonment of newborn babies

This bill provides that no parent or other person having lawful custody of a child 72 hours old or younger may be prosecuted for child abandonment or endangerment if he or she voluntarily surrenders physical custody of the child to any on-duty employee at a public or private hospital emergency room or any additional location as designated by the local board of supervisors (e.g., fire stations, etc.). However, immunity from prosecution will not apply if the child shows signs of abuse when surrendered.

*STATUS: Passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Davis (Chapter 824, Statutes of 2000).*



JUVENILE JUSTICE

AB 1913 (Cardenas-Schiff) — Juvenile crime prevention plan

This bill doubles the state appropriation to a popular local law enforcement funding stream (Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund or SLESF). The bill also requires that 50% of the funding be expended on a comprehensive multiagency juvenile crime prevention plan, to be approved by the Department of Corrections, and requires evaluation reports to the Department and to the Legislature on the efficacy of specific juvenile crime prevention efforts.

STATUS: Passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Davis (Chapter 353, Statutes of 2000).

How Legislators Were Graded

METHODOLOGY

All the bills included in this *Report Card* would improve current law for children. An "AYE" vote on these measures represents a vote for children and is indicated by a "★." "NO" votes and abstentions are noted with a "–," indicating the legislator was "not there" for children. Abstentions count against a legislator's score because a legislator who fails to vote effectively votes "NO." In cases where a legislator had an excused absence when the floor vote was taken (for illness, legislative business, etc.), the vote will be noted with a "–\*" but will count as a "NO" vote for purposes of the legislator's total grade. Vacancies in a legislative seat are noted with a "V."

- ★ means **A VOTE FOR CHILDREN**  
(an "aye" vote)
- means **NOT THERE FOR CHILDREN**  
(a "no" vote or abstention)
- \* means **EXCUSED ABSENCE**  
(illness, legislative business, etc.)
- V means **VACANT SEAT**  
(legislator filled seat mid-term)

The 2000 *Children's Legislative Report Card* evaluates only floor votes on selected bills affecting children. When bills were amended in the second house, the concurrence vote in the house of origin was used to compute those legislators' scores, so that comparing Senate and Assembly votes on the same bills will reflect votes on

# N'S LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD

# 2000 FINAL REPORT

	POVERTY				NUTRITION				HEALTH				CHILD CARE			
	AB 1233	SB 962	AB 1995		AB 2631	SB 2013			AB 93	AB 1722	AB 2415	AB 2900	SB 87	SB 567	AB 2260	
Alarcón	★	★	★		★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Alpert	★	★	—		★	★			—	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Bowen	★	★	—		★	★			—	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Brulte	—	★	—		★	★			—	★	—	—	—	—	—	★
Burton	★	★	★		★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Chesbro	—	—	★		★	★			★	★	★	★	—	—	★	★
Costa	★	★	★		★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	—	★
Dunn	★	★	—		★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Escutia	★	★	—		★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Figueroa	★	★	★		★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Hayden	★	★	★		★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Haynes	—	—	—		—	—			—	★	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hughes	★	★	★		★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Johannessen	—	★	★		—	—			★	★	—	★	—	—	—	—
Johnson	—	—	—		—	—			★	★	—	—	—	—	—	★
Johnston	—	★	★		★	—			—	★	★	★	★	★	—	★
Karnette	★	★	—		★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Kelley	—	★	—		—	★			★	★	—	—	—	—	—	★
Knight	—	—	—		—	★			★	★	—	—	—	—	—	★
Leslie	—	★	—		—	—			★	★	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lewis	—	—	—		—	★			★	★	—	—	—	—	—	—
McPherson	—	★	★		★	★			★	★	—	★	—	★	★	★
Monteith	—	—	—		★	—			★	★	—	—	—	—	—	—
Morrow	—	—	—		—	—			★	★	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mountjoy	—	—	—		—	—			★	★	—	—	—	—	—	—
Murray	★	★	★		★	★			★	★	★	★	—	★	★	★
O'Connell	★	★	★		★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Ortiz	★	★	—		★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Peace	—	—	★		★	★			★	★	★	—	★	—	—	—
Perata	★	★	★		★	—			★	★	★	—	★	★	★	★
Polanco	★	★	★		★	★			★	★	★	★	—	★	★	★
Poochigian	—	—	—		—	★			—	★	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rainey	—	★	★		★	★			★	★	★	—	—	—	★	★
Schiff	—	★	★		★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Sher	★	★	★		★	—			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Solis	★	★	★		★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Solo	★	★	—		★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Speler	★	★	—		★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Vasconcellos	—	★	★		★	★			★	★	★	—	★	★	★	★
Wright, C.	★	★	★		★	★			★	★	—	★	★	★	—	★

Aanestad	—	★	★		—	★			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ackerman	—	—	—		—	—			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	★
Alquist	★	★	★		★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Aroner	★	★	★		★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	—	★
Ashburn	—	—	★		—	—			—	—	—	—	★	—	—	—
Baldwin	—	★	★		—	—			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bates	—	★	★		★	★			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	★

	EDUCATION				CHILD PROTECTION				JUVENILE JUSTICE				1999-2000 Legislative Session Final Grade			
	SB 1644	AB 1197			SB 1348	SB 147	SB 2091	SB 2160	SB 1368	AB 2464	AB 1913	2000 Votes for Children	2000 Grade	1999 Grade		
Alarcón	★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	—	22 of 23	98%	93%	Alarcón	95%
Alpert	★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	21 of 23	91%	100%	Alpert	96%
Bowen	★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	22 of 23	96%	93%	Bowen	95%
Brulte	★	—			—	★	—	—	★	★	★	10 of 23	43%	36%	Brulte	40%
Burton	★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	23 of 23	100%	100%	Burton	100%
Chesbro	★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	19 of 23	83%	93%	Chesbro	88%
Costa	★	—			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	20 of 23	87%	79%	Costa	83%
Dunn	★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	22 of 23	96%	96%	Dunn	96%
Escutia	★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	22 of 23	96%	96%	Escutia	96%
Figueroa	★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	23 of 23	100%	93%	Figueroa	97%
Hayden	★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	—	22 of 23	96%	82%	Hayden	89%
Haynes	★	—			—	—	—	—	★	★	★	5 of 23	22%	11%	Haynes	17%
Hughes	★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	23 of 23	100%	86%	Hughes	93%
Johannessen	★	★			—	—	—	—	★	★	★	10 of 23	43%	39%	Johannessen	41%
Johnson	★	—			—	—	—	—	★	★	★	7 of 23	30%	18%	Johnson	24%
Johnston	★	★			—	★	★	★	★	★	★	18 of 23	78%	68%	Johnston	73%
Karnette	★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	22 of 23	96%	100%	Karnette	98%
Kelley	★	—			—	★	★	—	★	★	★	11 of 23	48%	43%	Kelley	46%
Knight	★	—			—	—	—	—	★	★	★	8 of 23	35%	18%	Knight	27%
Leslie	★	—			—	—	—	—	★	★	★	7 of 23	30%	21%	Leslie	26%
Lewis	★	—			—	—	—	—	★	★	★	5 of 23	22%	18%	Lewis	20%
McPherson	★	—			—	★	—	—	★	★	★	16 of 23	70%	75%	McPherson	73%
Monteith	★	—			—	—	—	—	★	★	★	7 of 23	30%	18%	Monteith	24%
Morrow	★	—			—	—	—	—	★	★	★	5 of 23	22%	21%	Morrow	22%
Mountjoy	★	—			—	—	—	—	★	★	★	7 of 23	30%	11%	Mountjoy	21%
Murray	★	★			★	★	★	—	★	★	★	21 of 23	91%	86%	Murray	89%
O'Connell	★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	23 of 23	100%	89%	O'Connell	95%
Ortiz	★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	22 of 23	96%	96%	Ortiz	96%
Peace	★	—			—	★	★	—	★	★	★	12 of 23	52%	61%	Peace	57%
Perata	★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	21 of 23	91%	96%	Perata	94%
Polanco	★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	20 of 23	87%	89%	Polanco	88%
Poochigian	★	—			—	—	—	—	★	★	★	6 of 23	26%	36%	Poochigian	31%
Rainey	★	—			—	—	★	—	★	★	★	15 of 23	65%	68%	Rainey	67%
Schiff	★	—			—	★	★	★	★	★	★	20 of 23	87%	96%	Schiff	92%
Sher	★	★			—	★	★	★	★	★	★	20 of 23	87%	93%	Sher	90%
Solis	★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	23 of 23	100%	100%	Solis	100%
Solo	★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	22 of 23	96%	96%	Solo	96%
Speler	★	★			★	★	★	—	★	★	★	21 of 23	91%	86%	Speler	89%
Vasconcellos	★	—			★	★	★	—	★	★	★	17 of 23	74%	79%	Vasconcellos	77%
Wright, C.	★	★			—	★	★	★	★	★	★	20 of 23	87%	50%	Wright, C.	69%

Aanestad	★	—			—	★	★	★	★	★	★	10 of 23	43%	25%	Aanestad	34%
Ackerman	★	—			—	—	—	—	★	★	★	6 of 23	26%	18%	Ackerman	22%
Alquist	★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	23 of 23	100%	100%	Alquist	100%
Aroner	★	★			★	★	★	★	★	★	★	22 of 23	96%	96%	Aroner	96%
Ashburn	★	★			—	★	★	★	★	★	★	11 of 23	48%	25%	Ashburn	37%
Baldwin	—	—			—	—	—	—	★	★	★	6 of 23	26%	21%	Baldwin	24%
Bates	★	—			—	★	—	—	★	★	★	12 of 23	52%	36%	Bates	46%

# EN'S LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD

# 2000 FINAL REPORT

	POVERTY			NUTRITION			HEALTH			CHILD CARE				
	AB 1233	SB 962	AB 1995	AB 2631	SB 2013	AB 93	AB 1722	AB 2415	AB 2900	SB 87	SB 567	AB 260	SB 1703	AB 212
Cox	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	-	-	★	★	-	★	-
Cunneen	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-	★	★	★	★	★
Davis	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Dickerson	-	★	★	★	★	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	★	-
Ducheny	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Dutra	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-	★	★
Firebaugh	★	-	★	★	-*	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Florez	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Floyd	★	★	★	★	★	-	-	★	-	-	★	-	-	-
Frusetta	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gallegos	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Granlund	-	★	★	-	-	-	★	-	-	★	-	-	-	★
Havice	★	★	★	★	-	★	★	-	★	-	★	★	★	★
Hertzberg	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Honda	★	-*	★	★	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
House	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jackson	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Kalcoogian	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Keeley	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Knox	-	★	★	★	-*	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Kuehl	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Leach	-	★	★	★	★	-	★	-	-	★	★	-	★	★
Lempert	★	★	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Leonard	-	★	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	★	-	-	-	-
Longville	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Lowenthal	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Machado	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Maddox	-	★	★	-	★	-	★	★	-	★	★	-	-	-
Maldonado	-	★	★	★	-*	★	★	★	-	★	★	★	★	★
Margett	-	★	★	-	★	★	★	-	-	-	-	-	★	★
Mazzoni	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
McClintock	-	-	★	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Migden	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Nakano	-	-	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	-	★	★	★	★
Olberg	-	★	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oller	-	-	★	★	★	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pacheco, Robert	-	★	★	★	★	-	★	-	-	-	-	-	★	★
Pacheco, Rod	-	★	-	★	★	-	★	-	-	-	★	-	★	★
Papan	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Pescetti	-	★	★	★	★	★	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Reyes	★	★	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	-	★	★
Romero	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Runner	-	-	★	★	-*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	★	★
Scott	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Shelley	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Steinberg	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Strickland	-	★	★	★	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	★	-	★
Strom-Martin	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★

EDUCATION		CHILD PROTECTION						JUVENILE JUSTICE		1999-2000 Legislative Session Final Grade				
SB 1644	AB 1197	SB 1348	SB 147	SB 2091	SB 2160	SB 1368	AB 2464	AB 1913	2000 Votes for Children	2000 Grade	1999 Grade			
★	-	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	16 of 23	70%	36%	Cox	53%	
★	-	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	19 of 23	83%	75%	Cunneen	79%	
★	★	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	22 of 23	96%	96%	Davis	96%	
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	13 of 23	57%	43%	Dickerson	50%	
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	23 of 23	100%	96%	Ducheny	98%	
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	22 of 23	96%	100%	Dutra	98%	
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	21 of 23	91%	100%	Firebaugh	96%	
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	21 of 23	91%	68%	Florez	80%	
★	-	★	★	★	★	★	-	-	13 of 23	57%	71%	Floyd	64%	
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	0 of 23	0%	68%	Frusetta	34%	
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	23 of 23	100%	100%	Gallegos	100%	
★	-	-	★	-	★	★	★	★	11 of 23	48%	25%	Granlund	37%	
★	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	19 of 23	83%	93%	Havice	88%	
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	23 of 23	100%	100%	Hertzberg	100%	
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	20 of 23	87%	96%	Honda	92%	
★	-	-	★	-	★	★	★	★	7 of 23	30%	25%	House	28%	
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	23 of 23	100%	100%	Jackson	100%	
★	★	-	-	-	★	★	-	★	6 of 23	26%	21%	Kalcoogian	24%	
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	23 of 23	100%	96%	Keeley	98%	
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	21 of 23	91%	100%	Knox	96%	
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	23 of 23	100%	100%	Kuehl	100%	
★	-	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	16 of 23	70%	46%	Leach	58%	
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	22 of 23	96%	89%	Lempert	93%	
★	★	-	★	-	★	★	★	★	9 of 23	39%	39%	Leonard	39%	
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	23 of 23	100%	100%	Longville	100%	
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	23 of 23	100%	100%	Lowenthal	100%	
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	22 of 23	96%	96%	Machado	96%	
★	-	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	13 of 23	57%	43%	Maddox	50%	
★	-	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	18 of 23	78%	71%	Maldonado	75%	
★	-	-	★	-	★	★	★	★	10 of 23	43%	29%	Margett	36%	
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	23 of 23	100%	100%	Mazzoni	100%	
★	-	-	-	★	★	★	★	★	6 of 23	26%	29%	McClintock	28%	
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	23 of 23	100%	96%	Migden	98%	
★	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	18 of 23	78%	93%	Nakano	86%	
★	-	-	★	-	★	★	★	★	7 of 23	30%	32%	Olberg	31%	
★	-	-	★	-	★	★	★	★	7 of 23	30%	29%	Oller	30%	
★	★	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	15 of 23	65%	64%	Pacheco, Robert	65%	
★	-	-	★	-	★	★	★	★	13 of 23	57%	43%	Pacheco, Rod	50%	
★	★	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	22 of 23	96%	82%	Papan	89%	
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	18 of 23	78%	71%	Pescetti	75%	
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	21 of 23	91%	82%	Reyes	87%	
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	23 of 23	100%	96%	Romero	98%	
★	-	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	11 of 23	48%	32%	Runner	40%	
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	22 of 23	96%	100%	Scott	98%	
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	23 of 23	100%	100%	Shelley	100%	
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	23 of 23	100%	100%	Steinberg	100%	
★	★	-	★	★	★	★	★	★	13 of 23	57%	43%	Strickland	50%	
★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	23 of 23	100%	100%	Strom-Martin	100%	



## Children's Advocacy Institute

### Locations

**San Diego**  
University of San Diego  
5998 Alcalá Park  
San Diego, CA 92110  
(619) 260-4806  
(619) 260-4753 - fax

**Sacramento**  
926 J Street, Suite 709  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 444-3875  
(916) 444-6611 - fax

**Information Clearinghouse  
on Children (ICC)**  
5998 Alcalá Park  
San Diego, CA 92110  
(619) 260-4806  
childrensissues@acusd.edu  
<http://www.acusd.edu/childrensissues>

### Staff

**Robert C. Fellmeth, J.D.**, *Executive Director*  
**Kathryn Dresslar**, *Senior Policy Advocate*  
**Elisa Weichel, J.D.**, *Administrative Director*

**Kim Parks**, *Administrative Assistant*  
**Stephanie Reighley**, *Administrative Assistant*  
**Louise Jones**, *Administrative Assistant*

© 2000 by the Children's Advocacy Institute

The Children's Advocacy Institute is part of the Center for Public Interest Law at the University of San Diego School of Law. The Information Clearinghouse on Children is a project of the Children's Advocacy Institute.



University of San Diego  
Children's Advocacy Institute  
5998 Alcalá Park  
San Diego, CA 92110-2492