



## Children's Advocacy Institute

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### Children's Honor Roll Announced at Breakfast of Champions

Legislators who were "there for children" in the 1997-98 legislative session will be recognized on a Children's Honor Roll, to be unveiled at the first annual Breakfast of Champions on Wednesday, February 24, 8:00 - 10:30 a.m., in the State Capitol. The event, sponsored by the Children's Advocacy Institute (CAI), honors legislators who scored 90% or higher on the Children's Legislative Report Card (Report Card). CAI publishes two Report Cards for each legislative session, an Interim Report after the first year and a Final Report after the second year.

"Through their votes on important bills, legislators can make a real difference in the lives of California's children," said Robert C. Fellmeth, CAI Executive Director. "All too often in the political arena, legislators "take a walk," rather than stand up for children -- and children suffer as a result. The Report Cards provide a record of children's policy progress in the legislative session, and the votes that made it happen."

Seventeen out of the 120 state legislators received perfect final grades of 100%. Thirty-nine more received final grades in the ninetieth percentile. All 56 will be named on the Children's Honor Roll and will be recognized at the Breakfast of Champions. (The list of Honor Roll members is attached.)

The Children's Legislative Report Card, Final Report includes the average score of each legislator on 1997 bills important to children's well-being (the 25 bills were described in the Interim Report released last May); an average score on key 1998 bills (31 additional bills described in the Final Report); and a final percentage grade (an average of the two scores) reflective of each legislator's total "votes for children."

CAI is an academic center at University of San Diego, School of Law, with offices there and in Sacramento. CAI advocates for the well-being of children through the courts, legislature and regulatory agencies.

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The Children's Advocacy Institute is pleased to announce the members of its

1997-98  
Children's Honor Roll

and would like to thank the following Legislators who were there for children when it counted:

Senator Dede Alpert	Assemblymember Martha Escutia
Senator Ruben Ayala	Assemblymember Liz Figueroa
Senator John Burton	Assemblymember Martin Gallegos
Senator Leroy Greene	Assemblymember Sally Havice
Senator Tom Hayden	Assemblymember Robert Hertzberg
Senator Teresa Hughes	Assemblymember Mike Honda
Senator Patrick Johnston	Assemblymember Fred Keeley
Senator Betty Karnette	Assemblymember Wally Knox
Senator Bill Lockyer	Assemblymember Sheila Kuehl
Senator Jack O'Connell	Assemblymember Ted Lempert
Senator Richard Polanco	Assemblymember Diane Martinez
Senator Herschel Rosenthal	Assemblymember Kerry Mazzoni
Senator Adam Schiff	Assemblymember Carole Migden
Senator Byron Sher	Assemblymember Kevin Murray
Senator Hilda Solis	Assemblymember Grace Napolitano
Senator Mike Thompson	Assemblymember Deborah Ortiz
Senator Diane Watson	Assemblymember Don Perata
Assemblymember Elaine Alquist	Assemblymember Jack Scott
Assemblymember Dion Aroner	Assemblymember Kevin Shelley
Assemblymember Joe Baca	Assemblymember Virginia Strom-Martin
Assemblymember Debra Bowen	Assemblymember Mike Sweeney
Assemblymember Valerie Brown	Assemblymember Helen Thomson
Assemblymember Cruz Bustamante	Assemblymember Tom Torlakson
Assemblymember Tony Cardenas	Assemblymember Antonio Villaraigosa
Assemblymember Dennis Cardoza	Assemblymember Edward Vincent
Assemblymember Gil Cedillo	Assemblymember Carl Washington
Assemblymember Susan Davis	Assemblymember Howard Wayne
Assemblymember Denise Moreno Ducheny	Assemblymember Scott Wildman