



# MEDIA ADVISORY

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**\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\***

## **California Legislative and Judicial Leadership Join Forces to Improve Lives and Futures of Foster Youth**

### **New Report Details Positive Economic and Social Impact of Investing in Foster Youth**

**Press Conference**

**Monday, March 9, 2009 - 11:00 a.m.**

**Room 1190, State Capitol  
Sacramento, California**

California has the nation's largest foster care population with more than 75,000 children now living in foster care. Each year, approximately 5,000 California youth emancipate from the state's foster care system at age 18 or 19. In most cases, these young people have neither a family to depend upon nor a support system behind them. As a result, youth "aging out" of foster care experience low educational achievement, homelessness, unemployment, unplanned pregnancies, and incarceration at far higher rates than other youth.

Recent federal legislation presents California with an historic opportunity to access federal funding for programs to assist foster children and their families. Assembly Bill 12 (Beall & Bass), the California Fostering Connections to Success Act, would enable California to implement provisions of the new federal law that could help build a brighter future for our state's most vulnerable children and result in net fiscal savings for the state during challenging economic times. AB 12 has garnered bipartisan support from California's legislative, judicial, child welfare and advocacy communities.

This press conference will feature the release of a new report highlighting the positive impact of implementing this measure and summarizing the cost savings California can realize. Along with **former foster youth**, speakers include:

**Speaker Karen Bass  
California State Assembly**

**Assembly Member Jim Beall, Jr.  
Author, Assembly Bill 12, The Fostering Connections to Success in  
California Act**

(more)

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**Associate Justice, California Supreme Court**  
**Chair, California Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care**

**President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg**  
**California State Senate**

**TO RSVP OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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