



**CELEBRATING 40 YEARS**

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GRANTMAKERS

*Advancing Effective, Responsible Giving*

Thursday, June 05, 2014

Ms. Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer  
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
Kenneth Hahn  
Hall of Administration  
500 W. Temple St, Ste 383  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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*President and CEO*

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Dear Ms. Hamai,

As members of Southern California Grantmakers (SCG), we the undersigned are writing to voice our support for the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendations and to urge you to adopt them. SCG is a membership association of more than 170 private and public-sector grantmakers who fund in Southern California and whose mission is to support and advance effective, responsible philanthropy for the public good. The undersigned organizations have made approximately \$160,898,567 million in philanthropic investments over the past 12 months.

As grantmakers to numerous community-based organizations and County departments serving foster youth and families and as funders of research to better understand how those in the foster care system can be better served, we believe that the conclusions the Commission reached and the recommendations they make are well-grounded and will help strengthen foster care service delivery in our community.

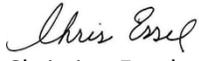
While we can understand how all five members of the Board may not agree with all 42 recommendations presented in the Commission's thorough analysis of how to improve child safety in our County, we hope you seize this opportunity to unify in your agreement that this work is thoughtful, evidence-based and deserving of endorsement. The children in our community have no voice and rely on yours to ensure that they receive the protection to which they are entitled.

The essential point made in the Commission's report is that child safety is the joint responsibility of multiple County agencies. For improvements in child safety to occur, it is vital that these agencies understand their respective roles and are held accountable to work together as a team. You have a wonderful opportunity to make sure that this key finding is acknowledged and that the County's operational structure reflects this shared responsibility for outcomes.

We applaud the Board's decision to form the Blue Ribbon Commission to determine how to ensure the safety of children in our County. The Commission has done an admirable job synthesizing reams of testimony and has developed recommendations for improving the County's operations that are based on a thorough examination of the evidence brought forth.

The Commission report points out that collaboration within County government is central to ensuring child safety in our community. Likewise, collaboration among those of you on the Board of Supervisors is central to approving the Commission's findings and moving with improvements for child protection. We hope that you will take advantage of this historic moment to act—and to act in—unison in the spirit of doing what's right for the children of this County.

Sincerely,



Christine Essel  
President and CEO  
Southern California Grantmakers



Wendy Garen  
President & CEO, The Ralph M. Parsons  
Foundation; SCG Board Chair



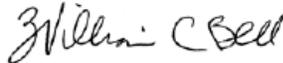
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President and Chief Executive Officer  
Casey Family Programs



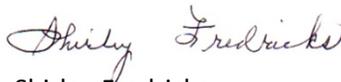
Judy Belk  
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The California Wellness Foundation



Wendy Chang  
Director  
Dwight Stuart Youth Fund



Cara Esposito  
Executive Director  
The Leonetti/O'Connell Family Foundation



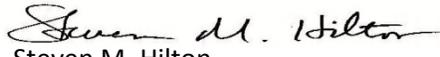
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Vice President  
The Lawrence Welk Family Foundation



Antonia Hernández  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
California Community Foundation



Cathy Hession  
President  
The Carol & James Collins Foundation



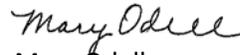
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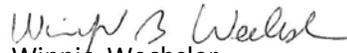
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Unihealth Foundation



Beatriz Solís  
Director, Healthy Communities South  
The California Endowment



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