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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

**TOWN HALL MEETING ON LOCAL SUPPORT
FOR FOSTER CHILDREN SET FOR MONDAY MARCH 28**

(REDONDO BEACH, CA) -- An astounding one in ten foster children nationwide lives in Los Angeles County, home of one of the nation's largest child welfare systems. There are almost four thousand foster children in the South Bay alone.

The League of Women Voters Beach Cities and the Redondo Beach Library have teamed up to bring public attention to the tremendous need for increased support at the local level for youth in the Los Angeles County foster care system.

Miriam Krinsky, Executive Director of the Children's Law Center of Los Angeles, will speak on "The State of Foster Care -- how you can make a difference" at a town hall meeting to be held on Monday, March 28 from 7:00 to 8:45 p.m. at the Redondo Beach Main Library, 303 N. Pacific Coast Highway, Redondo Beach.

Her talk will address local, statewide and national issues that impact foster parents and others who provide care, education and public services to foster children. There will be an open forum following Ms. Krinsky's presentation, allowing attendees to voice their opinions, questions and concerns.

Krinsky presides over a 185 person staff of lawyers, paralegals and investigator/social workers that serve as the "voice" in the foster care system for the vast majority of the 30,000-plus children under the jurisdiction of our dependency court.

"Some children stay in foster care for only a few weeks or months while their parents get their lives back on track," Krinsky says, "but thousands of others cannot safely be returned home, and too many grow up within the foster care system. As communal 'parents' for these children, we need to provide foster youth with the stability, education, and nurturing that will help put them on the path to stable and productive adult lives."

It is hoped that the one-time forum will help raise awareness of, and build public support for, the needs of foster children in the South Bay area and throughout the country