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**CONVENTION RELEASE**

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We owe much to our children in foster care  
*Advocate Edward Howard works to meet needs of children cared for by the state*

**SACRAMENTO** – Edward Howard has made a career of representing children in dire circumstances, especially those in foster care.

“The sources of our moral obligation to foster children are legal, moral and spiritual,” Howard said on Friday, April 30, during a presentation to several thousand PTA members during the California State PTA’s 111<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention. “The most awesome power we give to our government is the power to come into our homes and take our children away.”

As the Senior Counsel for the Children’s Advocacy Institute (CAI) at the University of San Diego Law School, Howard works to improve children’s status and well-being by representing their interests and rights to a safe, healthy childhood. CAI has been at the forefront of efforts to restore critical funding for children’s welfare services and foster care. CAI represents these children in the courts, before the state legislature and elsewhere.

There is still much progress that must be made, according to Howard: “The way we treat these children – our children – is the wrongest wrong there is.”

About 60,000 children in California under the age of 18 are in foster care, according to research published in March 2010 by the Public Policy Institute of California.