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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 15, 2006

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Profiteers Push Drug Testing On Capitol Hill

Federal Studies Show Testing Fails to Deter Youth Drug Use

WASHINGTON, DC – Drug testing industry insiders, along with lawmakers and a former major league baseball star, will promote their products today at a press conference on Capitol Hill, despite the fact that federally-funded studies show the practice to be ineffective at deterring youth drug use.

The press conference is being hosted by the organization Not My Kid. But Steve Moak, founder of the group, also happens to own the drug testing company First Check Diagnostics LLC. While Moak does make some drug testing kits available for free, he also sells them for as much as \$30 a piece.

“Mr. Moak operates just like a schoolyard drug pusher: the first one’s free. But once you’re hooked, testing your kid can quickly become an expensive habit,” said Kris Krane, executive director of Students for Sensible Drug Policy. “Drug testing fails to reduce youth drug abuse by undermining important relationships of trust between children and their parents. Tactics like the ones being promoted here today do nothing to keep kids safe, but merely fatten the pockets of Mr. Moak and his friends in the drug testing industry.”

The largest study ever conducted on youth drug testing, which was federally-funded, looked at 94,000 students at 900 schools around the country and found that the practice “does not prevent or inhibit student drug use...even random testing that potentially subjects the entire student body.”

Former Arizona Diamondbacks pitcher Todd Stottlemyre will speak at the press conference, as will Sen. Jon Kyl (R-AZ), Rep. John Shadegg (R-AZ), and Rep. Trent Franks (R-AZ). The event is at 3:30 PM in room HC-7 of the Capitol.

Students for Sensible Drug Policy, a national organization with college and high school chapters, is committed to providing education on harms caused by the War on Drugs, working to involve youth in the political process, and promoting an open, honest, and rational discussion of alternative solutions to our nation's drug problems.

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