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VOTE ON NOVEMBER 7, 2006

PAFCO ADVOCACY MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS ON BALLOT MEASURES

The PAFCO Advocacy 501C4 Board used this basic criteria/question to determine whether to take a position or not and also for or against a particular proposition: *Did this ballot proposition have impact on the health and human services budget or services or services access for poor and vulnerable families, children, adults, elderly or people with disabilities?* While we had many questions and comments on many other propositions, we have only taken positions on these listed below. For information on the other propositions, please go to PAFCO website and review the information and groups for and against these and all the propositions. http://www.pafcoeducation.org/docs/2006_AAN_Prop_FULL_Booklet_9-29-06.pdf

PAFCO Advocacy Positions on Selected 2006 Ballot Propositions

103 (Referendum) - English as official language (constitutional amendment)

- Makes English the official language of Arizona
- Requires government representatives to “preserve, protect, and enhance” the role of English
- Allows residents to file court actions if they are harmed by government use of another language

***Health and Human Services impact: Forbidding governments from producing documents in other languages to serve those not yet proficient in English would create senseless barriers to people attempting to navigate government agencies particularly health and human services for which citizens might be eligible.**

PAFCO-oppose, barrier to accessing services.

107 (Initiative) - Protect Marriage Arizona (constitutional amendment)

***Health and Human Services impact: If this initiative passes, many families would lose important benefits including health benefits, insurance coverage, and hospital visitation rights. Cities, counties, state universities and other political subdivisions would no longer be allowed to offer dependent health coverage to employees living in domestic**

partnerships. In addition, there is a good chance that unmarried partners may lose the protection of domestic violence laws. For more information go to <http://www.azchildren.org/MyFiles/PDF/Marriage%20Amendment.pdf>. Agencies will be impacted who contract with municipalities.

PAFCO- Oppose, because health and human services benefits will be impacted.

201 (Initiative) - Smoke-Free Arizona Act

- Prohibits smoking in all enclosed public place and workplaces statewide
 - Adds tax of 1/10 of a cent per cigarette for enforcement
- *Health and Human Services impact: This statewide initiative will protect the health of all Arizonans especially those who may be vulnerable to the health risks associated with secondhand smoke including children, seniors and people with existing health problems. Exposure to secondhand smoke can lead to several serious health conditions including heart disease, lung and nasal cancer, asthma, lower respiratory tract infections, and retarded fetal growth. For more information go to www.smokefreearizona.org**

PAFCO-Support

202 (Initiative) - Arizona Minimum Wage Coalition

- Raises the minimum wage to \$6.75 per hour, except for businesses already exempt from Minimum Wage
- Indexes the minimum wage to inflation so future increases are automatic

***Health and Human Services impact: It will help improve the lives of families earning very low wages and give an important income boost for many Arizona families. The minimum wage provides the sole income for more than half of households with a minimum wage worker. The purchasing power of the current minimum wage is so low that people who earn this wage must depend on other forms of support, either by moving in with relatives, living in subsidized housing or homeless shelters, or receiving public assistance such as food stamps and cash assistance. This could help move families out of poverty. For the complete document, go to**

<http://www.azchildren.org/MyFiles/PDF/Minimum%20Wage.pdf>

PAFCO-Support, increase self-sufficiency, helps families get out of poverty and the human services system. This is a key workforce development issue and caregiver wages issue for the human services community.

203 (Initiative) - First Things First for Arizona's Children

- Provides funding for early childhood development and health programs
- Sets up a statewide board and local councils for oversight and administration

- Funded by increased taxes on tobacco products

***Health and Human Services impact: Prop. 203 would increase the number of successful students and reduce drop-out rates, welfare families, and the crime rate. Many working parents cannot afford to send their children to good quality early childhood education programs. This measure evolved out of studies spanning forty years and the latest brain research that shows a child's brain is ninety percent developed by age three. This measure would ensure that even our most disadvantaged children have a healthy start in life. PAFCO-Support, investing in early childhood is good for children, families and the whole community.**

206 (Initiative) - Arizona Non-Smoker Protection Committee

- Prohibits smoking in public places and places of employment except for bars and tobacco shops
- Prohibits local ordinances (I.e. Tempe) that are more restrictive
- Tobacco company and bar-supported alternative to Prop 201

***Health and Human Services impact: Will decrease smoking bans in cities such as Tempe and allow smoking in bars and restaurants statewide with certain restrictions to reduce secondhand smoke.**

PAFCO-Oppose

300 (Referendum) - Public programs; citizens

- Prohibits persons who are not U.S. citizens or legal residents from eligibility for state funded programs including adult education classes, child care assistance, in-state college tuitions, scholarships and financial aid

***Health and Human Services impact: The measure would bar undocumented parents of American citizens from taking adult literacy classes that not only benefit them, but the state in general. Many students would be unable to attend Arizona's universities and community colleges, even if they have lived most of their lives in Arizona and their parents are tax-paying residents of the state. Denying childcare benefits to children who are American citizens based on their parents' legal status would hurt those children and put unnecessary strains on their families.**

PAFCO-Oppose, punishes children unnecessarily.

301 (Referendum) - Methamphetamine; probation ineligibility

- Currently all non-violent drug offenders are placed in mandatory probation and treatment diversion programs for first and second offenses
- Makes persons convicted of offenses involving methamphetamines ineligible for those programs

***Health and Human Services impact: It would deny thousands of people the opportunity for cost effective drug treatment, clogging our prisons with more non-violent addicts. PAFCO-Oppose, would deny lower cost option for treatment.**

The Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition, acting as 501c4 organization – PAFCO advocacy, is a historic, diverse, non partisan alliance of social services, health, community service agencies, advocacy groups, citizen advocacy, and faith-based associations. Hundreds of social, health, and community services agencies, human services groups, citizen action and advocacy groups, and faith based congregations are represented in the Coalition. The Coalition agency and association members include an estimated 20,000 staff, board members and volunteers serving over 1.5 million people. Website: www.pafcoalition.org FOR MORE INFORMATION or To sign on with the Coalition CONTACT Email: tschmaltzhome@cox.net Timothy J. Schmaltz, PAFCO Coordinator/CEO 602-499-5015.