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White House Pushes Student Drug Testing in Falls Church

President Bush Wants \$15 Million to Drug Test Kids

But Federal Studies Show Testing Fails to Deter Youth Drug Use

FALLS CHURCH, VA – White House officials touted random student drug testing in Falls Church today, despite federally-funded research showing the practice does nothing to reduce youth drug abuse. Students and educators opposed to the program attended the event to express concern over the ineffectiveness, costliness, and invasiveness of drug testing.

“Drug testing fails to reduce youth drug abuse,” said Kris Krane, executive director of Students for Sensible Drug Policy. “Taxpayers’ money should be spent wisely. Instead, federal officials are coming to Falls Church and asking schools to flush limited drug prevention resources down the toilet – literally – on programs that just don’t work. Scarce federal education dollars would be better spent on after school programs that are proven to reduce student drug use.”

The largest study ever conducted on student 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.”

President Bush’s 2007 budget request released last month includes \$15 million for random student drug testing in schools across the country. On April 25, the White House will hold the final of this year’s four summits in Milwaukee, WI.

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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