FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
AUGUST 30, 1988

CONTACT: Don L. Volk  
Media Director  
213/278-9355

Bi-Partisan Opposition Mounts

Legislators and Health Professionals Say Dannemeyer AIDS Initiative  
Will Endanger Research and Blood Banks

SACRAMENTO -- In a bi-partisan move, Assemblymen William Filante (R-San Rafael) and Johan Klehs (D-San Leandro) today denounced Prop. 102, the Dannemeyer AIDS Initiative, in a joint press conference with California's leading health organizations.

"If this Initiative passes, California's leadership role in AIDS research will be lost," said Klehs.

"The prevention of research under this Initiative is too onerous for us to allow it to pass," said Filante.

The Capitol press conference was hosted by Dr. Laurens P. White, president of the California Medical Association, and included representatives from the statewide organizations of health professionals that co-sponsor the Stop Dannemeyer/No on 102 campaign committee: The California Nurses Association (Marian Gillan); the Health Officers Association of California and the California Conference of Local Health Officers (Dr. Carl Smith); California State Psychological Association (Joan Amundsen); and the California Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (Sally Wright).

Dr. White pointed out that blood donations in California have dropped by 20 percent because people falsely fear they can contract AIDS from donating
blood and that professionals believe Prop. 102 will exacerbate that situation. "This Initiative cannot have anything but a deleterious effect on this state's blood supply."

Unanimously the health professionals on the panel condemned the Initiative for setting back vital AIDS research and treatment programs in California.

"Instead of this ineffective Initiative," said Gillan, vice president of the California Nurses Association, "we need a non-judgmental and supportive environment that will encourage participation in more research projects. This is dangerous and costly and will undermine that strategy."

Dr. Smith, who heads the Alameda County Health Department and co-chairs the Testing Subcommittee of Governor Deukmejian's California AIDS Leadership Committee, said the Initiative removes all discretion from public health officers to undertake their jobs in the most effective way. "This measure paralyzes local health departments. The only measure that is reasonable and necessary is community education."

Amundsen, representing the California State Psychological Association, noted that the costs of the extensive contact tracing mandated by Prop. 102 would set back the thoughtful policies that have been developed in California. "Prop. 102 will reverse the gains made in education and research. Further, we know that this proposition will deflect badly needed funding from these programs."

UC-Davis AIDS Researcher Neal Flynn, noted that the loss of confidentiality will discourage individuals from participating in treatment and research programs. "I have seen my patients injured by a loss of confidentiality. This Initiative will actively discourage people from participating in AIDS research and prevention programs; and these are the very people we need most."

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MEDIA ADVISORY

PRESS CONFERENCE
August 30, 1988
9:30 A.M.

CONTACT: Don Volk
213/278-9355

DANNEMEYER AIDS INITIATIVE TO BE DENOUNCED BY MEDICAL
AND HEALTH EXPERTS AS DANGEROUS, EXPENSIVE, UNNECESSARY

Laurens P. White, MD, President of the California Medical Association,
will host a press conference in Room 1190 of the State Capitol on Tuesday,
August 30, at 9:30 a.m. to announce broad-based, bi-partisan opposition to
Proposition 102, the Dannemeyer AIDS Initiative.

Representatives of the STOP DANNEMEYER/NO ON 102 campaign steering
committee (the California Nurses Assn., the Hemophilia Council of
California, the Health Officers Assn. of California, and the California
Assn. of Hospitals and Health Systems) will join Dr. White in opposing the
Initiative.

"This proposition is bad medicine and bad public health policy," Dr.
White has said.

Elected officials will also be present to discuss the public policy
aspects of Prop. 102, which will divert resources away from research and
treatment programs; and disrupt the health policies that have been developed
over the past seven years to stem the spread of the epidemic.

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9060 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite #106, Los Angeles, California 90069  (213) 278-9355
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Patti Frisk - California Medical Assn.
    Helen Miramontes - California Nurses Assn.
    Lillis Stephens - Hemophilia Council of California
    Sally Wright - California Assn. of Hospitals
    and Health Systems
    Brad Martin - Sacramento AIDS Foundation (2)
    Carl Smith - Health Officers Assn. of California

FROM: Don L. Volk, Media Director

DATE: August 24, 1988

SUBJECT: SPEAKER'S BRIEFING PACKETS

This will confirm a number of the details about our press briefing in Sacramento:

Participant Briefing Session
8:30 am, Tuesday, August 30
Lt. Gov. Leo McCarthy's office
Room 1114, State Capitol

Press Conference:
9:30 am, Tuesday, August 30
Room 1190 State Capitol

We have enclosed our briefing packet which includes the following items: Backgrounder; Questions and Answers, which are potential questions to be asked by the press; Media Message, this is the message we would like to get to the press; several press releases, including our response to the recent California Poll; and some miscellaneous news clippings.

I will be happy to draft statements that will be printed and issued to the press on Tuesday. Would each of you please call me immediately so I can talk to you briefly about your statement and get a sense of your style; and what you wish to be emphasized by your specific organization.

As you know, this is a very important press conference to position your organizations against the Initiative. If you have any questions or I can assist you in any way in preparing for it, please don't hesitate to call me at (213) 278-9355.

Looking forward to working with you on August 30.

cc: Ron Gray, Lt. Gov. McCarthy's office

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