Vote NO on Proposition 102
A Deceptive Juvenile Justice Plan Threatens Arizona's Children and Does Nothing to Stop Juvenile Crime

Proposition 102, initiated and supported by Governor Symington, is a deception since there is absolutely nothing in it that will do anything to actually stop juvenile crime. What's more, it could actually make things much worse. At the heart of Proposition 102 are two unrelated changes to the Arizona Constitution.

First, it proposes to "automatically" transfer juveniles fifteen years of age and older who are accused of committing certain violent crimes to the adult court.

**Automatic Transfer Not a Solution to Juvenile Crime**

This change deceptively satisfies Arizonans' understandable desire to get tough on juvenile crime. The truth is that most juveniles in Arizona today who are charged with violent and heinous crimes are already tried and punished as adults, so this will change nothing in that regard. What will change is that our present system, in which prosecutors and judges make this decision on a case-by-case basis, will be replaced with a simplistic, one-size-fits-all approach that will not make our neighborhoods one bit safer.

In fact, according to recent studies in states that have tried this approach, Proposition 102 could actually increase juvenile crime. These studies have found that such juveniles who are "automatically" transferred to the adult court and found guilty are far more likely to commit new and more vicious crimes, than those with matching histories handled by juvenile courts. What's more, the reality is that over 60 percent of those juveniles in Arizona who are transferred to the adult court, and convicted, get some form of probation, with no help to keep them from committing further crimes.

**Dangerous Constitutional Change Hidden in Fine Print**

The second major change to our Constitution, and perhaps the most misleading, appears in very small type at the bottom of the initiative. **This change has absolutely nothing to do with juvenile crime.** It repeals Article VI, Section 13 of the Arizona Constitution which says that the Superior Court has "exclusive and original" authority over all matters affecting Arizona's children and youth. This means that critical constitutionally guaranteed court protections for children and their parents, including child victims of abuse and neglect, would be in serious jeopardy.

Right now, for example, when a child is removed from her home by Child Protective Services (CPS) because of suspected abuse or neglect, independent court review of the state's action and the family's situation are built into the system at regular intervals. Under Proposition 102, CPS, which is under the governor's control, could be responsible not only for removing the child, but also for making the momentous decision as to whether their action was appropriate.

**Children Would Get Caught in Political Winds**

By removing the constitutional protection for abused and neglected children, we would open the door to allowing people with purely political or personal agendas to decide the fate of some of Arizona's most vulnerable citizens. Court involvement would only occur through thousands of dollars and months on end spent by parents trying to get due process.

CAA has reported the dismal record of our overwhelmed CPS system and its inability to ad-

Continued on page 6
Commentary
Whose side are you on? Vote for Kids

With the election coming up, issues concerning children and families are taking center stage. Politicians kiss babies, public opinion surveys once again proclaim the desire of Arizonans to help children, and pro-family speeches proliferate.

A recent poll conducted by the nonpartisan Coalition for America's Children, an alliance of 350 national and state organizations working for kids nationwide, confirmed numerous Arizona polls, including one recently commissioned by Children's Action Alliance. The Coalition poll revealed that three out of four Americans believe that "our political leaders are not doing enough to help solve the problems facing children today."

Connecting Elections to Arizona's Children

There has never been a more important time for parents and concerned citizens to vote and get involved; to measure what our elected officials promise to Arizona kids and their families against what they actually do.

Getting public officials to act on the every day interests of hard-working parents isn't easy given the power, skill and financing of lobbyists at the legislature. But we have the majority of Arizonans on our side. We need to get out and vote, reject spinmongering, and ask questions of candidates that reflect our real life concerns as parents, grandparents, and anxious Arizonans. Questions like:

What will you do to improve educational opportunities for all of our children? How will you help more parents find quality, affordable child care so that our children are nurtured and we can work with peace of mind? What will you do to get decent health care coverage to the thousands of uninsured children in working families? How will you better protect Arizona's children from the ravages of child abuse and neglect? What kind of safety net will you support for our state's most vulnerable families? What will you do to attract and keep quality jobs with benefits and train Arizonans so they can provide friends and family with quality opportunities to respond to the challenges of the 21st century?

Board Profiles

Penny Emerson

Children's Action Alliance welcomes Penny Emerson to our Board of Directors. Penny is the Owner/President of Native Resource Development Inc., a 100% Indian-owned and controlled company based in Window Rock, Arizona. NRD was incorporated by the Navajo Nation to provide professional consulting services to Native American governmental and private organizations. It also provides transportation and home care arrangements for the physically challenged and elderly.

A graduate of Northern Arizona University, Penny brings an impressive health services background to the CAA Board of Directors. Penny has spent her career using her training and experience to benefit the Navajo Tribe. She is a founding board member of the National Indian Business Association and vice chair of the Navajo Nation Women's Commission. She has served as president of the Hunters Point BIA School Board and the Navajo Nation Family Planning Corporation. In 1996, Penny received the Arizona Girl Scouts World of Wells-Bing award for her work in health care.

David Bodney

David Bodney joined Children's Action Alliance's Board of Directors in 1995 with impressive experience in law and media. David has been a Partner at Stetpo & Johnson since 1992 with practice areas including media and constitutional law, civil litigation, and government relations, employment, natural resources and Indian law. David previously served as General Counsel to New Times, Inc. and as a Partner at Brown & Brown where he successfully defended CBS Inc. from a multi-million dollar libel action before the U.S. Supreme Court. David has a long history of community service. He was president and treasurer of the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest, Chair of the Phoenix Solicitations Board, and member of the Commission on Juvenile Justice, the Arizona Academy and the Arizona Maricopa County Bar Association.

David Bodney received his B.A. from Yale University in 1970, and his M.A. and J.D. from the University of Virginia.

INSIDE CAA

Introducing New Staff Members
Children's Action Alliance extends a warm welcome to new staff members Rhian Evans and Diane Scott.

Rhian (pronounced Ree-ann) Evans, a graduate of Northern Arizona University, brings a wide range of professional experience to Children's Action Alliance, from political campaigns to community outreach to event management. Rhian looks forward to her new CAA challenges which include media coordination and planning the Children Are Listening forums in the fall.

Diane Scott is a graduate of Ottawa University. Her experience working with the Alhambra Pre-school Center, the Arizona State Savings and Credit Union, and Honeywell is sure to serve CAA well. Diane will be coordinating the very busy calendar of Carol Kamrin, and will serve as support staff on a variety of projects.

Fond Farewells

Rhian and Diane, in addition to their many contributions to CAA, have each completed internships with us.
Protecting Arizona’s Children from Abuse and Neglect

Grassroots movement growing

Children’s Action Alliance is happy to announce the formation of a new committee, Arizonans for Safe Kids, formerly Arizonans for Children. This committee was formed by volunteers who work on behalf of Arizona’s abused, neglected and dependent children in communities throughout the state (Court Appointed Special Advocates and Foster Care Review Board members).

Jackie Flowers of Phoenix and Barbara Polk of Prescott will serve as co-chairs of the 25-member steering committee. Supporting memberships are open to interested individuals.

Arizonans for Safe Kids will provide a grassroots connection to legislators, the media and the general public on issues affecting abused, neglected and dependent children. CAA staff will help make this connection by offering participants media and budget training. For further information, or if you would like to join this effort, contact Jannah Scott at 266-0707.

State leaders respond to flaws in child protective services system

Under the leadership of Senator Ruth Solomon and Representative Freddy Hershberger (both of Tucson) an ad hoc committee on Child Protective Services was recently launched to develop legislative and other recommendations for improvement in the state’s system for protecting children from abuse and neglect.

The 18-member Steering Committee, which includes five legislators, numerous service providers, law enforcement officials, and child advocates, plans to make recommendations in early December, in time for the 1997 legislative session.

CPS Improves Centralized Intake

Over the past 18 months, Children’s Action Alliance and others have raised concerns about the way calls to the CPS centralized intake system were being handled. For example, over 1,000 calls a month from mandated reporters (police officers, pediatricians, teachers) were being rejected as not meeting the criteria for a report. DES was not keeping track of suspected victims of abuse and neglect for calls that were not accepted as reports.

Callers experienced such long wait times to get through to an intake worker that many would hang up without being able to make a report.

DES has responded with a number of action steps. Since June 12, 1996, all calls from mandated reporters that are not referred for investigation are recorded by the alleged victim’s name and reviewed by a supervisor to determine if patterns of abuse exist. Today callers report average wait times of less than three minutes when they call, so they are able to notify CPS of potentially abusive or neglectful situations.

We are hopeful that these changes in the CPS intake system and the new legislative committee will bring safe, permanent homes to more of Arizona’s children.

Carol Kamin reveals latest data on child abuse and neglect at a June 25th press conference releasing the State of Arizona’s Children report.
Protecting Arizona's Children from Abuse and Neglect

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Proposition 203 - The Healthy Arizona Initiative - is now on the ballot!
Vote YES on Proposition 203 on November 5!
It's good for kids!

Proposition 203, The Healthy Arizona Initiative:

- Provides more Arizonans with health insurance coverage by increasing the number of working families on AHCCCS. Right now a family of four who makes $5,500 per year makes too much to get health care coverage in Arizona. If Proposition 203 passes, every Arizonan below the federal poverty level ($15,600 for a family of four) who needs medical care will receive it. This involves no tax increase because it will draw in new federal money at a match of two federal dollars for every one state dollar spent.

- Designates $17 million of lottery revenues for many children's programs, including some of the Success By 6 programs. Funded programs include:
  - Healthy Families, a child abuse prevention program
  - Health Start, a prenatal care and immunizations outreach program,
  - WIC, the Women, Infant and Children nutrition program
  - Teenage pregnancy prevention programs.

For more information about Proposition 203, please call 520-318-3528.
For polling place, voter registration or absentee ballot information, please call your county recorder's office (602-506-1511 in Maricopa County and 520-623-2649 in Pima County).

Endorsements of Proposition 203, The Healthy Arizona Initiative include:


Prepared by Children's Action Alliance
4001 N. 3rd Street #100, Phoenix, Arizona 85012 602-266-0707

Our thanks to Honeywell for printing this flyer.
Hope For Arizona’s Uninsured Children:
The Tobacco Tax

Put Children First

Last legislative session, state lawmakers had a rare opportunity to use revenues generated from Arizona’s recently adopted tobacco tax to extend needed health insurance to thousands of uninsured children and their families.

Children’s Action Alliance, in conjunction with the Arizona Medical Association, the Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Phoenix Children’s Hospital, and many others, proposed a public-private partnership modeled after a successful Florida program which would have extended health coverage to more than 40,000 uninsured children of Arizona’s working families.

After legislative debate on this proposal and a number of others, the legislature created a study committee to come up with a “premium sharing” bill to bring before the 1997 legislature.

The 1997 legislative session, which begins in just a few months, will again present lawmakers with the opportunity to use tobacco tax revenues to extend health coverage to thousands of working families and children.

It makes sense to put kids first

To raise healthy children, insurance is a necessity, not a luxury. Children who do not have health insurance are more likely to have untreated health problems and less likely to see a physician, even if they are chronically ill.

Indeed, recent polls have confirmed that Americans support the notion of putting children first. A majority of Americans strongly believe all children should have access to health care, and when Arizona voters were asked how they would spend state tax dollars, they chose health care and nutrition services for children over property and income tax reductions.

Increasing Number of Uninsured Children

Fortunately, most of the nation’s children have some form of health insurance which covers all or part of their health care needs. However, a sizable and growing number of children are uninsured.

Across the country in 1994, the number and proportion of children without health coverage was greater than at any time in the last eight years. And in Arizona the problem is worse than the U.S. as a whole. Census data show that the rate of uninsured children in Arizona is 17% compared to a national rate of 13%. This translates into more than 196,000 uninsured Arizona children.

Declining Employer-Based Coverage

Contrary to popular belief, most of the nation’s uninsured children are members of families with at least one working parent. In 1992, 70% of uninsured children lived in a family in which the principle breadwinner was a full-time worker.

Employment-based coverage for children has decreased every year since 1987. And employers indicate that economic pressures are likely to lead more and more employers to drop employee and dependent health insurance coverage (or to stop paying a portion of the premiums).

Seizing the Opportunity

Arizona has an extraordinary chance to make a profound impact and decrease the mounting numbers of children without access to medical coverage.

Tobacco tax revenues are being generated at an unexpected rate. Over $80 million per year is pouring into the account established to provide coverage to low income children and families, and over $60 million not spent in previous years sits idle in state coffers.

The tobacco tax offers the opportunity and impetus for policy change to begin to make sure all children have access to health care. The time for state lawmakers to act is now.
FALL EVENTS
Children are Listening... Conversations for their Future

This series of statewide forums on child care, sponsored by American Express and Honeywell, provides the opportunity for panellists and citizens to drop their slippers at the door, put their rhetoric in their pocket, and engage in constructive discussion around the social, political, and economic questions related to child care.

- Wednesday, September 18, 1996—3:30-5:30 p.m. Scottsdale City Hall—3930 Civic Center Blvd.
- Friday, September 27, 1996—6:00-8:00 p.m. Prescott Valley Community Center—9360 E. Manzanita Circle
- Wednesday, October 9, 1996—5:30-7:30 p.m. Phoenix City Hall—200 W. Washington
- Wednesday, October 23, 1996—4:00-6:00 p.m. Tucson Public Library Main Downtown—101 N. Stone Ave.

Pre-registration is a must! Please call Rhiann Evans for more information 266-0707

Citizens Meet Candidates Up Close and Personal

Our congratulations to South Mountain High School and to the candidates and volunteers who attended the Arizona Citizen's Project Candidates Forum on August 22 at South Mountain High School.

Children's Action Alliance and 24 other organizations co-sponsored the forum, which proceeded despite a stormy night and a power outage! Candidates attending included: State Senators Mary Hartley, Sandra Kennedy, and Torn Patterson; State Representatives David Armstrong, Ken Cheuvront, Kathy Foster, Becky Jordan, Joe Eddie Lopez, Paul Moreno, Robin Shaw, and Tom Smith; State Legislative challenger Chris Aho, Joel Barr, Mary Lou Boettcher, Paul Brando, Edward Cirillo, Mike Dena, Richard Duncan, Eric Elst, Eileen Feller, John Fillmore, Joan Fitz-Randolph, Jerry Gower, Scott Graugart, Tom Head, Karen Holmeister, Darlene Fine Hunton, Leah Landrum, Victor Largesse, Barbara Leff, John Loredo, Steve May, Dan Peters, Sandy Reagn, C. Rosenstock, Elise Salinger, Fred Sanesebmun, Myrna Shepherd, Robin Schneider, Dorothy Schultze, Lynne Sisson, Genea Swiney, Kent Van Cleave, James Walsh, Christine Weason, William Wiess, and Billy Wyle; and Congressional candidates, John Cox (CD1), Ed Barron (CD2), Al Schneider (CD3), and Maria Elena Milton, Robin Silver (CD4) and Stuart Turmansky (CD4).

Stand for Children 1996/97 Voter's Guide

Next month Arizonans will elect all 90 seats in the state legislature, all 6 representatives in Congress, and a President. The leadership and votes of these men and women will determine whether all of Arizona's children have the opportunity to achieve.

The Children's Action Alliance 1996/97 Voter's Guide provides key facts about children's lives and important questions every candidate for public office should answer. The guide also lists the top ten things both elected officials and all Arizonans can do to stand for children. For a copy of the guide, please call 266-0707.

National Welfare Reform Promises Heavy Children's Impact on Arizona's Children and Families

We have many choices to make. Now that "welfare as we know it" is gone, how will we end poverty as we know it? In this brand new environment, how will people move from welfare to work? How can poor families get child care? How will we spend these federal block grants and our state tax dollars? How will we bring together business and neighborhoods and religious communities to strengthen families so that we can raise healthy children?

Our national safety net is gone. It is up to Arizonans to design our own bridges and ladders so that we reach our goals of safe neighborhoods, healthy children, and a competitive workforce. Children's Action Alliance looks forward to working with the Arizona Network for Community Responsibility and all of you to make sure that policy and budget decisions move us toward those goals.

For more information, call Dana Naitmark at 266-0707.

Arizona Community Foundation Supports CAA Network for Community Responsibility

The Arizona Community Foundation has awarded the Children's Action Alliance a two-year grant of $35,000 for the Arizona Network for Community Responsibility.

This collaborative brings together community leaders and human service agencies to exchange information and ideas on state action needed to respond to federal budget changes. The Network will work to provide the analysis and community input necessary to promote informed decision making as the state implements block grants.

Our deepest thanks to the Arizona Community Foundation for their commitment to this ground breaking effort. For more information contact Dana Naitmark, at 266-0707.
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20TH
AT 4:00 P.M.
Margaret Hance Deck Park
(over the I-10 freeway between 3rd Street and 3rd Avenue)

The Arizona Ecumenical Council, in cooperation with Children’s Action
Alliance and the interfaith community throughout Arizona, is sponsoring
Arizona’s third annual observance of the National Children’s Sabbath. On the
weekend of October 18-20, congregations and communities from throughout
Arizona will observe Children’s Sabbath locally. Congregations and individuals
will join together at Margaret Hance Deck Park in Phoenix on Sunday, October
20th at 4 p.m.

This year’s celebration will open with an ecumenical service and perfor-
mances by a variety of children’s choirs from throughout the state. Truckin’ for
Kids, asks participants to bring:

- Toys and symbols of violence to be crushed in a garbage truck;
- Letters of advocacy to public officials on behalf of children to be
delivered in a mail truck; and
- Canned food for hungry and hurting children to be brought by
grocery truck to local food pantries.

For more information on Truckin’ for Kids and how your congregation can get
involved, please call Kate Searle at 266-0707.

Children’s Action Alliance (CAA), is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research, policy and advocacy organi-
ization dedicated to promoting the well-being of all of Arizona’s children and families. Through research,
publications, media campaigns, and advocacy, we act as a strong and independent voice for children
who cannot speak for themselves. Our goal is to educate Arizonans about the needs of children in order
to promote a greater understanding of the high economic and social stake that all Arizonans have in the
well-being of our youngest citizens.

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