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To: MEMBERS OF THE ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Re: NEW POLL SHOWS 79% OF ILLINOIS VOTERS SUPPORT FAMILY CARE

(Chicago, IL, Wednesday, May 16, 2001) – A new statewide poll of Illinois voters shows overwhelming support for Family Care, the initiative to extend health insurance to 200,000 working moms and dads of children covered by KidCare. The poll, commissioned by Voices for Illinois Children, was taken between May 3 and May 6, 2001, by Market Strategies, Inc. (the pollsters for the Bush campaign in Illinois). The poll was conducted over the telephone and contains the opinions of a statewide random sample of 603 registered voters. The results are accurate within plus or minus four percent. The poll covered a variety of topics, including four questions on Family Care. The questions and the specific breakdowns on the answers are attached.

Among the poll's results:

- 79% of those polled support Family Care
- 70% support Family Care when the expense to the state is included in the question.
- 73% think Family Care is an appropriate step for the state to take, while 23% think that the state should not undertake this kind of spending at this time and that health insurance is up to the individual.

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Illinois Early Childhood Statewide Survey Family Care Question Results

May 3-6, 2001

N=603 Registered Voters

Margin of error = +/- 4.0%

Q53. Illinois is considering a new program called Family Care. This plan would expand the state's low-cost health insurance program for children, called KidCare, to include the children's parents. This would be done through both public and employer-sponsored health insurance, and would cover about two hundred thousand adults. Almost all of the new people who would be covered are working, and have an income between eight thousand and thirty-one thousand dollars for a family of four. Do you favor or oppose this proposal for Family Care? (IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK:) Would that be strongly (favor/oppose) or just somewhat (favor/oppose)?

Q54. If the state of Illinois were to launch this Family Care program, the federal government would pay about 115 million dollars. To get this federal money, Illinois would have to raise and spend about 60 million dollars. Given these costs, do you favor or oppose this proposal for Family Care?

	<u>Initial</u>	<u>Given Costs</u>
Strongly favor	53%	38%
Somewhat favor	27	32
Somewhat oppose	6	10
Strongly oppose	9	14
Depends (VOL)	3	3
Don't know	3	2
Refused	--	--
Favor	79%	70%
Oppose	15	24

Q55. Suppose the state of Illinois were to go ahead with the Family Care program. Which ONE of the following THREE options should be used to come up with the \$60 million dollars? (Options randomized)

Take it out of the three hundred million dollars the state gets every year from tobacco companies as part of the tobacco settlement.	57%
Put a new tax of fifty cents per pack on cigarettes.	24
Use general revenue dollars from state taxes, just like any other budget item.	14
None of these (VOL)	2
Shouldn't do the program at all (VOL)	1
Other (VOL)	3
Don't know	1
Refused/NA	--

Q56. Which ONE of the following TWO positions comes closest to your own view? (Options rotated)

The state has an opportunity to take reasonable steps to expand health coverage to working people, and the state could easily pay for its share of Family Care with tax dollars or tobacco settlement funds. 73%

The state should not take on new financial burdens. Besides, health coverage is an individual responsibility, not a state obligation 23

Neither (VOL) 2

Don't know 2

Refused/NA *
