



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
Washington, DC 20503

Press Release / Media Advisory:
Embargoed until 12:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 26th, 2006

Contact: Rafael Lemaitre: 202-395-6649
cell: 202-368-8424

WHITE HOUSE DRUG CZAR TO DISCUSS RANDOM STUDENT DRUG TESTING AS AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO REDUCE ILLEGAL DRUG USE DURING VISIT TO ORLANDO, FLORIDA THURSDAY, JULY 26th

Survey Shows That Students with an Average Grade of “D” or Below Were More than Four Times More Likely to Have Used Marijuana in the Past Year

(Orlando, Florida) – John P. Walters, Director of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), will discuss random drug testing as an effective, confidential, and non-punitive way to deter and treat drug use among young people in the central Florida area during a speech to the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) International Conference in Orlando, Florida on Thursday, July 26th. Over the past three years, ONDCP has coordinated national efforts to share information on drug testing programs and Federal funding opportunities with state and local education officials as well as community leaders. **In 2003, the United States Supreme Court ruled that random drug testing programs are valid and must be confidential and non-punitive.** Hundreds of schools across the nation have already begun random testing programs and are seeing success:

- Before testing began at **George Jenkins high school in Polk County Florida**, 19.5 percent of students participating in extracurricular activities said they had used marijuana in the past 30 days (the district average was 14.4%). In the last year of the drug testing program, the rate dropped to 11.8 percent. One year after testing was halted because of budget cuts, the marijuana-use rate was back up to 17 percent.
- **Hunterdon Central High School in New Jersey** saw a decrease in drug use in 20 out of 28 categories after implementing a random testing program for its students
- **A study by Ball State University** in Indiana found that without testing, 85 percent of Indiana principals reported an increase in drug usage and there were 518 students suspended or expelled for drug- or alcohol-related incidents. That figure dropped to 352 in the presence of random testing programs (Mckinney, *Ball State University*, 2003)

Director Walters said, “Parents, school administrators, and educators are not powerless against the drug problem. Random drug testing of high school students gives students who are under peer pressure from drug-using peers an excuse to say ‘no’ and provides parents with help in keeping their children drug-free. Random testing deters students from using dangerous, addictive drugs, and identifies those who may need help or drug treatment early and in a confidential way. It is a powerful public health tool.”

According to the latest *Monitoring the Future* survey of nationwide youth drug use, more than 50 percent of high school students have used an illegal drug. The same report has found that while overall youth drug use is down since 2001, there has also been a 40 percent increase in the non-medical use of prescription drugs among high school students since 2002.

President Bush has requested \$15 million dollars for random drug testing programs for FY 2007. Almost \$10 million have already been granted to nearly 400 schools nationwide to implement testing programs since 2003.

-MORE-

MEDIA ADVISORY

- WHO:** White House “Drug Czar” John Walters
- WHAT:** Morning media availability to discuss random drug testing
and;
Keynote speech to National D.A.R.E. Conference
- WHEN:** Wednesday, July 26th, 2006
Morning News Media Availability: 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.
Keynote Speech: 9:00 a.m.
- WHERE:** Disney's Coronado Springs Convention Center
Coronado Ballroom
1000 West Buena Vista Drive
Lake Buena Vista, Florida
Orlando, Florida

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/studentdrugtesting/>