



November 2, 2005

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PRESS ADVISORY # # # # PRESS ADVISORY

Local representatives of national coalition the *Emergency Campaign for America's Priorities* will be joined by college students and local providers of services that would be affected by congressional budget cuts at a press conference Thursday morning at New College in Sarasota. A new report: [Skewed Priorities: A White Paper Analysis of the GOP's Budget Plan and Its Impact on Florida's Families, Children and Seniors](#) will be released. The report provides specific quantified information on the impact of Florida's share of the \$35 billion in cuts to vital services being planned as part of the budget reconciliation package. The U.S. House of Representatives is scheduled to vote on these cuts by the end of next week.

WHAT: Press conference at New College, Sarasota.

WHERE: In front of the Hamilton Center, General Twining Blvd.

WHEN: Thursday, November 3, 10:30 a.m.

WHY: Release of report on impact of proposed federal budget cuts to Floridians. Testimony from leaders of concerned community organizations and affected individuals.

DIRECTIONS: Take General Spatz Blvd. at light at New College entrance. Go east from U.S. 41, past Sudakoff Center, turn right onto General Twining Blvd. Parking is on the right, Hamilton Center is on far side of parking lot.

The press conference is being held at New College to emphasize the dual hits to college students with proposed cuts of \$18 billion along with a 50% increase in student loans of almost \$6000.

Speakers will represent a diverse set of interests in the budget reconciliation process, including the faith community, college students, the Sierra Club, Planned Parenthood, Florida Consumer Action Network, and providers of services that would be affected by the cuts. “These cuts will hurt millions of Floridians while at the same time increasing our national debt with \$70 billion in new tax cuts that primarily benefit the wealthy”, said spokesperson Philip Compton. “Most Americans disagree with this approach, by almost 3:1, but few are aware of that Congress may take such action next week that would cut Medicaid, food stamps, student loans, and also bring off-shore oil drilling closer to Florida’s beaches. We hope that voters will contact Rep. Katherine Harris in the next few days and ask her to join other moderate Republican Members of Congress in opposing the current budget reconciliation package.”

The *Emergency Campaign for America’s Priorities* (ECAP) is a short-term national campaign formed by organizations committed to an aggressive grassroots, grass-tops, public relations and lobbying campaign to convince Congress to stop a plan backed by President Bush and the Republican Congressional leadership that would drastically cut programs that primarily benefit the poor and middle class to finance tax cuts that benefit only the wealthiest among us.

The Florida Consumer Action Network (FCAN) is a grassroots organization which empowers citizens to influence public policy by organizing and educating in areas where consumer voices are underrepresented. FCAN has 30,000 members throughout the state, including 2,400 in the 13th congressional district. FCAN is the Florida affiliate of *USAction*, a national member of the *Emergency Campaign for America’s Priorities*.