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**Citizens Say Yes to 5 Promises to Kids Campaign and Insist DC Mayoral
Candidates Do Right By Children and Youth**

DC ACT Releases Promise 4 in Time for September Primary

WASHINGTON—August 21, 2006 -- DC Action for Children today released campaign **Promise 4: The government will spend public money well and in the best interest of children and youth.** Kicked-off on July 31, the *5 Promises to Kids Campaign* urges DC's new mayor in November to craft an agenda addressing the most critical needs of the city's youngest residents. Each promise describes an important issue involving the District's children and youth, offers recommendations to remedy the problem and will serve as a foundation for the proposed agenda.

“Government accountability is directly related to outcomes for children and youth. Consider the case of the Department of Health—the city was paying more for transporting people to doctor's appointments than for the doctor's care itself! It's this type of insufficient oversight and poor public stewardship that makes us shake our heads in disbelief. It's this kind of poor performance that keeps us working so hard for children and youth,” explained DC ACT Executive Director Angela Jones Hackley. Councilmember David Catania, chair of the Committee on Health, reported on March 31, 2006 that the Department of Health spent \$22.2 million on Medicaid transportation in FY 2005 compared to \$22 million for physician's services.

Promise 1 focused on safe children, Promise 2 on youth opportunity and Promise 3, released last week, discussed fair chances of success for children and youth regardless of where they reside. The final promise, which will focus on school readiness, will be released next week on August 28. Also, DC ACT will host launch events on Wednesday, September 6, and Thursday, September 7, to collect additional signatures from area residents, continuing the snowballing community support.

Promise 4: The government will spend public money well and in the best interest of children and youth

Government has a responsibility to effectively and efficiently manage all of its resources, to be a good steward, maximizing resources and directing them where they are needed most. Internal operational fixes must be a priority of the city's new leadership; these fixes will ultimately lead to better outcomes and results for children and youth, particularly since the necessary fixes involve systems reforms and a meaningful and transparent budget process.

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ABOUT DC ACT

Since its inception in 1992, DC Action for Children has served as an independent, non-profit, multi-issue advocacy organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for children living in the District of Columbia. DC ACT's work is guided by its vision that each child in the District of Columbia should be afforded the opportunity to reach his or her potential. DC ACT focuses on public policy areas, which include: early care and education, child welfare, child and maternal health and positive youth development. For more information, visit www.dckids.org.

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