FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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(REVISION)

" Should a Free Society Allow Affirmative Actions Preferences?"

Toward A Fair Michigan to sponsor a debate on this topic

East Lansing, MI – Toward A Fair Michigan (a Michigan-based non-partisan, non-profit educational organization) will sponsor a debate entitled "Should A Free Society Allow Affirmative Action Preferences?" The two experts who will engage in debate are Carl Cohen, Ph.D. (Professor of Philosophy, University of Michigan) and Thomas Weisskopf, Ph.D. (Professor of Economics, University of Michigan). **The debate will be held on Wednesday, March 15, from 7:00 – 8:30 P.M. at the Ashman Court Marriott Conference Hotel, 111 W. Main St., Midland, MI. It is free and open to the public.**

In November 2006, the citizens of Michigan will vote on a ballot initiative to modify the state constitution to prohibit the state from discriminating or granting preferential treatment based on race, gender, color, ethnicity or national origin. By the time that vote comes, nothing is more important than that Michiganders have a fair opportunity to decide for themselves what is the right thing to do in this case. This debate will showcase experts in the legal and social history of affirmative action, debating the need, rationale, effects, and long-term implications of this still controversial public policy.

Carl Cohen, Ph.D. is a Professor of Philosophy at the University of Michigan and has served as the state chair and on the National Board of Directors of the American Civil Liberties Union ("ACLU"). He has published numerous essays and books in the sphere of political and moral philosophy and has taught at universities in Jerusalem, Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand and Peru. **Thomas E. Weisskopf, Ph.D.** is a Professor of Economics at the University of Michigan where he has divided his time between the Economics Department and the Residential College where he is a member of the Social Science Program. He has co-authored nine books and published more than 90 articles in a wide range of journals in the fields of economic development, macroeconomics, comparative systems and public policy.

The debate is cosponsored by Toward A Fair Michigan and the Northwood University College Republicans.

The candidates for the Michigan Senate Republican primary race (Michael J. Bouchard, Keith Butler, Jerry Zandstra) have been invited to the debate.

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This is one of many debates on the topic of affirmative action preferences that Toward A Fair Michigan (TAFM) will sponsor at locations throughout Michigan. TAFM aims to further understanding of equal opportunity issues involved in guaranteeing civil rights for all citizens, to preserve Michigan's tradition of progressively affirming civil rights for all, and to provide a forum for the fair and open exchange of views on the question of affirmative action. For more information on TAFM, visit www.towardafairmichigan.org.

To arrange an interview with the speakers, you may contact them as follows:

Carl Cohen	*ccohen @umich.edu*	*or*	*734.763.2185*
Thomas E. Weisskopf	*tomw@umich.edu*	*or*	*734.764.7414*

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