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"Where Do You Stand? – Video Documentary on Affirmative Action Preferences"

Toward A Fair Michigan promotes substance over political rhetoric

East Lansing, MI – Toward A Fair Michigan (a Michigan-based non-partisan, non-profit educational organization) announced today the release of two new and important tools, which Michigan voters may use to learn about affirmative action, within the context of the upcoming vote on the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative (MCRI)**.** As the election date approaches, voters are inundated with political rhetoric designed to manipulate rather than inform public opinion. By focusing on substance over rhetoric, Toward A Fair Michigan (TAFM) provides a dramatically different alternative.

In the video documentary *Where Do You Stand?* experts (pro and con) on the legal and social history of affirmative action candidly discuss many aspects of this complex public policy. Questions addressed include: Who benefits from preferences in university admissions? What are the leading arguments for preferences, and are they valid? Is, or could society be, colorblind? Do preferences put fundamental American principles at stake? The video may be viewed at http://towardafairmichigan.org/wheredoyoustand.html. Free copies are also available for a small donation; send e-mail to info@towardafairmichigan.org.

A new "Ask the Experts" section of the TAFM website offers responses from fourteen experts (seven pro and seven con) to over fifty questions about affirmative action and the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative. The questions explore the justifications for, the effects of, and the alternatives to affirmative action preferences, as well as the probable impact of the MCRI. The questions are drawn from the dozen debates on affirmative action sponsored by TAFM during the 2006 academic year and held at locations throughout Michigan. Watch for the fall 2006 debate schedule.

The experts – individuals with established commitments to defend or oppose affirmative action preferences, recognized as excellent in their field, and with demonstrated records of civic responsibility – speak on their own behalf and not on behalf of TAFM. They provide substantive, factual information and analysis – in contrast to the politicized information disseminated by the political campaigns.

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.

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