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For Immediate Release

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**JUST URINATE IN THE BOTTLE, PLEASE:  
ARIZONANS SUPPORT WORKPLACE DRUG TESTING**

Drug testing in the workplace is supported by a majority of Arizonans, according to a recent statewide telephone survey conducted by the Social Research Laboratory at Northern Arizona University. One-third of Arizonans, on the other hand, think mandatory drug testing in the workplace violates workers' rights. From airline pilots to restaurant workers, a wide range of workers should be subjected to mandatory drug testing, according to a majority of Arizonans. Not everyone participating in the survey has been subjected to drug testing in their own workplace, however. Almost half of those who have been tested believe the drug testing methods used by their employers are extremely accurate.

The statewide telephone survey of 435 randomly selected adults in Arizona was conducted between February 8 and 12, 1999. The results are accurate at a +/- 5% margin of error with a 95% confidence level.

## **DRUG TESTING IS WIDELY SUPPORTED**

A recent survey of Arizonans found that a solid majority (55%) believe drug testing in the workplace is necessary to combat drug use. In contrast, one-third of Arizonans (37%) believe drug testing violates the individual rights of workers. Despite some reservations about drug testing that may exist in the population, however, 43 percent think all workers should be tested and 51 percent believe some workers should be tested.

Fred Solop, Director of the survey, had this to say about the results, “Drug testing in the workplace was a controversial topic when first introduced over 15 years ago. Today it is a widely accepted practice. The belief that drug testing constitutes a violation of civil liberties is a concern of the past. The survey suggests that all workers in Arizona should now be on alert that they too may be subjected to drug testing in the future.”

## **TESTING SUPPORTED FOR WIDE RANGE OF JOB CATEGORIES**

There is widespread consensus in Arizona that workers in positions bearing consequence for large numbers of people should regularly undergo mandatory drug testing. The job category of greatest concern, according to survey participants, is airline pilots, with doctors following in a close second position. Ninety-seven percent of Arizonans believe airline pilots should regularly be tested for drug usage and 90 percent think doctors should regularly be tested. Eighty percent of Arizonans believe public school teachers should be tested and nearly the same amount (78%) think professional athletes should be tested. More than a majority of Arizonans support drug

testing for high school students (58%) and restaurant workers (57%). Drug testing of retail store employees is supported by 47 percent of the population.

When it comes to revealing one's own experiences with drug testing in the workplace, less than half of all Arizonans (42%) say their employer conducts some type of drug testing or drug screening. Among those tested, three-quarters believe the test used by their employer is more accurate than inaccurate. Forty-six percent of those tested say their employer's test is extremely accurate and 29% say it is somewhat accurate. Only six percent of tested employees believe their employer's test is inaccurate. Twenty percent cannot attest to the relative degree of accuracy or inaccuracy of the test used by their employer.

-- 30 --



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Social Research Laboratory  
Northern Arizona University

BACKGROUND MEMO

3-NAU014/Spring

The Arizona statewide survey was conducted between February 8 and February 12, 1999. A random sample of 435 Arizonans was interviewed by telephone. Figures of this sampling size are subject to a sampling error of about +/- 5 percent at a 95 percent confidence interval. Sampling error is the probable difference in results between interviewing everyone in the population versus a scientific sample taken from the population. Sampling error does not take into account additional sources of error inherent in any study of public opinion. The data referred to in this release are presented below.

Please tell me which of the following two statements comes closest to your personal opinion: First, drug testing violates a worker's individual rights; or second, drug testing in the work place is necessary to combat drug use. Which comes closest to your personal opinion?

	Total
One: Testing is Necessary	55%
Two: Testing Violates Worker's Rights	37%
Testing is Necessary for Some Jobs	6%
Don't Know	3%
Totals	<hr/> 101%

Do you think workers in all jobs should be tested for drugs, workers in just some jobs should be tested, or that no workers should undergo mandatory drug testing?

	Total
All Workers Should Be Tested	43%
Some Workers Should Be Tested	51%
No Workers Should Be Tested	6%
Don't Know	1%
Totals	<hr/> 101%

I'm going to list some different types of jobs. For each job, please tell me if you think these kinds of workers should undergo mandatory drug testing:

	<b>Total</b>
Airline Pilots	97%
Doctors	90%
Public School Teachers	80%
Professional Athletes	78%
High School Students	58%
Restaurant Workers	57%
Retail store employees	47%

Does your employer conduct any type of drug testing or screening?

	<b>Total</b>
Yes	42%
No	36%
No Employer/Unemployed	22%
Don't Know	1%
Totals	<u>101%</u>

Some drug testing methods are more accurate than others. How accurate are the drug testing methods use by your employer? Are they Extremely Accurate, Somewhat Accurate, Somewhat Inaccurate, or Extremely Inaccurate? [Asked only of people answering 'Yes' to previous question.]

	<b>Total</b>	
Extremely Accurate	46%	
Somewhat Accurate	29%	(N=180)
Somewhat Inaccurate	5%	
Extremely Inaccurate	1%	
Don't Know	20%	
	<u>101%</u>	