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To: First Focus

From: Lake Research Partners

Re: Election Eve Omnibus

Date: November 15, 2012

This memo summarizes the key findings from the pre-election and election night survey, conducted among voters in the 2012 General Election.¹

Key Findings

- **Voters hold a strong pro-children agenda across a number of dimensions.**
- **Addressing childhood poverty is overwhelmingly positive to voters. Majorities across all political and demographic lines believe the President and Congress should work to cut childhood poverty rates in half over the next 10 years.**
- **Over three in four voters agree with creating a bipartisan commission to recommend solutions to the problems facing children today. Majorities of Republicans favor this idea, though they do not express as much intensity as their Democratic and independent counterparts.**
- **The majority of voters support Congress extending the EITC and Child Tax Credits when they hear that these tax credits that help keep children**

¹ Lake Research Partners designed and administered this pre-election and election night omnibus survey, which was conducted by phone using professional interviewers. The survey reached a total of 1,200 likely, registered voters nationwide. The sample consisted of 1,000 interviews among voters who were reached on landline phones and 200 interviews among voters reached on cell phones. The survey was conducted November 4th through November 6th, 2012. Telephone numbers for the base sample was drawn from an RDD sample and the cell phone sample was drawn from a listed sample. The sample was stratified geographically based on the proportion of likely voters in each region. Data were weighted to reflect the aggregated Presidential vote as reported in the 2012 exit polls, as well as by gender, party identification, marital status, race, and census region. The margin of error at the 95% confidence interval is +/- 2.8 percentage points.

out of poverty are set to expire this year. This sentiment is strong across partisan lines.

- **Voters also solidly support Congress extending the Children’s Health Insurance Program before it expires in two years.**
- **Voters are receptive to the idea of the President establishing an official budget that details spending on children.**
- **Attitudes around the DREAM Act are more divided. Voters overall support this legislation when they hear a description, though Republicans are more wary.**

Summary Findings

Addressing Childhood Poverty

- **Voters overwhelmingly believe the President and Congress should work to cut childhood poverty in half within 10 years.** Majorities across political and demographic groups strongly concur.² 89 percent of Democrats, 81 percent of independents, and 76 percent of Republicans expressed support.

Establishing a Children’s Commission

- **Voters are very receptive to establishing a bipartisan commission to recommend solutions to the problems facing children today.**³ Over three quarters of voters (78 percent) favor the President setting up this commission and 62 percent express strong support. This includes 89 percent of Democrats, 76 percent of independents, and 68 percent of Republicans.

Extending the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit

- **The majority of voters support Congress extending the EITC and Child Tax Credits.** When they hear that these tax credits that help keep children out of poverty are set to expire in their present forms this year, 81 percent say they favor Congress extending these cuts (69 percent strongly favor). Support cuts across political groups, including 90 percent among Democrats (81 percent strongly), 82 percent among independents (65 percent strongly), and 74 percent among Republicans (57 percent strongly).

Extending CHIP

- **Voters solidly support Congress extending the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) before it expires in two years.** Perceived importance of continuing CHIP stands at 83

² Split sampled questions combined.

³ When a bipartisan children’s commission came together during the early 1990s, the resulting policies lifted millions of children out of poverty and brought the rate of uninsured children to record lows. Do you favor or oppose the next President and Congress appointing a bipartisan children’s commission to recommend solutions to the problems facing children today?

percent (61 percent very important).⁴ The importance placed on continuing CHIP is strong across partisan lines, with 78 percent of independents and 75 percent of Republicans joining 93 percent of Democrats in placing importance on CHIP extension.

Establishing an Official Children’s Budget

- **Voters are receptive to the idea of the President establishing an official budget that details spending on children.** 66 percent say they favor this idea, including 76 percent of Democrats, 63 percent of independents, and 56 percent of Republicans.⁵

The DREAM Act

- **Voters support the DREAM Act; however, levels of support vary widely across groups.** Two-thirds of voters overall (68 percent) support the DREAM Act, with 56 percent voicing strong support. Support is strong among Democrats (88 percent favor, 77 percent strongly) and independents (65 percent and 51 percent). Republicans net favor the Act by 6 points, though there is considerable opposition (50 percent favor; 44 percent oppose) and intensity is about equal on both sides (36 percent strongly favor; 33 percent strongly oppose).

Summary Results for Substantive (Non-Demographic) Questions

Underlined text below was read to a split sample of respondents. The other sample was read the question without the underlined text.

Today 1 in 5 American children live in poverty. Do you agree or disagree that the next president and Congress should provide a plan to cut child poverty in half within 10 years?

	TOTAL	DEM	IND	REP
Strongly agree	68	77	66	61
Not so strongly agree	14	13	15	16
Not so strongly disagree	4	2	6	7
Strongly disagree	9	5	9	11
(don’t know/refused)	5	4	4	5
Agree	82	89	81	76
Disagree	13	6	15	19

⁴ Split sampled questions combined.

⁵ Split sampled questions combined.

Unless Congress acts, elements of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit that keep children out of poverty will expire at the end of the year. Do you favor or oppose Congress extending these two tax credits that protect children from poverty?

	TOTAL	DEM	IND	REP
Strongly agree	69	81	65	57
Not so strongly agree	13	9	17	16
Not so strongly disagree	3	1	3	5
Strongly disagree	9	4	8	14
(don't know/refused)	7	5	8	7
Agree	81	90	82	74
Disagree	12	5	10	20

During the recent economic recession the Children's Health Insurance Program protected millions of children who otherwise would not have had health insurance. In two years the Children's Health Insurance Program is set to expire unless Congress acts to continue the program. How important is it that Congress extend the Children's Health Insurance Program in 2013 – very important, somewhat important, a little important, or not important at all?

	TOTAL	DEM	IND	REP
Very important	61	80	56	42
Somewhat important	22	12	22	33
A little important	6	2	9	10
Not important at all	7	1	9	11
(don't know/refused)	4	5	5	4
Very/somewhat important	83	93	78	75
A little/not important at all	13	3	17	21

The federal government often details its annual budgets for priorities, like the war on drugs or job safety programs, but currently there is no official accounting of government spending on children. Do you favor or oppose the next President submitting an official children’s budget that details spending on children?

	TOTAL	DEM	IND	REP
Favor – strongly	51	61	51	38
Favor – not so strongly	15	15	13	18
Oppose – not so strongly	7	4	7	11
Oppose – strongly	14	8	19	20
(don’t know/refused)	12	12	11	13
Favor	66	76	63	56
Oppose	22	12	26	31

Congress is considering a proposal known as the DREAM Act, which would provide illegal immigrant students who were brought here as children and meet certain requirements the opportunity to earn legal resident status and eventually a path to US citizenship if they attend college or serve in the military. Do you favor or oppose the DREAM Act?

	TOTAL	DEM	IND	REP
Favor – strongly	56	77	51	36
Favor – not so strongly	13	11	15	15
Oppose – not so strongly	6	2	7	11
Oppose – strongly	20	6	22	33
(don’t know/refused)	5	4	5	6
Favor	68	88	65	50
Oppose	26	8	29	44

When a bipartisan children’s commission came together during the early 1990s, the resulting policies lifted millions of children out of poverty and brought the rate of uninsured children to record lows. Do you favor or oppose the next President and Congress appointing a bipartisan children’s commission to recommend solutions to the problems facing children today?

	TOTAL	DEM	IND	REP
Favor – strongly	62	78	61	46
Favor – not so strongly	16	12	15	22
Oppose – not so strongly	4	2	4	8
Oppose – strongly	11	4	13	17
(don’t know/refused)	7	5	7	8
Favor	78	89	76	68
Oppose	15	5	17	25