

For immediate release:

June 15, 2017

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HAVING KIDS CALLS FOR CHANGING FAMILY PLANNING MODELS TO MOVE THE WORLD TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE

National nonprofit urges better family planning for Father's Day 2017

SAN FRANCISCO – Today the national nonprofit Having Kids is citing mounting evidence that better family modeling would be an effective way to simultaneously solve key crises around the world, including improving child welfare, decreasing the inequality gap, building democracy, and mitigating climate change and other environmental threats.

The group promotes replacing unsustainable, parent-centered family planning models with the human rights-based and child-centered Fair Start family planning model. This new model focuses on the fundamental human right of every child to a fair start in life relative to their peers. The Fair Start model creates detailed obligations on families and communities to plan together and shift excess resources to improve the conditions into which children are born. In short, it makes family planning about what children need, in addition to what parents want.

- Numerous studies have shown that early childhood interventions – like a family planning model that would alter the conditions in which children are born and first raised – create the best returns in terms of improved child welfare.
- Those returns carry over to reduce the long-term effects birth and early childhood conditions have on children as they grow up, including those that lead to massive health and income gaps between adults.
- Increasing early childhood investments, especially promoting smaller families that devote more resources to each child, is also a uniquely effective way to build the connected communities that real democracies require.
- Studies have also shown that planning smaller families is in turn the most effective way to mitigate climate change and other environmental threats, in some cases reducing impact with twenty times more efficacy than other protective measures.

The group attributes the Fair Start family planning model's unique effectiveness to its ability to address many problems at once. "It's the way to get to the future we all want," says Anne Green, Executive Director of Having Kids. "Let's do what's most efficient and also respectful of human rights."

For more information, please visit HavingKids.org

About Having Kids: Having Kids promotes and protects every child's right to a fair start in life by replacing parent-centered family planning models with the child-centered Fair Start family planning model. For more information, please visit HavingKids.org