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KENTUCKY EQUALITY FEDERATION

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**FEDERATION FOR KENTUCKY EQUALITY, INC.
PLATFORM ISSUE IV INFORMAL BRIEFING
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

During the normal session of the 2007 General Assembly, domestic-partner benefits at Kentucky's universities came under fire in the House of Representatives. Anti-equality advocates in the House of Representatives introduced legislation to prohibit both public and private universities from offering domestic-partner benefits.

During a special session of the 2007 General Assembly, the Senate passed legislation to prohibit public and private universities from offering domestic-partner benefits. Since the House of Representatives had adjourned however, it did not become law.

The issue of domestic-partner benefits is not just a "gay issue." According to a United States Census Bureau, more than 564,000 Kentucky citizens are without health insurance.

PLATFORM ISSUE IV LONG-TERM GOALS:

- Kentucky Equality Federation is seeking to secure long-term availability of domestic-partner benefits as outlined by Attorney General Greg Stumbo.
- Kentucky Equality Federation is seeking tax incentives (or any other incentive) for private employers around the commonwealth to offer domestic-partner insurance benefits in order to provide coverage for more than 564,000 Kentuckians currently living without it.

PLATFORM ISSUE IV LONG-TERM CONSIDERATIONS:

- In 2007, Kentucky has averaged an unemployment rate of 5.6%, or approximately 241,000 citizens¹. Even if you subtract the commonwealth's 241,000 jobless citizens, this proposal could still benefit approximately 325,000 citizens².

2008 ACTION PLAN:

The 2008 Action Plan depends on large-scale involvement from both membership and the general public.

- Lobby the Kentucky House of Representatives and Senate to pass a resolution praising Kentucky educational facilities and private employers for offering domestic-partner benefits as outlined by Attorney General Greg Stumbo.
- Lobby the Kentucky House of Representatives and Senate to pass a law* giving tax incentives to private employers for offering domestic-partner benefits as outlined by Attorney General Greg Stumbo.

* **Unofficial Recommendation:** Give companies subject to sales tax a rebate, discount, or other monetary consideration³.

FACTS:

- Nearly 60% (59.7) of people in the United States are covered by a health insurance plan related to employment⁴.
- In 2006, According to the United States Census Bureau (report issued August 2007), more than 47 million people in the United States are without health insurance.

- Both the percentage and the number of people without health insurance continue to increase. The number of uninsured people increased from 44.8 million to 47.0 million between 2005 and 2006.
- The percentage and the number of children under 18 years old without health insurance increased by 700,000 to 8.7 million in 2006.
- More than 564,000 citizens of Kentucky are without health insurance coverage.

¹ As reported on November 14, 2007 by the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Education Cabinet, Office of Employment and Training.

² A domestic partner could still provide coverage for an unemployed person thereby increasing the number of citizens this proposal would benefit.

³ Kentucky Equality Federation will not make an official or unofficial recommendation on the percentage, or amount of the monetary consideration offered; this is best decided by officials at the Department of Revenue, Treasury, etc.

⁴ August 2007 report released by the United State Census Bureau.