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THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION
OF PARENTS & PROFESSIONALS

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ATLANTA, GA -- While information in and of itself is neither good nor bad, the NDSC is concerned about first trimester tests, as the primary reason for them is to facilitate early terminations. Other reasons for prenatal diagnosis, such as hospital selection and delivery management, do not require first trimester testing.

With that being said, all screening and/or diagnostic tests need to be fully explained to patients, who should be provided the opportunity to decline or give their informed consent for testing. If patients decline the test, physicians and other medical personnel should respect the individual's wishes and not overtly or covertly pressure patients to undergo undesired testing or screening.

When a diagnosis of Down syndrome is made, the NDSC calls upon the medical community to give, without prejudice, information that accurately reflects the realities of a life with Down syndrome. NDSC Executive Director, David Tolleson says, "It is unacceptable that many medical professionals continue to provide outdated information, highlighting negative outcomes, rather than providing balanced information." Several studies indicate that having a family member with Down syndrome is a positive experience for both parents and siblings.

Additionally, it is important that families are referred to Down syndrome organizations, where they can be given the opportunity to meet or speak with a family who has a member with Down syndrome. The NDSC is pleased to both provide information directly to patients, and to refer them to local and regional support organizations.

About the National Down Syndrome Congress

Founded in 1973, the National Down Syndrome Congress is the country's oldest organization for people with Down syndrome, their families, and the professionals who work with them. A 501(c)(3) non-profit advocacy organization, the NDSC provides free technical support and information about issues related to Down syndrome throughout the lifespan, as well as on matters of public policy relating to disability rights. Best known for its annual convention – the largest of its type in the world – the National Down Syndrome Congress is a grassroots organization recognized for its "family" feel, its "We're More Alike than Different" public awareness campaign, and, its outreach to individuals from diverse backgrounds. The National Down Syndrome Congress is committed to creating a national climate in which all people will recognize and embrace the value and dignity of people with Down syndrome. For more information about the NDSC, please visit our website at www.ndsccenter.org.

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