



**October 14, 2003**

**Statements by Featured Speakers on Audio News Conference**

**Ann Cook, Co-Founder, Time Out From Testing:**

*“We shouldn’t be helping kids pass a bad exam. The tests are not aligned with the standards, not aligned with the curriculum, and they are poorly constructed.*

*If we are spending our time teaching a kid how to take a test, and at the end of the day they don’t read a book, what have we really achieved?*

*The system is having a negative effect. If you develop a medication and it winds up killing half the people you give it to, you have to ask yourself what the problem is. You have to start with first do no harm.”*

**Martha Foote, Research Consultant, Time Out From Testing, on the data showing increasing and projected drop-out rates:**

*“How are you helping students when you are increasing the drop out rate?”*

**Chris Owens, Spokesperson for Congressman Major Owens:**

*“It doesn’t make any sense to continue to penalize our children through these tests. High-stakes tests should be used to evaluate the system, not the individual children.”*

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