COALITION URGES BERNIE SANDERS TO CHECK THE FACTS BEFORE OPPOSING SUGARY DRINKS TAX

Sanders' call for City to tax the wealthy at a higher income tax rate is legally impossible under the state Uniformity Clause

Philadelphia, April 24, 2016 – Philadelphians for a Fair Future tonight issued the following statement in response to Sen. Bernie Sanders' oped about the Sugary Drinks Tax on Sunday:

"I have a great deal of respect for Senator Sanders' values, but, regrettably, it appears that he doesn't understand the facts or the reality that Pennsylvanians are facing," said PFF spokesman Kevin Feeley. "The Pennsylvania Constitution has a uniformity clause that prevents Philadelphia from levying higher income tax rates on the wealthy, as Senator Sanders continues to suggest as an alternative. The Sugary Drinks proposal is a corporate tax that would ask millionaire soda distributors to pay for our children to have access to community schools and expanded pre-K.

"Our children can't wait for the Republican-dominated Washington or Harrisburg legislatures to fund the things we need. We need real opportunities now for our children and for our future."

Senator Senators' comments also betrayed a lack of understanding of the proposed Sugary Drink Tax on Sunday's *Meet the Press*. When pressed by host Chuck Todd if his opposition implied that Sanders opposed taxes on cigarettes as well, Sanders claimed the two taxes were different because cigarettes had negative health effects. Studies show that black and Latino children have a one in two chance to develop diabetes thanks in part to the soda industry's targeted advertising at minorities. The full transcript of Sanders' interview is attached, and is also available at:

http://www.nbcnews.com/meet-the-press

Contact: **April 24, 2016**

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