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Primary Contact:
Autumn Carter
Executive Director
650-625-9480
acarter@uscommonsense.org

CALIFORNIA POLICY GROUP EXPANDS SCOPE, REBRANDS AS UNITED STATES COMMON SENSE

Non-profit to provide policy analysis, data, & fiscal health platform relevant to local & state governments nationwide

Mountain View, CA (February 24, 2016) – Today, California Common Sense, a data-driven policy group, announced that it will expand its organizational scope beyond California’s state and local governments to state and local governments nationwide. With its addition of nationwide data and analysis, the organization will now be known as **United States Common Sense** (www.uscommonsense.org).

Amid a statewide budget crisis that generated widespread attention and concern among citizens, Stanford students and alumni founded the nonpartisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2010 to open California’s government to the public, provide data-driven policy analysis, and educate citizens about how their governments work. With its rebranding as United States Common Sense, the organization’s mission remains the same and California will remain an important component of its research program. However, it will also work to deliver meaningful comparative analyses, individual case studies, and broadly applicable tools relevant to a nationwide audience.

“Our rebranding as United States Common Sense is an exciting, natural extension of the thoughtful work we’ve undertaken over the last five years in California,” said **Autumn Carter, US Common Sense’s Executive Director**. “As Stanford students, we started this organization to cut through the politics and interests that too often shut out citizens from discourse. And without a doubt, as political polarization has only grown fiercer, so too has our commitment to delivering trustworthy analysis to citizens, journalists, and researchers across this nation.”

Over the past year, United States Common Sense has quietly built the nation’s largest public finance database and financial records repository. Planned for launch in March 2016, it will include comparable financial data, audits, and budgets for more than 12,000 local governments and all 50 states dating back to 2008-09. The user-friendly fiscal sustainability platform will rank local and state government financial performance, and offer valuable research tools.

United States Common Sense offers users access to the following products:

- [Interactive Data Explorer](#) – curated public data sets, data visualization tools, and data downloads on a range of policy issues;
- [Quick Policy Guides](#) – plain language briefs that explain government systems or policies, visualize data, and analyze trends; and
- [Open Records Initiative](#) – the nation’s largest publicly accessible electronic collection of state and local Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports, budgets, and other public records.

Visit United States Common Sense at www.uscommonsense.org.

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