ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION #2

This Initiative Goes Too Far

This initiative promotes widespread recreational use while presenting itself as only helping patients. It needlessly exposes our children and youth to a dangerous and highly addictive drug. It violates sound medical practice. It will increase traffic fatalities and criminal activity. It overrides the ability of cities and towns to make their own zoning decisions. We strongly urge you to vote “AGAINST” this initiative.

Youth Marijuana Use Will Increase
A recent national survey shows that states that legalized marijuana have the highest rate of youth marijuana use in the nation. Utah currently ranks last. Adolescent use lowers IQ, reduces motivation, causes psychosis, and is associated with increased suicide attempts and abuse of other drugs. Utah has over 650,000 school children that will be put at significant risk. This is one reason Utah PTA opposes this initiative.

Marijuana Will Be Sold by Untrained “Budtenders”
Real medicine requires a prescription filled at a pharmacy. In sharp contrast, the initiative allows virtually anyone to obtain a healthcare provider’s “recommendation.” People with no legitimate medical training (“budtenders”) will then sell marijuana products with names such as Green Crack, AK-47, Gorilla Glue and Girl Scout Cookies. People will be able to buy the equivalent of 100 joints every two weeks. This is one reason Utah Medical Association opposes this initiative.

Traffic Fatalities and Crime Will Increase
States that have legalized marijuana have seen dramatic increases in marijuana-related traffic accidents and deaths. These states have also seen an increase in criminal marijuana activity. This is one reason the Utah law enforcement community opposes this initiative.

Cities Will Have No Control Over Marijuana Operations
Elected city and county officials will not be able to prevent large marijuana-growing warehouses, dispensaries, or other marijuana-related businesses from
operating in our community. Marijuana could be sold as close as 300 feet to our homes and only 600 feet from schools, parks, and playgrounds. That’s why many local community leaders oppose this initiative.

**Taxpayers Will Foot the Bill**
This marijuana initiative is costly to taxpayers because it allows cash-only dispensaries to sell marijuana without charging sales tax. The state of Utah will be forced to regulate this new multimillion dollar industry with no offsetting tax to pay for it. Big Marijuana gets rich and we get the bill.

**Utah Is Already Helping Patients**
We support medical marijuana when administered in the same manner as any other legitimate drug – through a physician and pharmacist. In addition to FDA approval of a marijuana extract for seizures, Utah has already approved science-based and medically sound treatments derived from marijuana for patients with specific needs.

**Conclusion**
This initiative is highly dangerous. It artfully conceals intentions that go far beyond the simplistic description given by initiative proponents. They are funded by a powerful pro-marijuana lobbying organization based in Washington, DC, that exploits the plight of the sick to further their ultimate goal of recreational marijuana.

Vote “AGAINST” this costly, unnecessary, and dangerous initiative.

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