

## **PROPOSITION 2 – ARGUMENT IN FAVOR**

The Utah Medical Cannabis Act would allow sick and suffering Utahns to legally access cannabis if their doctors feel it can help them.

Passing this law would make Utah the 30th state to approve medical cannabis as a treatment for sick and ailing patients with a limited set of approved conditions. Polls in Utah have repeatedly shown over 75% of voters support this proposal.

Despite such strong support, the Legislature has not been willing to pass an effective law that stops treating patients as criminals. As a result, the Utah Patients Coalition collected nearly 200,000 signatures to give you the opportunity to decide this important issue.

The Utah Medical Cannabis Act is a cautiously crafted bill, written with Utah values in mind. It includes responsible regulations to ensure only patients can obtain legal access. It also gives law enforcement significant oversight and applies numerous restrictions to minimize abuse. Recreational use of cannabis would remain strictly prohibited and will continue to be prosecuted according to the law.

Patients with the following ailments would be allowed access under a doctor's supervision:

Epilepsy

Cancer

Chronic pain

Crohn's disease

Autism

PTSD

Multiple Sclerosis

HIV/AIDS

Alzheimer's disease

ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease)

Individuals suffering from these conditions should not be criminalized, especially when others like them are able to find symptom relief in states that provide safe, legal use of cannabis-based treatments. Creating medical refugees of sick Utahns—and forcing them to abandon their support network in our great state merely to find relief elsewhere—is inhumane. There is a better way.

If you agree, we invite you to support medical patients by voting in favor of the Utah Medical Cannabis Act. Patients shouldn't be treated as criminals.

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## **PROPOSITION 2 – REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR**

Over the past five years, Utah lawmakers have passed several bills to help people who can benefit from medical marijuana. These initial steps are well thought-out, chart a responsible path to relieving suffering, and protect Utah communities from unintended consequences. Unfortunately, Proposition 2 ignores these policy changes and implements a de facto recreational marijuana policy in Utah.

Proposition 2 violates the safeguards of legitimate medicine. Instead of physicians only, the initiative allows a long list of individuals to recommend marijuana use. Instead of pharmacies, it provides for dispensaries (the initiative's term for pot shops) to sell a variety of products such as gummies and brownies. Instead of prescribed dosages managed by licensed pharmacists, the initiative allows any person to receive the equivalent of 100 joints every two weeks. This is recreational marijuana, not medical marijuana.

The co-author of California's medical marijuana law, very similar to Proposition 2, says, "We created [it] so that patients would not have to deal with black-market profiteers. But today it is all about the money. Most of the dispensaries operating in California are little more than dope dealers with storefronts." Utah can do better.

The National Academies of Sciences Engineering and Medicine concluded marijuana use during adolescence negatively impacts education performance, employment and social relationships. States legalizing medical marijuana have seen an increase in youth usage, suicide and addiction rates. The harm to our youth is predictable and measurable.

We encourage all Utahns to vote AGAINST Proposition 2.

Senator Evan Vickers and Representative Brad Daw  
842 E 280 S  
Orem, Utah 84097

## **PROPOSITION 2 – ARGUMENT AGAINST 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.

Representative Brad Daw  
842 E 280 S  
Orem, UT 84097

Senator Evan Vickers

## PROPOSITION 2 – REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST

The Utah Medical Cannabis Act (Prop 2) will be among the most conservative medical cannabis programs in the country, according to Americans for Safe Access. In fact, it would be the only program that bans both smoking and home cultivation. The arguments against Prop 2 are shrouded in fear and hyperbole.

Opponents claim the initiative “promotes widespread recreational use.” This is false. Absolutely no recreational use is allowed. Instead, a patient with an approved condition must be given access by a medical provider who also has legal authority to prescribe opioids.

The vast majority of Utahns support Prop 2, including many law enforcement officers, doctors, and lawmakers. With diverse backgrounds and views, we all agree on this point: **patients should not be treated as criminals.**

Scientists throughout the world, especially in Israel, have clinically researched the benefits of cannabis for decades. Utahns can benefit from this vast library of knowledge. While more research is always better, the opposition fails to embrace the profound amount of scientific research validating medical cannabis.

Think of your loved ones who suffer from cancer, MS, chronic pain, epilepsy, and more. What would you want for them? Forcing families to choose between fleeing the state or breaking the law and risking losing their job or children is neither reasonable nor compassionate.

We urge you to set aside the opposition’s fearmongering and let Utah join thirty other states with patient access to medical cannabis, under a doctor’s supervision.

Support medical patients. Vote FOR Prop 2.

- Donald Schanz and Connor Boyack (Utah Patients Coalition Officers)