

# National Black Church Initiative

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## THE NATIONAL BLACK CHURCH INITIATIVE URGES ALL AFRICAN-AMERICANS IN CALIFORNIA TO VOTE AGAINST PROP 19

### *BLACK CHURCH CALLS NAACP "DOPE PUSHERS"*

**Washington D.C.** – The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a coalition of 34,000 churches, condemns the NAACP and their support of California's Proposition 19 effort to legalize marijuana. The Black church is not in the business of endorsing illegal substances such as marijuana. The National Institute on Drug Abuse reports that marijuana accounted for 4.2 million of the estimated 7 million Americans dependent on or abusing illicit drugs. Some of the short-term effects of marijuana use include distorted perceptions, memory impairment, and difficulty thinking and solving problems – these facts point to the reason why NBCI opposes this dangerous legislation.

Rev. Anthony Evans, president of the NBCI, expressed his disgust with the proposed legislation, calling those who are in favor of Prop 19 'dope pushers.' "I never believed that I would be in the position of condemning the NAACP because they are advocating drugs in our community. I have no choice as a responsible, Christian clergy but to condemn the NAACP's action to support drugs and to urge all African-Americans in the state of California to vote against Prop 19 in the upcoming election. Prop 19, if passed, will continue to kill the Black family and undermine the great work on the Black church," said Evans.

Rev. Evans and NBCI stand firmly in opposition to Prop 19 and what they believe to be the devastating effect on the Black family and today's younger generations. Drugs are just one avenue through which young people make bad decisions, keeping them outside of society-accepted roles. "We recently enacted a 10-year plan advocating the family and we cannot have our teenagers getting high when they don't even have a job and they can't pull up their pants," said Evans. NBCI has launched an aggressive 10-year program to help save the Black family.

Unlike the NAACP, The Urban League, or Al Sharpton, NBCI has decided to devote all of its resources to strengthen the structural integrity and address the complex issues facing the Black family today.

Simply put, the NBCI will no longer stand idly by while the basic tenants of family and Christianity are eroding. NBCI will focus on several threats in their effort to revitalize the Black family:

- NBCI will advocate the value and importance of marriage between one man and one woman.
- NBCI will, as always, seek to protect, educate, and morally guide children and seek to maintain family structures that facilitate this necessary goal.
- NBCI is committed to helping Black families gain control of their spiritual lives.
- Even in this trying economic time it is necessary for Black families to take control over their financial futures.
- NBCI will fight to eradicate the problems that drugs and alcoholism bring to Black families.
- NBCI wants to prevent divorce.
- NBCI wants to prevent adultery.
- NBCI does not condone homosexuality and seeks to assist homosexuals through individual, spiritual, and family therapy.
- NBCI wants to eradicate domestic violence and abuse.
- NBCI wants to eradicate child neglect and abuse.
- NBCI wants to promote education as it facilitates financial stability and improves lives.
- Although they have preached against these evils, NBCI is committed to developing a science-based plan to eliminate these threats from the Black family.

If Prop 19 is passed and marijuana is legalized in the state of California, NBCI plans to cut any and all ties it has to the NAACP.

### **About NBCI**

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 34,000 African-American and Latino churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. NBCI's mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches, and the public. The National Black Church Initiative's methodology is utilizing faith and sound health science. The National Black Church Initiative's purpose is to partner with major organization and officials whose main mission is to reduce racial disparities in the variety of areas cited above. NBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the-box and cutting edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. NBCI's programs are governed by credible statistical analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work.

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