

National Black Church Initiative

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NATIONAL BLACK CHURCH INITIATIVE CALLS FOR THE RESIGNATION OF CALIFORNIA NAACP PRESIDENT ALICE HUFFMAN

Washington DC – The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a coalition of 34,000 African American churches, calls for the immediate resignation of Alice Huffman, the president of the NAACP’s California chapter. NBCI demands that Alice Huffman be removed from her position of leadership based on her continued advocacy and support of Prop 19, the proposal for the legalization of marijuana. NBCI strongly urges the NAACP to closely examine the direction their current leadership – the powerful influence the NAACP has over the citizens of California and African Americans nationwide underscores the necessity of carefully managing their leaders as their decisions shape the public landscape. Representing illegal substances and promoting their use are irresponsible stands for the NAACP to make.

This is one of many controversial issues surrounding Alice Huffman’s leadership. NBCI is aware that the NAACP has bills to pay and employees to support – this economic time has been trying for Americans across the board. However, a civil rights organization with as much history and prestige as the NAACP should not lower themselves to sponsoring issues solely for financial gain. NBCI feels that the NAACP’s support of Prop 19 is an example of this disturbing motivation. We sit back, looking at all of the legitimate, complex civil rights crises facing our nation and shake our head in utter disbelief – marijuana warrants support when hate crimes with an anti-black bias motivation continue to be the most common hate crime in California, accounting for at least 26 percent of all hate crime events since 2000?^[i]

Rev. Anthony Evans, President of NBCI, states, “I take this matter very seriously and this threat against the Black family concerns me. I took the unprecedented move to order our churches to do whatever it takes to motivate voters to vote against Prop 19. While we were overjoyed that Californians agreed with us and voted against Prop 19, we continue to be worried for the state of the NAACP. We won this battle because we stand for our beliefs and vigorously support our faith. We will continue to closely monitor the NAACP’s actions and warn them – this is not over.”

Bishop Ron Allen, president and CEO of International Faith-Based Coalition/ Forces United, agrees with NBCI and their call for Ms. Huffman to resign. Black churches across the country clearly understand that we cannot have leaders of the NAACP advocating the use and legalization of illegal drugs because it sends the wrong message to young people who are confused about their ability to control their own fate. Overturning Prop 19 was just the beginning of changes that NBCI believes need to be made, forcing the NAACP to recognize the error of their ways and the terrible misguidance they've been spreading. "I am calling on Alice Huffman to step down as the president of the NAACP in California. We want her resignation immediately. The ban continues on NAACP activities in the church until Alice Huffman steps down." Her resignation will be yet another brick to help lay the new foundation for a better tomorrow – in California and in the United States.

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 organizations 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. Visit our website at www.naltblackchurch.com.

[i]Source: Hate Crimes in California, 2009. Edmund G. Brown Jr., Attorney General. California Department of Justice, Division of California Justice Information Services, Bureau of Criminal Information and Analysis Criminal Justice Statistics Center.