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Diocese of Reno
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Bishop Joseph Pepe and Bishop Randolph Calvo, in our capacity as the Nevada Catholic Conference, issue this statement in opposition to the Initiative To Regulate And Tax Marijuana. The Initiative, which is Ballot Question 2, proposes legalizing the sale and the recreational use of marijuana in Nevada. As people of faith, we must speak out against the damaging effects the passage of Question 2 would have on the children and families of Nevada.

Legalizing the sale and the recreational use of marijuana in Nevada sends a message to children and young people that drug use is socially and morally acceptable. Further, legalizing the sale and recreational use of marijuana will lead to more abuse by teens, more emergency room visits, more traffic deaths, and more strain on already overburdened agencies.

A strong Nevada economy requires continued growth. A dependable workforce is essential to the growth which creates a strong economy. We believe that passage of Question 2 would have a negative effect on potential new businesses considering making Nevada their home, because of concerns recreational marijuana use would raise about the dependability of the work force.

Because of the detrimental effects it would have on children, families, the economy, and all of society, we strongly urge Nevadans to oppose the legalization of the sale and recreational use of marijuana, and to vote "No" on Ballot Question 2.