



Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association
Approved as of August 12, 2014
Amendment 2: Board of Directors Resolution

Whereas, on November 4th, 2014, Florida voters will be asked to decide on a constitutional amendment (Amendment 2) that would legalize medical marijuana in the state and pose a threat to Florida's hospitality and tourism industry; and

Whereas, the hospitality industry has a significant impact on Central Florida's economic prosperity, through tourist tax revenues and through the direct and indirect employment the industry provides for over one-third of Central Florida citizens; and

Whereas, over 59 million visitors traveled to Central Florida in 2013 and spent over \$34 billion dollars, generating a \$54 billion impact on the Central Florida economy; and

Whereas, the Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association (CFHLA) is the world's largest regional lodging association and represents approximately 80% of all lodging rooms in Central Florida; and

Whereas, CFHLA and the hospitality industry's primary concern is protecting Central Florida's "Family-Friendly" international brand; and

Whereas, the Charlotte's Web law passed by the Florida Legislature this year, a law that carefully regulates the legalized use of low-potency marijuana to treat conditions such as epilepsy, Lou Gehrig's disease and cancer, provides a compassionate alternative treatment for patients and cannot be exploited by recreational marijuana users; and

Whereas, by contrast, the Florida ballot item, Amendment 2, is too obscure, and CFHLA shares the concerns of the Florida Medical Association that the Amendment would allow doctors with little or no training in the prescribing of controlled substances the ability to order medical marijuana for Floridians of any age, posing a threat to the "Family-Friendly" image of Central Florida; and

Whereas, CFHLA Leadership will not support any ambiguous legislation that defies federal law without medical legitimacy, especially an amendment that would turn Florida into one of the nation's easiest states for individuals to acquire "medical" marijuana certification; and

Whereas, CFHLA will continue to fight to protect Central Florida's "Family-Friendly" image that has made Central Florida one of the world's most visited destinations.

Now, therefore, I, Doug Gehret, Chairman of the Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association Board of Directors declare **opposition** to the Florida Right to Medical Marijuana Initiative, or Amendment 2, on behalf of CFHLA membership.



Doug Gehret, CFHLA Board Chairman