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STATEMENT ON PROPOSITION 14

The Jewish Community Relations Council of San Francisco, the Peninsula and Marin feels that there are some unusual dangers present in Proposition 14 which should be brought to the special attention of all members of the Jewish community.

Proposition 14 would do more than wipe the state fair housing law off the books. It would freeze into the State Constitution a prohibition against any state or local public body ever doing anything about the problem of housing discrimination.

Many groups in California have pointed out the dangers of such a self-paralyzing step backward, at the very time when we are trying to move towards a greater measure of racial harmony and racial justice.

The Northern California Board of Rabbis has expressed the opinion that Proposition 14 runs counter to the religious traditions of Judaism! "Have we not all One Father?" Hath not One God created us all? We reject as unjust and undemocratic Proposition 14 which aims at the perpetuation of discrimination and bigotry in the area of housing in California." The Catholic Archbishop of San Francisco, and the Northern California Council of Protestant Churches have joined the Board of Rabbis in opposition to Proposition 14.

The passage of Proposition 14 would openly legitimize and encourage religious and racial discrimination.

The Jewish Community Relations Council feels strongly that -- as Americans, as Californians, and as Jews -- we have a vital stake in the defeat of Proposition 14.