

**SUBJECT: Father Joe's Villages' Statement on the Passing of California Proposition 1**

During the March 5 primary election, Californians voted to approve Proposition 1, a ballot measure that seeks to overhaul the state's approach to mental health treatment.

Proposition 1 would allow California to invest \$6.4 billion to build behavioral health treatment beds and additional supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness. Importantly, the measure would allow states to focus on behavioral health needs to help prevent homelessness in the first place.

**Please consider the following statement from Deacon Jim Vargas, president and CEO at Father Joe's Villages:**

"We applaud the voters of California for approving Proposition 1, which will go a long way toward helping to mitigate the behavioral health crisis in our state. Given that people experiencing homelessness may face behavioral health crises at a higher rate than others, it is crucial to invest in the right places.

As the largest homelessness services provider in San Diego, we know first-hand that shelters or housing without wraparound services aren't enough. As a state, we need to direct resources to those experiencing homelessness and behavioral health issues so they can permanently exit homelessness.

We look forward to Prop 1 helping cities and counties across California increase access to community-based services, supportive housing and behavioral health workers. We are hopeful that this bold approach will continue the momentum we've built locally."

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***For interviews with Deacon Jim Vargas, please contact Mike at [mike@gomixte.com](mailto:mike@gomixte.com) or (619) 732-0789 x 645.***