



# GUN OWNERS CAUCUS

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**RE: HF717**

Members of the Committee:

The Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus is dedicated to protecting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights of Minnesota's law-abiding gun owners. Consistent with that mission, we evaluate any legislation or proposals that could impact an individual's right to keep and bear arms.

Before you is a bill which establishes a "Cannabis Task Force" to advise the legislature on the legal and policy issues associated with the legalization, taxation, and regulation of cannabis production, sale, and use. While our organization does not take a position on the aspects of legalization or decriminalization of cannabis, we **strongly support** the creation of this task force.

There are a great number of questions surrounding how the legalization or decriminalization of cannabis affects the rights of individuals as it pertains to gun ownership, for example:

- Effects on the right to obtain a permit to carry or permit to purchase
- How latent THC affects carrying a firearm as permitted under state law
- How latent THC affects investigations into lawful use of self-defense
- The effect of federal laws which criminalizes sale, use, and possession of cannabis
  - 18 USC 922, for example, prohibits users and addicts of cannabis from purchasing or possessing firearms and ammunition.

These topics, among many others need comprehensive evaluation to ensure that Minnesotans are informed about the benefits and ramifications of changes in the state's policies around cannabis. It's incumbent on the legislature to make every effort explore all potential consequences to policy changes. We must all ensure that citizens, especially gun owners, can draw informed and accurate conclusions about how these policy changes will affect their lives.

We strongly encourage the creation of this task force and would welcome any opportunity to provide insight as the opportunities are explored.

Sincerely,



Bryan Strawser  
Chair



Rob Doar  
Political Director