



March 5, 2019

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Beth Gendler, Executive Director with National Council of Jewish Women Minnesota. I am writing in support of Rep. Mariani’s bill, House File 717, to create a Cannabis Task Force.

As the leader of an organization committed to social justice and equity, as well as an individual and organizational member of the Steering Committee of the Minnesotans for Responsible Marijuana Regulation coalition, I believe that now is the time to ask thoughtful, probing, questions about the legalization of cannabis in Minnesota.

There are many reasons I support the legalization of marijuana, but before we legalize, we must take the opportunity to consider the perspectives, nuances, challenges, and opportunities of our path forward.

My organization is chiefly concerned with improving the quality of life for women, children and families in Minnesota. Criminalizing marijuana has marginalized communities of color in our state and has had a negative impact on all of the issues associated with our intersectional feminist policy priorities. I know there are many others that join me in a desire to see a multi-faceted, multi-stakeholder task force take shape to address the multitude of questions that require answers. We owe this to ourselves and to all Minnesotans.

I support HF 717 and look forward to the resulting task force.

Sincerely,

Beth Gendler  
Executive Director

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