



March 5, 2019

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

I write on behalf of Jewish Community Action in support of Rep. Mariani's bill, House File 717, to create a Cannabis Task Force. JCA is dedicated to organizing the Twin Cities Jewish community around issues of economic and racial justice.

Ending the failed prohibition on marijuana is without a doubt a critical step toward addressing systemic racial and economic injustices and disparities in our state. Regulating and taxing marijuana will reduce jail and prison populations, which have disproportionately impacted people and communities of color and made it more difficult for them to qualify for jobs, rent or purchase homes, qualify for student loans, and to do many of the other things that are necessary to have security and opportunity.

As Minnesota looks toward legalization, it is imperative that we ensure we are asking the right questions and forming the right answer based on facts and evidence, as well as meaningful conversation with Minnesotans from all walks of life. We ask you to support Rep. Mariani's bill, which we believe is an important step toward making that happen.

Sincerely,

Carin Mrotz  
Executive Director