



2550 University Ave W, Suite 350-S  
St. Paul, MN 55114

May 9, 2025

Members of the Conference Committee on H.F. 2432,

On behalf of the Cannabis Expungement Board (CEB), thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on the Judiciary and Public Safety Omnibus Bill, H.F. 2432.

We appreciate the support for the work of the CEB from the committee chairs and members, despite the challenges you are facing with this budget.

#### **Cancellation of Funds.**

Both the House and Senate positions assume some level of cancellation of unspent funds in the CEB budget. While we do not have a position on cancellations generally, we do want to ensure that if included they are at a level that does not impact the Board's ability to meet operating expenses and start-up costs.

Unspent funds in the state's accounting system are not the same as available funds. Unspent funds could be contractually obligated but just not yet disbursed to pay an invoice.

The CEB is estimating it will need \$2.2 million to meet current fiscal year obligations (invoices that are yet to be submitted or are waiting payment). This estimate includes salary obligations for existing and newly hired staff, remaining lease payments, contractual obligations for our case management system. We also are estimating that we will need an additional \$1.3 million to meet anticipated technology related start-up expenses. This will include case management system and data management system strategies that we have not yet been able to deploy.

Accommodating both of these needs would leave \$6.7 million available for cancellation in the committee's spreadsheet.

#### **Policy Language – Senate Article 6**

Our policy bill seeks to align our statute with what we believe was the original legislative intent to provide relief for all past felony cannabis offenses that otherwise meet eligibility and review requirements. We appreciate the support for this in both chambers. The Senate has included SF 204 in its conference committee language. HF 1094, although not included here, was passed out of the Public Safety Committee with an amendment.

The House amendment deleted the language at 112.14-112.16. This language addresses the judicial branch only expunging cases if every count in the case qualifies. It would allow the entire case to be expunged if all other charges were dismissed or would otherwise be eligible for expungement under the automatic cannabis expungement statute. We have offered language to address concerns in the House by allowing the entire case to be expunged if all other charges were otherwise eligible *cannabis* dismissals, rather than any type of dismissal, or would otherwise be eligible for expungement under the automatic cannabis expungement statute. We respectfully request that the Conference Committee adopt the Senate language, with this amendment to address the concerns of some House members.

Thank you again for your support this session and for the challenging work you have ahead of you in the coming days. We are excited about the work ahead for the Cannabis Expungement Board.

We are happy to provide further information or answer questions. Thank you for your commitment to justice and for considering our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James R. Rowader Jr." in a cursive script.

Jim Rowader  
Executive Director

*Equal Opportunity Employer*