

My name is Marcus Marcus, I am a family man, writer, organizer, and social entrepreneur from North MPLS. I'm the director of the MN CFL and I have studied the history of Cannabis prohibition and the emerging legal Cannabis industry since 2014 when Colorado and Washington State implemented the nation's first adult use Cannabis markets. As a Cannabis consumer for the past 22 years, I can tell you that prohibition is the problem, not Cannabis. Cannabis is a healing plant, not a dangerous killer drug. The most dangerous thing about Cannabis is getting caught with it. Fear mongering Prohibitionists will argue that legalization will cause the sky to fall, but it has not. Even with inequitably regulated, overly taxed legalization models, free states are respecting personal freedom, increasing public safety, improving public health, creating economic development, and advancing social justice by ending the senseless criminalization of Cannabis consumers. There is not one honest reason to justify prohibition, which has failed to prevent the billion-dollar illicit market that serves nearly 700,000 adult Minnesotan Cannabis consumers today. The only way to displace the illicit market is to allow the emerging legal market to work well for entrepreneurs and consumers. H.F. 600 does well in proposing a craft market that will create thousands of businesses, tens of thousands of jobs, and provide a wide variety of safe products for consumers to enjoy. We are learning from the best practices and mistakes of the forerunning Cannabis free states. This bill has the potential to establish the best model of full legalization in the United States, one that intentionally redresses the wrongs of the failed and structurally racist drug war with equitable regulation by the Cannabis Management Board and the Office for Social Equity. Please vote to advance this smart bill!