

March 24, 2026

Representative Erin Koegel
Representative Tim O'Driscoll
Co-Chairs, House Commerce Finance and Policy Committee
Capitol Building, Room 120
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Co-chairs Koegel and O'Driscoll, Representative Hanson and members of the House Commerce Finance and Policy Committee:

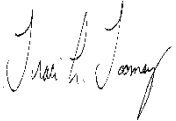
I am submitting this letter in support of HF4203. The Cannabis Research Center (CRC) in the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota is focused on conducting a wide range of research studies related to cannabis. The CRC strives to understand the health implications of cannabis and be a trusted source of information to guide policy and practice related to cannabis use.

The CRC meets regularly with staff members from the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) as well as other state agencies such as the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to identify opportunities for collaboration and to determine how we can support each other. Part of the collaborative work is identifying, creating, and shaping data sources. For example, we have worked together to ensure that a valuable statewide data source that can be used by state agencies and the CRC will continue to be available over time. We have also collaborated to improve cannabis-related questions on existing surveys such as the Minnesota Student Survey. There are many questions to be answered related to legalization of cannabis; however, data sources are not always readily available to answer these questions unless we are proactive and work together.

Staff from the CRC, OCM and other state agencies have regularly communicated to ensure that our work is complementary rather than duplicative. We look forward to continuing this communication and building collaborations with OCM and other agencies. By understanding and building on each of our strengths, we can better inform the legislature, practitioners, and the general public about a wide range of issues related to cannabis.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Traci L. Toomey, PhD
Professor
Director, Cannabis Research Center
School of Public Health, University of Minnesota