03/28/2023
Jennifer C. May
Edina, MN

Re: Legislative Testimony

Dear Chair and Members

My name is Jennifer May and I'm here to testify against HR 100 to legalize marijuana in MN. I wanted to offer my testimony regarding our family's personal struggle with marijuana and my son Zack's severe marijuana dependence. My son is 19 years old and has been using marijuana daily for almost 5 years. He never had any mental health diagnosis before using marijuana and now since he has been using he has been diagnosed with anxiety, depression, ADHD, PTSD, and severe marijuana dependence. He was able to purchase it in a bathroom of his high school. Three years ago he started vaping high potency THC and we have witnessed his mental and physical health experiencing a steady decline. As a parent, I did not understand that he was vaping high potency THC as he hid it well. His dependence has robbed him of his ability to go to college, drive a car/get his drivers license, follow through with basic directions. In May 2022 he developed Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome (CHS) from prolonged daily use of pot and he has had bouts of intense vomiting and extreme pain. We have been to 11 hospital ER's due to his extreme pain. Our son sometimes admits that marijuana is causing him to vomit and sometimes he refuses to believe this. Our son has gone through two rounds of rehab. He is currently living in hotels with a friend or in his friend's car. I implore you to educate yourselves on Cannabis-Induced Psychosis and Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome (CHS) and study the link between severe dependence on pot and suicide. I never thought that this would ever happen to my child. We talked to him about all of the dangers of drugs. I was extremely upset to see a marijuana booth in the health building at the State Fair this year touting pot's health benefits. Any rational person, after hearing what our family has been through, would certainly agree pot shouldn't be advertised in front of children and families at a State Fair.

Jennifer C. May