



May 8, 2025

Minnesota Legislators

The passage of the Minnesota Adult Cannabis law in August 2023 ushered in a new industry with explicit provisions to address the injustices done to minority communities as a result of criminal prosecution of cannabis possession and use and to eliminate the unregulated, illegal market. While the benefits to the state's economy via sales taxes and the recreational benefits to adult consumers remain, sometimes lost are the concerns about potential harms to individuals and the public. The growing body of rigorous scientific studies that describe physiological, behavioral and neurodevelopmental consequences of cannabis use highlights that this drug can lead to significant public health problems.

This letter is an effort to draw your attention to the importance for Minnesota to stay at the forefront of understanding the public health impacts of adult legalization of cannabis. The Adult Cannabis law had a provision for a University of Minnesota Cannabis Research Center (CRC). It is our understanding that CRC's funding is about to be eliminated. The CRC is a critical research unit for Minnesota. It is the one research source to study and compile public health and related knowledge to inform Minnesota's citizens and policy makers. The state is not well-served by just relying on national and international-based research. CRC can focus on how cannabis use in Minnesota may impact our use habits, health, and legal and social systems.

We are legalizing a substance that we are still learning about. Without the CRC we proceed forward ignorant of what lies in cannabis' wake. CRC's mission must be supported and their work disseminated. This is not a time to eliminate it. We appreciate any role you can take to preserve CRC.

Sincerely,

George Realmuto, M.D.

Ken C. Winters, Ph.D.

Judson Bemis

Kevin Ringhofer, Ph.D.

Smart Approaches to Marijuana Minnesota