



Sensible policies, safer communities.

Representative Tina Liebling, Chair
Health Policy and Finance Committee
477 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: House File 3119 (Edelson)
Reduction of medical cannabis patient enrollment fee

Dear Chair Liebling and members of the Health Policy and Finance Committee,

I write today on behalf of Sensible Change Minnesota, in support of House File 3119. Sensible Change Minnesota is a non-profit that believes our communities are safer when we create sensible drug policies. We are a patient led and run and have spent much of the past several years improving Minnesota's medical cannabis program.

HF3119 reduces the medical cannabis patient enrollment fee to \$40. This removes yet another unnecessary barrier to patient access in Minnesota. Since its enactment in 2015, patients have struggled to afford the program. Some patients are paying upwards of \$500-\$600 just to join the program, especially if their primary care provider does not, cannot, or will not certify them. Patients who face this issue often pay "cash clinics" anywhere from \$200-\$400 for their certification, in addition to the current \$200 patient enrollment fee. This legislative change will drastically reduce that burden for many Minnesotans.

While we are very supportive of HF3119, we are concerned that only two companies in the State of Minnesota are producing medical cannabis. With a ballooning patient count, especially following enactment of this fee, we believe the legislature must also reevaluate the number of medical cannabis manufacturers in Minnesota.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comment on this bill, and support advancement of it through the legislative process.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maren Schroeder".

Maren Schroeder
Policy Director, Sensible Change Minnesota