



Sensible policies, safer communities.

Representative Carlos Mariani, Chair
Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Finance and Policy Committee
479 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: House File 883 (Gomez)
Drug paraphernalia definition modification

Dear Chair Mariani and Members of the Public Safety Committee,

I write today on behalf of Sensible Change Minnesota, in support of House File 883. Sensible Change Minnesota is a non-profit that believes our communities are safer when we create sensible drug policies. While we have spent much of our time working on cannabis issues, HF883 is a policy change we have also advocated for over the past several years.

HF883 removes equipment, products, and materials that test the strength, effectiveness, or purity of a controlled substance from the definition of drug paraphernalia. Minnesota exempted fentanyl detection strips from the definition, something we applaud, but it does not go far enough. Members of our team have been trained to provide other types of adulterant screening services, including those that use a "reagent kit", which use a series of chemicals to test a sample for the presence of various unwanted, unknown, and dangerous additives. Harm reduction organizations, such as DanceSafe, provide screening services at events, and use these kits as a tool to prevent accidental overdose or consumption of dangerous chemicals – something we can expand access to in Minnesota with this legislative change.

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", written in a cursive style.

Maren Schroeder
Policy Director, Sensible Change Minnesota