



Sensible policies, safer communities.

May 1, 2023

Representative Kelly Moller, Chair
Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
479 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Senator Ron Latz, Chair
Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
Minnesota State Senate
3105 Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF2909; Omnibus Judiciary and Public Safety Finance

Dear Chair Moller and Chair Latz:

Thank you for the opportunity for Sensible Change Minnesota to weigh-in on specific legislation included in the House and Senate versions of the Omnibus Judiciary and Public Safety Finance bills.

Sensible Change Minnesota is a non-profit that believes our communities are safer when we create sensible drug policies. We are a patient and consumer led and run organization and have spent much of the past several years improving Minnesota's medical cannabis program and advocating for safer drug policy.

The House version of the Omnibus Judiciary and Public Safety Finance bill includes HF2041 (Gomez)/SF2261 (Oumou Verbeten), a bill that authorizes syringe services to possess, distribute, and dispose of syringes; authorizes the hypodermic syringes and changes the state statute related to drug paraphernalia (See House version, Article 16, Sections 1-6 and 13-15).

Sensible Change Minnesota has pursued legislation to exempt adulterant screening and purity testing tools from the definition of drug paraphernalia since 2018. Minnesota exempted fentanyl strips from the definition a few years ago, but this does not go far enough. Other types of adulterant screening tools are still included in the paraphernalia definition, including those that use a "reagent kit," which uses 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 and should expand access to in Minnesota.

Further, Sensible Change Minnesota supports the other measures identified above, and encourages the conferees to incorporate this language into the final conference report.

Respectfully,

Maren Schroeder
Policy Director, Sensible Change Minnesota