

## Testimony of Maria K. Poirier, M.D. on H.F. 100, Omnibus Cannabis bill

February 2, 2023

Rep. Samantha Vang and members of the House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony in **opposition to H.F. 100 Cannabis bill**. My name is Maria Poirier and I am an internal medicine physician from Rochester with special expertise in the evaluation and treatment of adults with complex medical symptoms and conditions. Based on my recent review of the literature and daily interactions with patients, my professional opinion is that commercializing cannabis poses a serious health and safety threat to cannabis users, their families and to many Minnesotans. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of my patients who often believe, falsely, that if a product is legal then it must be safe for consumption.

I am particularly concerned about the health effects of hemp derived products which include cannabidiol (CBD) and hemp derived THC including delta-8 and delta-9 isomers. H.F. 100 will allow the commercialization of all the afore mentioned products.

In 2022, the FDA released several safety advisories<sup>1</sup> concerning the accidental ingestion by children of food products containing THC, including delta-8 and delta-9 isomers.<sup>2</sup> While **Article 7 Sec.3** bans hemp derived THC isomers other than delta-8 and delta-9, and places restrictions on THC dose amount, cannabis edible poisoning remains a threat to public health. According to the most current **Minnesota Poison Control Call data** (see attached), cannabis edible poisoning calls for children under age 12 increased by 60% from 2021. **Since legalization of THC edibles July 1, 2022, calls for children <12 increased 6% and calls for all ages increased 11% compared to the 6 months directly prior to legalization** (Dec. 2022 call data not yet available). **Since THC edible labeling and packaging language in H.F. 100 is nearly identical to the law passed in July, I have no doubt that poison control calls and hospital visits will continue to increase if this legislation is signed into law. No amount of patchwork state regulations have protected children from cannabis edible poisoning. Therefore, I am calling upon Congress to ban the manufacturing and sale of all hemp-derived psychoactive chemicals in the next U.S. Farm Bill.**

Last week, the FDA announced that a new regulatory framework is needed to ensure the safety of CBD as Food and Dietary Supplement Standards are not adequate to protect consumers.<sup>3</sup> As mentioned in the FDA announcement, consuming CBD raises safety concerns including potential for harm to the liver, male reproductive system, prenatal babies, and may interact

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fda.gov/food/alerts-advisories-safety-information/fda-warns-consumers-about-accidental-ingestion-children-food-products-containing-thc>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/5-things-know-about-delta-8-tetrahydrocannabinol-delta-8-thc>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-concludes-existing-regulatory-frameworks-foods-and-supplements-are-not-appropriate-cannabidiol>

with certain medications. I support the FDA's plan to work with Congress to enact a new, safer regulatory pathway for CBD.

In summary, cannabis is an addictive, intoxicating substance that may cause serious adverse events including hospitalization and death. As such, all cannabis products should be regulated by the FDA under Pharmaceutical Standards, not by state agencies. I urge committee members to oppose H.F.100.

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