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2/15/2021

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

Dear Chair Liebling and Committee Members:

Local 1189 represents union medical cannabis workers at Vireo Health, one of the two medical cannabis providers in Minnesota. We write today on their behalf in support of **HF813 (Edelson)** --- permitting the use of natural raw cannabis in the medical cannabis program as an allowable form.

As a Union of medical cannabis workers, we take seriously the health and well-being of the patients we serve, and strive to provide safe, quality medical cannabis to enrolled patients. Adopting HF 813 will correct a long overdue flaw in MN's program by giving patients access to a form that is both familiar and preferable for many in the treatment of their conditions.

Permitting the use of raw natural cannabis will align Minnesota's program with every other state medical THC program. MN patients deserve access to raw cannabis, just like patients in other medical cannabis states. As this committee has heard repeatedly, current costs are of great concern to patients, and to those who produce their medical cannabis. This committee can begin to address cost by diversifying choices for patients. For these reasons, we encourage the committee to adopt this overdue modification to Minnesota's program. It has our full and enthusiastic support.

In addition, we support the patient reforms proposed in **HF 907 (Gomez)**. Patients should be afforded all legal protections while enrolled in the program and free from retaliation and liability for treating their medical conditions under Minnesota law.

Furthermore, we support the proposals **HF1023 (Gomez)/HF675 (Munson)** to seek an exemption from the federal schedule I status for Minnesota's medical cannabis program. This novel approach would further clarify the validity of MN's program and its workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Christensen', is written over a horizontal line.

Jennifer Christensen
President

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