



# LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION PARTNERSHIP

ADVANCING JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY SOLUTIONS

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Date: March 7, 2022

Re: HF-1355-A bill for an act relating to public safety; modifying the definition of a small amount of marijuana

Position: SUPPORT

To: Minnesota House Public Safety Committee

Distinguished Members of the Committee,

As an organization of law enforcement professionals, the Law Enforcement Action Partnership is writing to express our support for HF-1355, which would reduce penalties for possession of a small personal amount of marijuana products to a petty misdemeanor. HF-1355 also removes possession of a small amount of marijuana from the definition of “crime of violence,” and provides a path to restore second amendment rights to those convicted of personal cannabis possession. We believe this bill would conserve law enforcement resources and improve police-community trust.

The Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP) is a nonprofit group of police, prosecutors, judges, and other criminal justice professionals who speak from firsthand experience in support of improvements to the criminal justice system. Our mission is to make communities safer by focusing law enforcement resources on the greatest threats to public safety and working toward healing police-community relations.

As law enforcement professionals, we know that every marijuana-related arrest takes hours away from investigating violent and other serious crimes. We need our police to focus on the greatest threats to public safety -- and marijuana is not one of them.

And yet marijuana possession remains one of the most common arrests across Minnesota, taking up a huge amount of officers' time.

Fortunately, HF-1355 addresses this by reducing penalties for possession of a small personal amount of non-flower THC products to a petty misdemeanor. The bill also removes possession of a small amount of marijuana from the definition of “crime of violence.” This is a step in the right direction.

**LawEnforcementActionPartnership.org**

*Formerly known as Law Enforcement Against Prohibition*

In addition, HF-1355 would improve police-community trust. When people are fearful of arrest and jail time because they have small amounts of marijuana products, they will not talk to police. Fear and distrust of police are what prevent people from sharing information with and reporting crimes to law enforcement.

With 600,000+ marijuana-related arrests every year in the US, we have taught millions of families not to open the door for the police. Minnesota state can help rebuild this trust and open up doors by passing HF-1355.

In conclusion, HF-1355 would allow limited police resources to be used where needed most. It would also improve police-community trust. The Law Enforcement Action Partnership supports HF-1355 because it would help make communities safer.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Lt. Diane Goldstein (Ret.)  
Executive Director  
Law Enforcement Action Partnership