

I am writing in support of HF600 legislation that is currently under consideration in the MN legislature.

I have been a proponent of cannabis legalization for more than 40 years. In that 40 years, I have written numerous letters to federal and state representatives in the House and the Senate to express my support for this innocuous plant. It has never killed anyone, is less harmful than alcohol, and is being used widely across our nation in states that have legalized it and in states that continue prohibition.

One of my main concerns is people who have been incarcerated for smoking, selling, or growing cannabis. Letting people out of jail or prison and expunging their records would be a good start to ending this ridiculous war on drugs.

Treating ANY addiction is a medical issue, not a legal one. In my opinion, alcohol is more of a gateway drug than cannabis. Alcohol is much more dangerous, yet it is legal and we have treatment programs for people who are addicted to drinking alcohol. I don't drink, but everywhere I go, whether a party, a dinner, a family meeting, alcohol is always offered and, in fact, it is considered a normal part of life. It's time that we normalize cannabis in our state.

I could ask for medical cannabis due to chronic pain but I don't because it's readily available to me at lower costs than the MN medical program allows. Legalizing marijuana would reduce costs, raise much-needed additional taxes in our state, and would clean out a lot of people from our prisons. I urge you to support the legalization and normalization of cannabis in Minnesota!

Thank you,

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