



Sensible policies, safer communities.

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

Re: House File 3595 (Edelson)
Cannabinoid product regulation provided

Dear Chair Liebling and members of the Health Policy and Finance Committee,

I write today on behalf of Sensible Change Minnesota, with general support of House File 3595. 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.

Over the past seven years, we have testified to this committee about the high cost of medical cannabis. One thing we haven't talked much about is how patients are supplementing the expensive medical cannabis products with certain hemp derived cannabinoid products, readily available in shops all over the state and over the internet, which are often more effective than the medical cannabis products. However, what we have also seen, is bad players in the hemp industry selling untested, unregulated products to consumers who don't know any better. This impacts hundreds of thousands of patients and consumers throughout the state.

That is why stronger regulation is needed – to weed out the bad players. *Pun intended.*

We thank Representative Edelson, Dr. Cody Wiberg with the Minnesota Board of Pharmacy, and others who have worked hard on a regulatory framework to protect consumers. We are, however, concerned that HF3595 doesn't go far enough in regulating all products currently on shelves. We understand the position that these products are not currently legal for sale, however, the reality is they are readily available and pose risks to Minnesotans. It is ambitious, at best, to cease or embargo all these products – it is impossible to stop their sale online. We believe it is safer for consumers to purchase these products if they are safety regulated under HF3595.

Addressing the regulation of products – including tetrahydrocannabinol products – already readily available from brick-and-mortar stores and online hemp retailers, is not full legalization. It is an important step to ensuring consumers are safe when consuming a product that is legal to purchase, possess, and use. Products containing certain hemp-derived tetrahydrocannabinols are currently legal under federal law, including legal for interstate

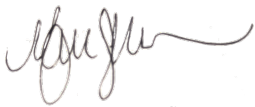
commerce, and it is our position that Minnesota should regulate their sale if they are legal under federal law.

Sensible Change Minnesota hopes that the House carefully considers which products it is regulating, and which products it is sending back to the street or online market. We thank Representative Edelson for the ongoing dialogue with our team on improvements to this bill.

Ideally, Minnesotans are buying safe, tested, and appropriately labeled products from Minnesota businesses.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comment on this bill, and are supportive of the regulations proposed, and we will continue our dialogue with Representative Edelson and others on how best to protect Minnesotans from potentially dangerous, unregulated, hemp products by bringing them into a regulated marketplace.

Respectfully,



Maren Schroeder
Policy Director, Sensible Change Minnesota