



Sensible policies, safer communities.

May 11, 2023

Representative Zack Stephenson
449 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Lindsey Port
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3213
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF100/SF73 Cannabis Omnibus Bill

Senator Port, Representative Stephenson, and Conferees:

We write today on behalf of Sensible Change Minnesota, with enthusiastic support for House File 100. 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 ten years, Sensible Minnesota, and later Sensible Change Minnesota, have worked to ensure medical cannabis patients have access to medical cannabis, and have fought hard for its affordability and accessibility.

We appreciate the authors' attention to several patient-centric measures:

- Lowering the patient registration fee to \$40;
- Making patient registration permanent; and
- Ensuring patients in health care facilities, including hospice, have access to their medical cannabis without unnecessary interference.

Sensible Change Minnesota has engaged in this process via the MN is Ready Coalition, and supports numerous additional measures recommended by the Coalition and adopted by the authors in this legislation.

We remain concerned about the following items:

- This legislation does not promote access to culturally competent, geographically accessible medical cannabis retailers and high-quality medical cannabis products. Expanding a medical cannabis endorsement to the mezzo license category would help to reach a broader patient base and provide the accessibility patients deserve.
- We are concerned about language that prohibits lesser known naturally derived

cannabinoids, such as CBN, as well as limits on non-intoxicating cannabinoids such as CBD and CBG. Such limitations extend to full spectrum CBD and CBG products currently widely available on the open market due to definitional language limiting edible products to 0.5 mg of 'other' cannabinoids per serving.

- We oppose the taxation of non-intoxicating hemp cannabinoid products on the open market as harmful to patients and consumers who widely use these products in lieu of more expensive, or lower quality, products found within the current medical cannabis market.
- Minnesota has an opportunity to tighten up its patient protections in regard to housing and employment to shift the burden from patients, who are often on disability or have limited income, to those in the position of power - landlords and employers.

It is our understanding that some of our concerns may be addressed in the Conference Committee Report - and we appreciate that. However, it would be unfair to the constituents we represent to not acknowledge the concerns with the conference committee process on this bill. In 2014, a conference committee met behind closed doors, lied to patient stakeholders, and struck a deal that was contrary to the desires of the primary stakeholders - patients. It is those same patients, **especially those disproportionately harmed by prohibition**, who have been grossly underserved by the current medical cannabis program, and who seek to benefit from a cannabis market that meets their needs. This is a vulnerable population - in more ways than one - and it is your responsibility to right the wrongs of prohibition and provide patients the access we've demanded for the past eight years.

We appreciate your work and dedication to Minnesotans and creating the best cannabis legalization framework in the country!

/s/Jessica Hauser

Jessica Hauser, Co-Founder & Director

/s/Andrea Devora

Andrea Devora, Co-Founder & Director

/s/Claire Van den Berghe

Claire Van den Bergh, Director

/s/Samuel Poquette

Samuel Poquette, Director

/s/Gunnar Aas

Gunnar Aas, Co-Founder & Director

/s/Maren Schroeder

Maren Schroeder, Co-Founder & Policy Director