

Dear Commerce Committee Members,

Prohibition is the problem, not cannabis. Full legalization is the only answer to end the illegal market and protect medical and adult cannabis consumers from discrimination. Currently many Minnesotans turn to the illegal market and do not know if the products they are using are safe from contaminants and none of the profits are benefiting the state of Minnesota or residents of Minnesota. Republicans will argue that this illegal market is safer than one ran by the state with protections for consumers and policies to restrict youth use. Who is currently enforcing age restrictions with an illegal market?

I do not agree with provisions in HF600 offering no discrimination protections to those working with children or working in healthcare, but I do believe medical patients in Minnesota deserve access to flower products and affordable pricing without the potential to lose their careers. I am skeptical of the guidelines in the bill limiting medical patient usage at work because the pharmacists at the dispensaries are knowledgeable about prescribing the proper dosage for nighttime versus daytime use. I was a former medical patient, but the prices and discrimination made me no longer participate.

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