



**Minnesota Prevention Alliance**  
815 Second Street SE  
Little Falls, MN 56345  
320.733.2376  
[www.MNPreventionAlliance.org](http://www.MNPreventionAlliance.org)

Letter of Support - Cannabis Research Center Funding

May 8, 2025

To the Members of the Higher Education Conference Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support on behalf of the Minnesota Prevention Alliance (MPA) for the inclusion of funding for the Cannabis Research Center in the final higher education budget bill.

The Minnesota Prevention Alliance is made up of over 150 individuals, coalitions and organizations across the State of Minnesota working to reduce the rates of youth ages 12-18 who are affected by substances. We are a statewide coalition made up of professionals and volunteers from around the state who promote and enhance substance abuse prevention efforts. Our goal is to reduce adolescent substance abuse by building advocacy, policy influence, and youth engagement in Minnesota communities. We want to see Minnesota be a healthy, safe place for teens and families to thrive. Our Mission: "The Minnesota Prevention Alliance shall work together to promote and enhance substance abuse prevention across the State of Minnesota."

What We Do

- Build advocacy, policy influence, and youth engagement
- Network and share resources and best practices
- Provide information and action steps on key substance abuse issues in Minnesota
- Support prevention workforce development

We are a partner with the CRC and we know how important they are to our mission. This initiative is essential for ensuring that Minnesota has accurate, science-based data to understand the short- and long-term impacts of cannabis use, particularly as it relates to public health, youth prevention, education, and mental health. As someone engaged in youth and family services and prevention work, I believe this research will help shape smarter, more effective policies that protect young people while also supporting public education efforts statewide. The Cannabis Research Center would not only provide clarity around cannabis-related risks and health outcomes, but also strengthen Minnesota's leadership in evidence-based public health planning.

I respectfully urge the committee to retain the House language that includes this important funding.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Laura Daak, Program Coordinator

Minnesota Prevention Alliance (MPA) Coalition