

**Conference Committee on HF 100/SF 73 – Cannabis Omnibus**  
**Chair Zack Stephenson**  
**Alternate Chair Lindsey Port**

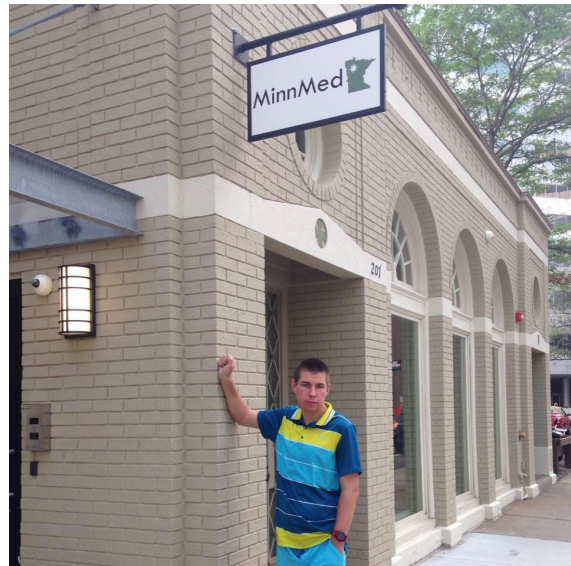
**May 11, 2023**

To the members of the Conference Committee,

I am writing to you today on behalf of my son, Alec Kelsey, and on behalf of the many other Minnesotans who are able to find relief from excruciating and life-altering pain and symptoms with medical cannabis.

My son, Alec, has a severe form epilepsy after nearly dying from encephalitis as a child. Days before his fifth birthday, we awoke to find Alec unconscious and not breathing. He was intubated in our kitchen and taken to our local hospital before being air-lifted to University of Chicago Hospital, where he spent the next 18 days in a coma and on a ventilator. After months spent re-learning how to walk, talk and swallow after the encephalitis, bi-lateral brain damage and other complications, we got Alec back, albeit with thousands of life-threatening seizures.

On May 7, 2014 – nine years ago almost to the day – I and other “seizure moms” (“the Big Daddy and Mommy Lobby”) were standing at the same place where you are meeting today, celebrating the passage of the law establishing medical cannabis in Minnesota. **We fought with everything we had for our children, our loved ones, and for ALL Minnesotans to be able to access this life-saving medicine – and we succeeded.** In July of 2015, I was standing outside in downtown Minneapolis watching the clock countdown to midnight so that Alec could become the very first patient in Minnesota to receive and take cannabis medicine.



Since 12:01 a.m. on July 1, 2015, the CBD Medical Cannabis Oil Alec takes has stopped the underlying 24/7 seizure activity he experienced with no negative side effects, and we truly believe his brain is healing. His processing is quicker and his cognitive skills are greatly improved. While he still has breakthrough tonic clonic seizures, his quality of life in between them is “frickum awesome” – and I get to wake up every morning to the biggest “Morning Mom” hug from Alec. This medicine has truly been life-changing for Alec, and for all of us who love him.

I have been advocating for medical cannabis and for the people who benefit from it since before Minnesota’s medical program even started, and I am coming to you once again advocating for the patients whose lives are truly transformed by this medicine. For Alec and for so many patients like him, any interruption to the medical cannabis program and their cannabis medicine isn’t just an annoyance – it is problematic and potentially life-altering.

As you consider the details of HF100 and the future of cannabis in Minnesota, please do not forget to include a path for continuity of the existing medical program and the current patients who have depended on it since its beginning. **Without continuity of the existing medical program, including a realistic, viable way for existing medical providers to continue uninterrupted production and dispensation of their medical products, my son and others like him will suffer – including other children with epilepsy for whom this medicine is life-changing and life-saving.**

In honor of Alec and in memory of Nolan Engstrom, Kaylee Pauling, Jacob Olavson, Christopher Ferron and Amelia Weaver, I am asking you today to ensure the continuation of Minnesota's medical program that we worked so hard to establish – and to hug your kids every chance you get.

Kim Kelsey  
Minnesota Mom and Cannabis Patient Advocate