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The concern: On behalf of Minnesota medical-cannabis patients, we are concerned that the proposed adult-use marijuana legislation (HF100/SF73), as drafted, would cause the demise of Minnesota's medical-cannabis program.

Why? Because the anticipated tax rate for adult-use marijuana is so low, we expect that many adults might simply choose to self-medicate, rather than seeking the expert advice of cannabis pharmacists, who tailor medicine to the needs of patients.

Additionally, because only 21+ adults would be eligible to legally purchase adult-use marijuana, we are concerned that Minnesota children, who currently benefit from medical cannabis, would have nowhere to turn.

The solution: We propose a couple possible solutions:

(1) Dedicate a portion of the tax revenue from sales of adult-use products to the medical-cannabis program; and

(2) Incentivize license applicants seeking to serve the adult-use market to also serve medical-cannabis patients.

More: Unless we take steps NOW to save the medical program, we are concerned that the program would cease to exist after Minnesota legalizes adult-use marijuana.

We have been meeting with other lobbyists, stakeholders and medical-cannabis patients to devise ways to save the medical program.

In the excitement surrounding efforts to legalize adult-use marijuana in Minnesota, we are hopeful that legislators will not forget about medical-cannabis patients.

Medical cannabis works. It helps Minnesotans manage a variety of ailments every day.

The wrinkle: Because marijuana is still federally illegal, physicians may not prescribe marijuana. Rather, physicians certify that a patient has a covered condition and then refer the patient to a medical-cannabis dispensary for a meeting with a cannabis pharmacist, who then prescribes the medicine.

For more info: Contact Dr. Jacob Mirman, Life Medical, P.A., 952-933-8900, jmirman@LifeMedical.us. Dr. Mirman has been certifying patients for medical cannabis since 2015 and can attest to its superior results in a number of medical conditions.

We support the legalization of adult-use marijuana.

We simply want to save Minnesota's medical-cannabis program, too.