

Representative,

I am writing you to show my support for the majority of Minnesotans, especially those of us that are a part of the X,Y, and Z generations at this committee hearing for #HF600. If this bill doesn't get passed this time around, Minnesota will be missing out on a huge opportunity, yet again. Full legalization allows cannabis users and non users alike to benefit from this booming and thriving industry. With full legalization the tax and state revenue deficit could easily turn to the positive; we could unclog our judicial system so they could focus more time and energy on bigger issues rather than these petty-misdemeanor crimes; we would generate much needed middle class, blue collar and small business jobs in this current employment climate. The generations of tomorrow are eager for change and forward thinking, but with calculated movements based on what we have learned from our elder generations. There needs to be strict outlines, rules and regulations and most importantly, trust, to make this work for everyone, and this can work for everyone.

As an alternative healer, we are able to use many types of medicinal plants in our practice, and cannabis is the most beneficial to the broadest spectrum of patients. In our practice we have found time and time again, the use of alcohol limits and often worsens a patients mental health issues, where cannabis has the opposite effect. People enjoy to indulge in their personal lives, and rightly so, I think that one's recreational time should be spent doing something they enjoy, and currently the only legal option in this state, outside of dining, exercise and tourism, is alcohol. As a child of an alcoholic, I can speak for all of us when I say, there needs to be another type of recreational escape for people other than strip clubs and booze.

I know from a legal standpoint there is a lot of uncertainty, but I think most users would agree that we do not want to cause any harm to others. I fully support a very strict DUI policy. The punishment for crimes committed under the influence need to hold the highest mandatory sentencing. There should be strict regulations for employers who employ drivers, and operate heavy machinery. There should be restrictions that limit public use to outdoors, but with freedom to use similarly to alcohol, such as bars and events with consumption limits. Innovation will be the key to regulation, but the current lack of such regulations should not be a reason to continue with prohibition. We should look to states that have fully legalized, and what they are doing to prevent misuse and overuse in public.

I want to thank you for your time, and hopeful support on bill #HF600.

Go Green,

Yogi Cass Malak