

Testimony of Maria K. Poirier, M.D. on H.F. 100, Omnibus Cannabis bill

February 13, 2023

Members of the Human Services Policy Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony in opposition to H.F. 100 Cannabis bill. My name is Maria Poirier, and I am an internal medicine physician from Rochester. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of my patients who often believe, falsely, that if marijuana is legal, then it must be safe for consumption. Cannabis is an addictive, intoxicating drug that should be regulated by the FDA under pharmaceutical standards and only prescribed by medical professionals.

Article 1: Section 66 establishes a Substance Use Disorder Council. Since cannabis has a significant negative impact on public health, I recommend calling this council the Substance Use Disorder and Adverse Event Council. Additional members should be added to the council who have expertise in poisoning, such as a pharmacist with toxicology expertise. In addition, council membership should include pediatric and internal medicine physicians.

Article 6: Section 6 discusses education programs on cannabis use and substance use. No level of cannabis use is safe, therefore education programs should focus on abstaining from cannabis.

Please see submitted documents:

Poison Center-2022 Edible Exposures in MN each month by age

Trends in hospital-treated cannabis poisonings among Minnesotans

Cannabis Effects on Adults and Seniors

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