

Hello,

I'd like to submit a personal testimony for legalization of cannabis in Minnesota. First, it is a violation of my freedom for the government to regulate my mental state. If I want to use cannabis, it's really nobody else's business.

Second, cannabis is incredibly safe relative to other drugs. There is very little risk to public health with cannabis use, if any. If future research indicates health risks, it is your role to make the packaging informative, not take away people's freedom.

Third, we stand to make significant economic gains. We can get tax revenue from cannabis, and stop spending money on cannabis law enforcement, which has done far more harm than good for Minnesotans. I have friends that have gone to jail for cannabis which forced them to drop out of college or lose their jobs.

One last anecdote, it was easier for me to get cannabis in high school than it was to get alcohol. Prohibition does not work.

Thank you,

Carl Winge