



Driving Excellence in Addiction Care

To: Cannabis Omnibus Conference Committee  
From: Brian Zirbes, MARRCH Executive Director  
Subject: Feedback on HF100/SF73  
Date: May 11th, 2023

Senator Port, Representative Stephenson, and Committee Members—

The Minnesota Association of Resources for Recovery and Chemical Health (MARRCH) is a professional association of addiction treatment professionals and organizations striving to raise awareness about addiction and the power of recovery. We represent more than 150 agencies/organizations and thousands of individuals (Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors, students, other behavioral health professionals) with members in every region of Minnesota. Our member programs span the spectrum from abstinence to harm reduction. As such, there is not a unified position supported by all MARRCH members on whether to legalize cannabis.

We are writing to encourage this committee to maximize funding opportunities for Substance Use Disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery activities. This field has historically been underfunded for many years and has only seen a net 3% rate increase since 2011. The current workforce issues are dire and we need support. We ask that you provide a minimum of \$5 million per year in ongoing funding for the *Substance use treatment, recovery and prevention* grant account.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide timely feedback for this Conference Committee. Thank you for the work you do on behalf of our fellow Minnesotans. We are committed to building an effective system of prevention, treatment, and recovery for substance use disorders in our great state.