

March 2023

Minnesota State Representative Aisha Gomez  
453 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Gomez:

I am writing in support of the bill to legalize recreational cannabis, while ensuring our need for local licensing authority, equity provisions, and a local share of revenue are met.

As stated in our policy agenda, the City of Minneapolis supports decriminalization, legalization, and taxation of recreational cannabis, while ensuring the health and safety of the public, including children, expungement for past offenses, and considering ways to ensure equity and access by communities of color to potential benefits, particularly for small businesses. The City also supports legislation to clarify the role of the State to regulate the manufacturing and quality of THC products, while ensuring local authority related to licensing, zoning and taxation of these products.

We would like to see more revenue sharing and licensing authority for local governments in the bill. The current draft of the House and Senate bill requires compliance checks by local governments. It also allows for local business registration, but the only ability for local governments to recoup any cost is a one-time \$200 fee for this registration. (By comparison, our tobacco registration fee is \$350 per year and our off-sale liquor license fee is \$1500 per year). At minimum, the City of Minneapolis should receive a share of the revenue generated by legalization to offset the local cost related to legalization.

The City of Minneapolis supports a broad use of these funds. We want to ensure that the regulatory framework is responsive to local concerns related to problem businesses. The City supports public health funding to be directly allocated to local public health agencies for education and community outreach geared at youth and pregnant women. Use of funds should cover regulatory costs, public health and community safety costs, and local business development that fosters an inclusive economy and equitable access for Black, Indigenous and people of color.

Furthermore, in order to redress harm to communities who have long suffered disproportionate criminalization and incarceration for low level cannabis offenses, the City strongly supports the portions of the bill that expunge cannabis offenses.

Thank you for the work you are doing to author and advance this legislation and to ensure measures and resources will address the economic, and overall, impacts to municipalities, and increase safety and equity in our communities.

Sincerely,



Andrea Jenkins  
Minneapolis City Council President