

From: Kari Sheldon

Re: HF897

Chair, members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this issue. My name is Kari Sheldon. I have been hoping that a bill addressing this issue has finally come forth. My PCA and I have witnessed and smelled fentanyl daily on the train. The smell gives me a headache and makes me dizzy. I've had to yell at people to get out of my way because they are so stoned I would have no choice but to run them over with my wheelchair. I have also seen animals get physically sick, because it is their first instinct to smell and lick the ground. The riders don't seem to care about the audio warnings and there is not enough police presence on the trains. I understand there is a security risk, even for the police, but more of a presence needs to happen. The only police presence my PCA and I have seen are during sports activities. People need the train to get to and from work and they don't need to be stoned

or smell of illegal drugs by the time they get to work. Metro Transit Customer Relations says that they will have police presence, but it never happens. Most of the drug activity is during the afternoon and evening. It's bad enough that I must smell legal marijuana as well.

As far as smoking the drugs in apartment buildings, managers don't seem to understand that at all. We sign a lease, but it still goes on. They just expect you to find another place to live. Finding section 8 apartments that are physically and financially accessible is not that easy. I should also not have to move when I have lived at my place for over 34 years. Please support H. F. 897. Thank you for listening to my testimony.