For me personally, I use cannabis as a part of the medical program offered here in MN. I have been on the program since 2016 and it has benefited me greatly. I have severe Crohn's disease and it helps reduce my pain and nausea like none of the prescription or over the counter medicine I've tried. If it wasn't for cannabis I would likely be on some sort of opioid pain relief and have a much worse quality of life.

Unfortunately our medical program has been very limited and it makes it very difficult to obtain and it's very cost prohibitive. There is no way to afford it all the time, so I have to pick and choose when I actually get relief. Not to mention the 4 hour drive there and back to get to the closest dispensary. Sure there a bunch in the cities, but not outstate.

I'm disabled, it takes a lot for me to get out of the house and to leave town. It takes most of a day to make the trip to the dispensary. There's no reason that dispensaries couldn't be in every location we have a pharmacy or liquor store. I don't want to have to travel hundreds of miles just to procure something so mild.

Another benefit would be allowing people to grow their own at home. It would be a lot cheaper for patients and they'd be able to control their own plants and what goes into them.

By allowing recreational to pass, it will help bring down costs for people like me and will allow for commerce to be opened in the rest of the state. It will also open up the ability to tax it and bring more money in so we can lower things like income taxes and property taxes. Other states are making millions of their programs and we should too.

We as Americans should be free to grow what we want on our land. If I can make my own beer and wine, grow my own tobacco, and buy coffee on every corner, I should be able to have cannabis without getting arrested.

Thanks for your time

Kate Wahlen