**Minnesota (2022): House File 100, Testimony in support of legalization, home cultivation, and expungement**

My name is Jax James, State Policy Manager for NORML. I would like to thank the House Commerce, Finance and Policy Committee for considering HF100. NORML greatly supports legislative efforts to legalize and regulate the adult-use marijuana market.

In addition to a comprehensive regulatory framework for marijuana’s commercial sale, House File 100 permits adults 21 and over to possess up to 2 oz of marijuana and cultivate up to 8 plants (four of which can be mature). Further, this legislation facilitates the expungement of marijuana-related offenses, as well as the resentencing of certain felony convictions.

Never in modern history has there existed greater public support for repealing the nation's nearly century-long experiment with marijuana prohibition. According to statewide polling data, a majority of Minnesota adults endorse the legalization of marijuana for adult use. Further, permitting limited home cultivation permits the ability for adults to have reliable, affordable, and consistent access to cannabis.

The ongoing prohibition of marijuana financially burdens taxpayers, encroaches upon civil liberties, engenders disrespect for the law, and disproportionately impacts communities of color. Passage of this legislation will make it so hundreds of thousands of minor offenders are no longer stigmatized and disenfranchised by the collateral consequences of an arrest record for an incident that is no longer a crime. People with otherwise clean records do not deserve to be forever stigmatized because of a conviction for activity that would no longer be prosecuted today.

It’s time for Minnesota to stop ceding control and revenue of the marijuana market to unregulated and untaxed enterprises. A pragmatic regulatory framework that licenses production and sale of marijuana to adults - but continues to criminalize sale to minors - best reduces the risks associated with its use and commerce.

For these reasons, NORML urges Minnesota legislators to pass HF100.