



Sensible policies, safer communities.

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May 14, 2024

Representative Zack Stephenson  
449 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Lindsey Port  
3213 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: House File 4757  
Omnibus Cannabis Bill

Senator Port, Representative Stephenson, and Conferees:

I write today on behalf of Sensible Change Minnesota, with general support of House File 100. Sensible Change Minnesota is a non-profit that believes our communities are safer when we create sensible drug policies. We are a patient and consumer led and run organization and have spent much of the past several years improving Minnesota's medical cannabis program and advocating for safer drug policy.

Over the past ten years, Sensible Minnesota, and later Sensible Change Minnesota, have worked to ensure medical cannabis patients have access to medical cannabis, and have fought hard for its affordability and accessibility.

We appreciate the authors' attention to a number of patient-centric measures:

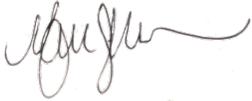
- Unification of supply chain;
- Medical cannabis retail endorsements extended to microbusinesses;
- Expansion of registry participant protections;
- Elimination of the possession limit for patients;
- Caregiver home grow; and
- Inclusion of a medical cannabis consultant option for retail locations.

However, **we are incredibly disappointed in your decision to drop language from the Senate bill that would reserve a specified number of retail and mezzobusiness licenses for companies that are willing to obtain a medical cannabis retail endorsement.**

Having this endorsement does incur additional costs for the business - namely staffing of a pharmacist or medical cannabis consultant. With the change to the lottery system, there is no longer incentive for a retailer to obtain a medical cannabis retail endorsement. The language in the Senate file, reserving licenses for applicants who wish to serve the medical cannabis market, was in direct response to the concerns raised by patients about the change from a merit-based system to the vetted lottery system.

Understanding that we are out of time, we hope you reconsider this decision, or provide that the Office have the authority to prioritize those applicants during vetting.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maren Schroeder', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Maren Schroeder  
Policy Director, Sensible Change Minnesota