

May 14, 2023

To: Conference Committee on HF100

From: Ken Winters, Ph.D., Behavioral Health Researcher & Co-Founder, Smart Approaches to Marijuana Minnesota

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony regarding the committee discussion of HF100.

In the interest of advancing a bill that maximizes public health considerations, I urge the committee to include in the final version of the bill, the following features:

1. Requirement of strong warning labeling of products (e.g., regular use of high potency cannabis can contribute to mental health issues and addiction; use of cannabis can impair driving ability).
2. All advertising of cannabis products must align with tobacco and alcohol advertising regulations.
3. Allocation of revenue from cannabis sales for ongoing public health awareness campaigns about the potential negative health impact of cannabis use, including the dangers of use while a woman is pregnant, that intoxication from cannabis use can impair driving ability, and use can lead to mental health issues.
4. Requirement that dispensary staff and owners take an educational course on the public health issues associated with cannabis use.
5. Provisions for conducting a baseline study on health and safety issues that parallels HIDTA studies conducted in other states (e.g., Arizona).
6. Provisions for regular compliance checks of dispensaries and their products to ensure adherence to regulations.
7. Requirement that higher potency products be taxed at a higher rate (e.g.,  $\leq 15\%$  potency, lowest tax;  $>15-30\%$  potency, moderate level tax;  $>30\%$  potency, highest level tax).

Thank you for your attention to my written testimony.

Regards,



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