

Representative Mohamud Noor, Chair
Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy
379 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St Paul, MN 55155

Re: House File No. 600 (Winkler)

Dear Chair Noor and Committee Members,

I am writing to you today to express my support for House File 600, a bill to legalize and regulate adult-use cannabis in Minnesota. This legislation includes several provisions designed to prepare Minnesotans for successful careers in the adult-use and medical cannabis market associated with this bill's passage. According to the 2021 Leafly Jobs Report, the nation now has more legal cannabis workers than EMTs and paramedics. States that have legalized adult-use cannabis in the past saw a rapidly expanding industry with a growing number of cannabis-related jobs. We need our state to be prepared for the influx of high-paying, sustainable careers that come along with adult-use legalization and medical cannabis reform. I believe that House File 600 does just that.

One provision of specific importance is Article 4, which establishes several grant programs designed to support the cannabis industry. More specifically, they're designed to help Minnesotans find stable careers in a post-legalization world. These grants will allow individuals seeking employment in the state's new industry to obtain quality training and support in finding jobs that fit their skills, interests, and abilities. Individuals from marginalized groups traditionally excluded in conventional employment, educational, and entrepreneurial opportunities will be able to access grants through the CanTrain or CanLearn programs to find employment right for them. I am a Work-Based Learning coordinator for individuals with disabilities, and I have seen how important services like this are in ensuring success in finding and keeping employment. Budding entrepreneurs could take advantage of funding through CanGrow, CanStartup, and CanNavigate grants to build successful businesses in communities throughout the state. Minnesota only gets one opportunity to start our legal cannabis industry on the right foot. Ensuring that we have individuals skilled and supported in finding and building successful careers is an essential component that House File 600 includes.

Another necessary provision of the legislation before your committee is the inclusion of the "cannabis microbusiness" license category. Inclusion of this license type is vital to ensuring that the cannabis market is not merely "big cannabis" replacing "big cartels", but instead a Minnesotan-focused craft industry designed to support successful Minnesotan entrepreneurs. Small businesses mean more jobs, and the inclusion of this provision will support the development of those entrepreneurs. Our medical program is not helping patients by limiting the

state to two medical cannabis producers. Requiring the only legal medical cannabis businesses to be large corporations has led to Minnesota having one of the least diverse medical cannabis systems throughout the country. We can do better, and House File 600 prepares us to do just that.

The legislation before you today, House File 600, is an important step forward towards an equitable and sustainable cannabis industry in our state. I ask for your support of this legislation.

Thank you,

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