

To: Minnesota State House of Representatives Committees
From: Kayla Fearing, *Healing Fear Consulting*
Date: March 2023
Subject: House File 100- Legalization of Adult Use Cannabis in Minnesota

My name is Kayla Fearing, and I am a cannabis user. I also own my own business, *Healing Fear Consulting*, providing healthcare science based cannabinoid education to patients looking for a higher **natural** quality of life. I am, or have also been- A medical student and D1 athlete at our own University of Minnesota, A healthcare worker (15+ yrs) during a pandemic, an elementary school educator, a varsity coach, a political activist, human services coordinator, and an employee of the cannabis industry in Minnesota, Michigan, and Illinois

I am a Michigan medical patient, because, I was not approved for the Minnesota program in 2019. As of August 2019, I have had three emergency reconstructive surgeries on my left leg and I've also been forced to remove 1/3 of my right lung, due to a condition known as B.O.O.P. I've also been diagnosed with Anxiety and Depression from Childhood trauma. I've been a medical science nerd since I was a child- I've always believed in the Minnesota healthcare system, that is why I am so disappointed in how far behind we are in our cannabis laws. Especially, since I, think of Minnesota being a leader in the Midwest for Agriculture and Healthcare- Even stating in our own State Constitution: The Minnesota Constitution, Article 13, Section 7, says "No license necessary to peddle- "Any person may sell or peddle the products of the farm or garden occupied and cultivated by him without obtaining a license therefor." ...Why isn't it connecting for Cannabis?

I moved to Michigan in June of 2020. I was welcomed into their cannabis healthcare and retail industry immediately. I've worked for corporate cannabis, and I've worked for the small mom and pop cannabis shops. The last shop I worked at AVERAGED 1400 Recreational customers, A DAY. About an additional 200 patrons were STRICTLY Medical Marijuana card holders; from various states. The limits for procession in Minnesota need to be increased. It was mind boggling to me that our House of Representatives and members of our Minnesota Senate have suggested (as of March 14, 2023) "one and a half pounds for a person's home possession limit," down, from the original suggested amount of "five pounds" of cannabis. This, I promise you, as someone who has been in the legal, and illegal markets, will drive an illicit market in Minnesota. On the growing side of this topic, Eight plants is insulting to anyone who understands the biological cycle of the cannabis plant- I suggest we look to Michigan again on this, and I suggest 12 Plants for home grow limits; Mature and Immature should be thrown out. Our neighbors in Michigan also have a "Caregivers" program, which, would help Minnesotan cannabis farmers be protected by the constitution clause Article 13, Section 7, by being allowed to peddle their own goods from their farms or homes.

Michigan, our Midwest neighbors, are doing this right, compared to our West Coast neighbors- we don't hear "Michigan" dropped in popular radio hits, we don't hear about people "driving out to Michigan," like we do Colorado, or California- Michiganders and their law makers looked at Cannabis as any other product of the farm or garden- It was not a retail product. Their retail tax was a low 15% on Recreational Cannabis, and their market is thriving. Michiganders treat their cannabis program, medically and recreationally, as it is- A MEDICINE. They look at their recreational industry as it is- recreational for any adult over 21+, who may

chose cannabis as a medicine and choose not to commit to a medical card. An example may be a Veteran who cannot obtain a State Medical card due to fear of losing their Veterans benefits by using a federally illegal product. Purchases in Michigan are tracked by a METRIC system, which works extremely well- and all a purchaser would need to provide is a driver's license or a state ID. That ID helps the state track how much an individual is purchasing- if the individual is buying excessively, the ID number gets flagged. It works.

The same cannabis products are available, recreationally or medically, just different milligram limitations. Recreational is offered at lower dosages than medical- but it is the same product. Same flower. Same genetics. The company needs two different licenses to produce, since it is two different markets- Minnesota would benefit from this. We don't need two different stores; Perhaps two different registers, too track the products in the appropriate programs.

Michigan also has a Caregivers program; a third industry, attached with the medical program. "Caregivers" are registered with the state, similar to Minnesota's "Cottage Food Producer" licenses. This allows for patients at home, who need high dosages to produce, and grow for themselves, and other patients who assign them as their "caregiver"- Caregiver are utilized by the elderly who don't want to shop at intimidating shops, Tribal members, and rural members of the community who can't access these dispensaries on a daily, or even weekly, basis- This is why the possessions need to be increased as well, and Minnesota should also look into adopting Caregivers program as soon as possible.

The possessions in Minnesota, for homegrown, and possession limits need to be increased- or you will have patients, and recreational purchasers, still contacting their street dealers for the difference, and keeping an illicit market alive; I've witnessed it in two different industries- Michigan and Illinois. I, myself, smoke an entire gram of cannabis concentrate, A DAY. It takes mindfulness out of me to NOT finish a gram in a day. Cannabis has MULTIPLE strains available- If I have multiple diagnosis, I *need* multiple strains of cannabis; Five Pounds is not a large amount; It is a small amount for a trafficker- Who are you as the lawmakers to determine a patient's medication dose? **Every Body** is different with cannabis; Concentrates work the best for *my type of pain*- nerve pain, bone pain, muscle pain. My personal medical team and I have determined that.

Our patients deserve it, if we, Minnesota, is as ground breaking in Healthcare and Agriculture as we have always claimed to be; We need to treat Recreational Cannabis users 21+ with the same respect as we do those who chose Poison/Alcohol, as their "medicine," that they will consume responsibly. Adult Minnesotans are choosing to use cannabis.

Cannabis sales within the Upper Midwest have reminded me very much of when elderly Americans were taking coach buses to Canada for Prescription drugs in the late 1990's and early 2000's- (Actually, these trips were on the rise again in 2019). We are losing an insane amount of money from our patients, and tourism, as a state not being legalized, fully.

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