

Peace,

My name is Marcus Marcus, I am a family man, writer, organizer, and social entrepreneur from North Minneapolis. I am the director of the Minnesota Campaign for Full Legalization and a co-founder of the Minnesota Cannabis College. For the past 7 years, I have studied the unjust history of prohibition and the emergence of the legal Cannabis industry. I have also been a Cannabis consumer for 22 years because this healing plant makes me feel better, enriching my life with healing peace of mind, creative meditations, harmonious fellowship, holistic pain relief and the enhancement of my joy in countless life experiences. I have never been a criminal, but I have been a victim of prohibition. I am one of hundreds of thousands of adult Cannabis consumers in Minnesota who are tired of waiting for prohibitionist legislators to wake up to the understanding that prohibition is the problem, not Cannabis.

We are grateful to have dozens of legislators in the House finally championing #FullLegalization legislation because lives are at stake. These unjust laws are used as a corrupting tool by the police for probable cause to harass, search, arrest, seize property and disenfranchise thousands of Minnesotans annually. Cannabis is a healing plant, not a dangerous killer drug. The most dangerous thing about Cannabis is getting caught with it because you can lose your freedom, lose your job, lose your housing, and more. Prohibition has failed to stop the existing billion-dollar illicit market in Minnesota that serves 700,000 Minnesotan Cannabis consumers today and provides supplemental income to thousands of low to moderate income Minnesotans. Prohibition adds no value to public safety, wastes law enforcement resources, and full legalization is simply much safer than senseless criminalization. The imperatives for full legalization include respecting personal freedom, increasing public safety, improving public health, creating economic development, and advancing social justice and racial equity.

We are here today in the agricultural committee to support H.F. 600 because this bill will help create business and job opportunities for farmers, gardeners, and many others in a small business friendly, craft Cannabis industry with low barriers to entry. Full legalization will lead to potentially a couple thousand business opportunities and more than 20,000 jobs from the ten license types established in Article 1. The Minnesota model of Full Legalization has the potential of being the national standard because most of the 15 Cannabis free states have unfortunately implemented "Big Marijuana" friendly, prohibition lite models. We want to have the best Cannabis and Cannabis products in the U.S. to be made in Minnesota, cultivated, processed, and manufactured by Minnesotan farmers and gardeners. Please pass H.F. 600 to help make this happen and begin repairing the destruction in our communities caused by the failed prohibition of Cannabis.

Thank you!