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VIA EMAIL

February 16, 2021

Representative Zach Stephenson, Chair
Commerce Finance and Policy Committee
509 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Stephenson and Committee Members:

On behalf of the nearly 10,000 Minnesota members of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 1189, I am writing to urge your support for H.F. 600 which would legalize the retail sale of cannabis to adults in the state of Minnesota age 21 or older. I urge you to support this legislation because it will:

- **Ensure that the new cannabis industry creates good jobs** – Cannabis legalization legislation should affirm Minnesota's commitment to good jobs. Through the licensing process policymakers can reward responsible employers who agree to create family sustaining jobs in Minnesota. Requiring cannabis businesses to have labor peace agreements (LPAs) with a union is a surefire way to ensure quality jobs and that the supply of cannabis and related tax revenues remain undisturbed by employee unrest or labor discord. An LPA negotiated between companies and a union allows workers to decide if they want to join a union or not based on a fair process, free from interference or delay and protects the government's proprietary interests by prohibiting labor organizations from engaging in strikes, boycotts, picketing and any other interference with the employer's business.
- **Ensure that the new cannabis industry is fair and open to all** – Cannabis criminalization has disproportionality affected minority communities and cannabis arrests and criminal records have lifelong consequences that systematically exclude people of color from equal access to jobs and economic opportunity. This bill would address that by establishing an Office of Social Equity within a new Cannabis Management Board. The office would administer grants and promote economic development opportunities for communities that experienced a disproportionately negative effect from cannabis prohibition.

The UFCW represents tens of thousands of cannabis workers across multiple states. UFCW members in the legal cannabis industry work in growing and cultivating facilities, manufacturing and processing facilities, and in laboratories and dispensaries. Wherever cannabis is legalized, the UFCW is committed to building a successful industry with a thriving, diverse and skilled workforce.

HF 600 will ensure that the new adult use cannabis industry in Minnesota creates good jobs and opportunities for communities that have been historically victimized by the war on drugs. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal and for your continued service to the state of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Christensen', written over a horizontal line.

Jennifer Christensen
Local 1189 President

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