I also invite you to subscribe to my legislative updates at https://www.house.mn/46a

and our community. Feel free to reach out to me at rep.ryan.winkler@house.mn or 651-296-7026

Please stay in touch about the issues important to you

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# 2022 Legislative Report



# Rep. Ryan Winkler

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# Greetings from the MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE **Summer 2022**

Dear Neighbors,

have the honor of serving as the Majority Leader in the Minnesota House of Representatives. In this role, I lead a caucus of legislators from all parts of our state who work together to deliver better schools, public safety, health care, and economic security. It is my pleasure to share an update detailing a few major developments that could impact you and your family.

Sincerely,

Ryan Winkler Majority Leader Minnesota House of Representatives

# **An update** from the Ainnesota Legislature

FROM HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER RYAN WINKLER

## **Public Safety**

Minnesota must do more to provide public safety in all communities and a justice system that serves everyone. We are dealing with immense challenges, whether it be record-setting homicides, senseless gun violence, juvenile justice failures, or the absence of trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve. Minnesota can and must do better. In a divided government where public safety has turned into a political football, lawmakers were in fact able to deliver some progress. Some highlights include revamping Minnesota's criminal sexual assault statutues to improve justice for survivors; more funding for law enforcement training; new regulations for no-knock warrants; giving the POST Board more tools for accountability; and investing in crisis teams to respond to mental health calls.

### **Mental Health**

To help address the rising need for mental health services, the Legislature made a historic investment to increase hospital bed capacity, attract new mental health care professionals, and expand the use of mobile crisis services. This legislation also makes improvements to better serve those involved in the criminal justice system who are found not competent to stand trial. Minnesota can do more to be a national leader in mental health, and this year's work moves our state in a better direction.





# **Recreational Cannabis**

More and more states are legalizing cannabis for recreational use. Here in Minnesota, it's no longer a matter of if we follow suit, but when. That's why for the first time in our state's history, the Minnesota House of Representatives passed legislation that would legalize cannabis for recreational use, create a regulated cannabis market, and expunge prior cannabis-related convictions. I was proud to be the lead author of this legislation, which was based on extensive feedback collected during a statewide listening tour and more than a dozen public hearings.

#### **Frontline Worker Pay**

Minnesotans who did not have the option to work from home during the pandemic risked their health and safety to ensure all of us could continue to receive medical care, feed our families, depend on emergency responders, care for our children, and so much more. Frontline workers deserve so much more than a "thank you," and that's why the Legislature created a new program to deliver \$750 or more in bonus pay to these heroic individuals. The application period runs from June 8 through July 22. To look up eligibility criteria and apply, visit www.frontlinepay.mn.gov. For help completing the application, contact <u>mnfrontlinepay@</u> <u>submittable.com</u> or (866) 333-7633.