

My name is Lilly and I identify as Deaf woman. I am currently enrolled with medical cannabis in the State of Minnesota and I believe that it is important to offer cannabis smoking lounges to provide access for all. Legalization of cannabis is not enough due to barriers that me, and other Minnesotans, will face accessing spaces to safely smoke cannabis. I currently live in public housing and due to the federal prohibition I am not able to use medical cannabis in my home. Use of cannabis in city parks, on the street, or in vehicles is not legal per my medical cannabis enrollment and I often feel anxious walking around my neighborhood to smoke, specifically in the dark. It feels dangerous and unsafe but I have no other option since I have limited access to spaces where I can use cannabis safely and legally. Cannabis edibles (gummies) are very expensive and flower cannabis works more effectively to reduce my pain. I believe that allowing cannabis smoking lounges will provide access to public housing tenants like me, and to other Minnesotans, who need safe and legal spaces to use cannabis.