

April 9, 2024, re: SF 4782 and HF 4757

## Prevent Cannabis Harms

Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony.

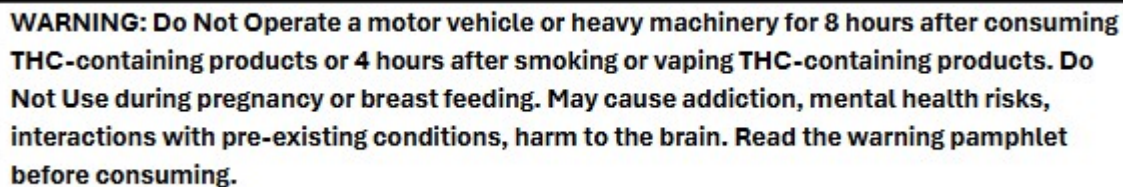
So many people are worried about the potential negative health impacts from legalization of cannabis/THC, a potent, mind-altering, addictive drug. Current legislation does not direct the OCM to make strong enough warnings so that all Minnesotans will understand the risks.

Fixes are missing from this bill which would improve consumer and public safety for all ages and categories of Minnesotans, particularly SF 5079/HF 5103 – labeling. *Labeling needs to be provided by the OCM, based on medical science, as opposed to industry insiders in order to avoid promotion of false health claims.*

Negative impacts and risks are occurring *presently* for all age groups, especially youth, as a result of cannabis use in the State. The **Minnesota Baseline Marijuana Assessment** by the North Central HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas) has compiled ample evidence of these impacts including increased calls to the MN Poison Control System, cannabis-related hospital visits, cannabis treatment admissions etc. \*see reference below.

**Detailed warning labels provided by the OCM, as opposed to industry promoters, with accurate information on the adverse health effects of all cannabis “products” is needed now. Limits on advertising and packaging so drugs do not appeal to children are needed.**

**Suggested example:**



**WARNING: Do Not Operate a motor vehicle or heavy machinery for 8 hours after consuming THC-containing products or 4 hours after smoking or vaping THC-containing products. Do Not Use during pregnancy or breast feeding. May cause addiction, mental health risks, interactions with pre-existing conditions, harm to the brain. Read the warning pamphlet before consuming.**

A 2020 American Heart Association Scientific Statement said, in part, that: “The public needs high-quality information about cannabis, which can help counterbalance the proliferation of rumor and false claims about the health effects of cannabis products.”

**I hope you will consider adding amendments to correct these omissions.**

Linda Stanton, Woodbury, MN

\*The MN Legislature commissioned the Minnesota Baseline Marijuana Assessment by the **North Central HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas)**. This report indicates among other data:

- Calls to MN Poison Control System increased by 146% since 2018 (p 17) among all ages.
- “From 2018-2022, Minnesotans aged 15-24 and 25-34 accounted for the greatest number of cannabis-related hospital visits each year” (p 21).

- “Of all the cannabis treatment admissions, the largest percentage of those seeking treatment is the 12-17-year-old age group” (p 23)
- “According to the MN Dept of Education MN Student Survey, students in correctional facilities self-reported more frequent marijuana use than the general MN student populace.” (p 29)