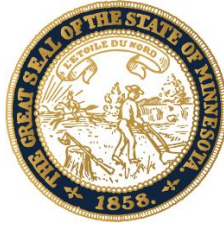


**Peggy Scott**  
Assistant Minority Leader

District 31B



# Minnesota House of Representatives

July 28, 2023

The Honorable Tim Walz  
Governor of Minnesota  
130 State Capitol  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Melissa Hortman  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
463 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Kari Dziedzic  
Senate Majority Leader  
Minnesota Senate  
3113 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

via electronic delivery

Dear Governor Walz, Speaker Hortman, and Majority Leader Dziedzic:

We write to express deep concern with recent news stories suggesting that House File 100, a top priority for Minnesota Democrats, effectively legalized marijuana for children. Based on comments by the bill author, Senator Lindsey Port (D-Burnsville) this was an intentional choice on the part of Democrats.

Marijuana use among children and teenagers is a serious problem. According to the United States Center for Disease Control, it can lead to an increased risk of mental health issues, difficulty thinking and problem-solving, problems with memory and learning, and problems with school and social life.

Adding to our concern are reports from law enforcement that marijuana is increasingly laced with other illicit drugs, including deadly fentanyl.

Legal consequences are a significant and important deterrent from youth addiction and can help avoid more grave issues later in life. This legislation deliberately took away an important tool for parents, law enforcement, and local communities to keep kids from harming themselves or others.

Democrats' marijuana legalization is only in the beginning stages but problems have already emerged from this hastily crafted piece of legislation. We urge you to agree to a narrowly tailored special session to address several glaring issues already confounding parents and local communities:

- Reinstate penalties for possession and consumption of marijuana for those under 21 years of age.
- Provide local communities with broader and permanent regulatory authority over the sale, possession, and consumption of marijuana, and impose greater limits on smoking and vaping of marijuana in public places.
- Close the Black-Market Loophole that allows for illicit sales to flourish in the period between when marijuana possession and consumption is legalized and when a regulated retail market is established.

These are basic, responsible steps that can be taken now to avoid larger problems in the future. We know from last year's hastily conceived legalization of low-dose THC consumables that poorly crafted laws lead to confusion and frustration.

If the legalization of recreational marijuana is to succeed in a responsible and safe manner, a special session is necessary to address these concerns before the Minnesota Legislature reconvenes in February 2024.

We stand ready and willing to work with you on solutions that protect our kids and communities.

Sincerely,



Peggy Scott  
State Representative, District 31B



Lisa Demuth  
House Minority Leader



Kristin Robbins  
State Representative, District 37A



John Burkel  
State Representative, District 1A



Bernie Perryman  
State Representative, District 14A



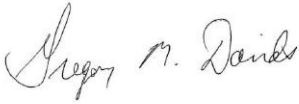
Dean Urdahl  
State Representative, District 16A



Thomas Murphy  
State Representative, District 9B



Elliott Engen  
State Representative, District 36A



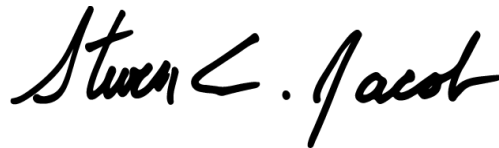
Greg Davids  
State Representative, District 28B



Brian Daniels  
State Representative, District 19A



Jeff Dotseth  
State Representative, District 11A



Steven Jacob  
State Representative, District 20B



Joe Schomacker  
State Representative, District 21A



Pam Altendorf  
State Representative, District 20A



Ron Kresha  
State Representative, District 10A



Mary Franson  
State Representative, District 12B



Paul Novotny  
State Representative, District 30B



Ben Davis  
State Representative, District 6A



Marj Fogelman  
State Representative, District 21B



Spencer Igo  
State Representative, District 7A