

Thanks Kim, and thank you all for attending today. My name is Ryan, Government Relations Associate for the Minnesota Catholic Conference or MCC. The Minnesota Catholic Conference is the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Minnesota.

We are here today because Minnesota is still not ready to unleash retail cannabis in our state.

If passed today, the adult use cannabis bill would set our state up to failure.

Minnesotans should ask, what are the desired outcomes that we wish to gain from marijuana legalization?

If reversing injustice caused by the War of Drugs this is the goal, then we can do that in a 30 page bill.

I urge anyone, who supports legalization out of a desire for racial justice to look deeper into what the 290-page adult use Cannabis bill really is. After 16 hearings in the House and 13 hearing in the Senate we are still left with a bill that doesn't provide Minnesotans with the justice that we all deserve.

HF100/SF73 is a cannabis commercialization bill, written by and for an industry that any objective observer will classify as Big Tobacco 2.0.

Legalization proponents cling to the criminal justice talking point *because they don't have any other* legitimate justification to offer.

The Catholic Conference has been a consistent advocate for criminal justice reform particularly when comes to creating paths to redemption and full restoration into society.

As we have seen in other states, cannabis commercialization actually delays justice by tying expungements, investments and other positive reforms to the approval of a drug industry.

Any change to Minnesota's cannabis policies will impact every Minnesotan's quality life- rich or poor, young or old, users and non-users.

Minnesotan's should focus on a quality, rather than the quantity of the committee hearings that the bill has received.

Two specific aspects that the process has failed to address are THC Potency and Baseline statistics.

Working for justice requires establishing right relationships between persons, where each is given his or her due. Justice requires that all parties embrace certain responsibilities toward each other.

We must be careful not to injure justice under the guise of promoting it.

This bill isn't ready because it fails to meet the responsibilities that we have towards families, public health, adolescent development, and road safety.