

Good morning Chairwoman Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee. My name is Jason Wahl, Director of the Division of Medical Marijuana within the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH). I am here to oppose the changes in Senate Bill 2284 regarding the removal of the maximum concentration or amount of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) for minor patients, adding dried leaves and flowers and concentrates to the types of usable marijuana available for minor patients, and requiring a designated caregiver be responsible for ensuring a medical marijuana product administered to a minor patient does not exceed 6% THC.

The NDDoH opposes the removal of the 6% THC maximum for minor patients. Providing access to higher THC amounts for individuals under the age of 19 presents serious concerns related to the brain development of minor patients. Research has supported this position. State law currently limits the amount of THC in products to 6%. THC is the cannabinoid in marijuana that provides the euphoria, or a "high." Allowing dried leaves and flowers and concentrate products to minors would significantly increase the THC percentage. Rather than a product with 6% THC or less, this change could provide access to concentrates with THC percentages in excess of 85%.

The NDDoH opposes the addition of a new section of law authorizing a designated caregiver to create a medical marijuana product or dilute a product to meet a requirement of it being no more than 6% THC. Only registered manufacturing facilities are currently authorized to create a medical marijuana product. Manufacturing facilities use specialized equipment following specific processes and procedures. The products are tested to ensure the products are safe. No testing requirements exist with a designated caregiver creating a product which puts minor patients at risk of consuming a product not fit for consumption as well as exceeding 6%.

This concludes my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.