

Good morning Chairman and Members of the committee,

I am Kelsey Kuylen and I am a Nurse Practitioner in Dickinson, ND. I am here today to ask you all for your support on HB 1164.

In my practice, I have been managing medical marijuana patients for 17 months and personally medically manage 219 patients for a variety of different approved medical diagnoses. Some of the Medical Marijuana patients that I manage, as well as many others throughout the state, are struggling with accurate dosing of their current available options. A pre-formed edible option would be a stress-free way for these patients to properly administer their target dosage.

To date, current routes such as tincture, inhaling, oil wax, topicals, or capsules offer a variable dosing with limited control for the patient. Edibles would be an improvement because the patient would have access to their medication without having to inhale an irritant, take a capsule that may exceed their targeted dosage, and reduce the large variability on what dose was truly ingested with the tincture (oil drop). Offering an edible would decrease the physical limitations or barriers on administration of Medical Marijuana for some individuals allowing them to alleviate their associated symptoms and have better control of their medical diagnosis or disease. Currently, some of the available routes have limitations on who can benefit from Medical Marijuana, such as those patients who have respiratory comorbidities and are not able to use the inhalation forms currently available. Individuals who have other limitations such as glaucoma and have restricted vision fields are reduced to forms that do not require visual acuity to ensure they are taking the proper amount. Individuals who are dealing with physical/structure deformities or limitations associated with Rheumatoid Arthritis are restricted to forms that are offered with dexterity ease. While Rheumatoid Arthritis can be juvenile in origin, it most commonly affects the elderly population, who by in large are also associated with loss of visual acuity. It is not uncommon for more than one physical limitation to be present for an individual, making their selection of Medical Marijuana very narrow or taking a big chance each time they take their Medical Marijuana in hopes that they do not intake too much or not enough to manage their symptoms.

Representative Steiner has been working with Jason Wahl at the Department of Health & Human Services to ensure the state can regulate this. I hope you consider this bill. Medical Marijuana has been beneficial, and I have medically seen the improvement regarding the quality of life, decreased associated symptoms of patient ailments, as well as patients being able to get off controlled narcotics, that some have been on for years, negating the overdose of such medications.

Thank you for your consideration. This concludes my testimony, and I can take any questions at this time.