

2023 North Dakota Legislative Session
Testimony in Opposition to HB 1478

Patrick Finken, Chair
Brighter Future Alliance

The Brighter Future Alliance led the 2022 campaign to defeat Measure 2 and the legalization of marijuana. We were joined by the North Dakota Sheriff's and Deputies Association, the North Dakota Police Chief's Association, the North Dakota Peace Officers Association, the North Dakota Farmers Union, the North Dakota Farm Bureau, the Greater North Dakota Chamber, the North Dakota Petroleum Council, the Lignite Energy Council, the North Dakota Catholic Council, the North Dakota Family Alliance, and the North Dakota Medical Association.

While we understand that some changes to the laws governing the availability of marijuana for certified medical needs will require tweaks from time to time, we believe HB 1478 goes too far. We believe the concept of self-certification gives people an all-to-easy avenue to circumvent the prohibition on recreational cannabis use and will lead to diversion and expanded non-medical use.

The voters of North Dakota have clearly spoken, not once, but twice. They oppose the recreational sale and use of marijuana. We encourage this committee to honor the will of the people and oppose any legislation that would facilitate, intended or otherwise, the recreational use of cannabis.

Please vote Do Not Pass on HB 1478.