



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

May 22, 2009

The Honorable Senator James Metzen
President of the Senate
322 State Capitol Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear President Metzen:

I have vetoed and am returning Senate File 97, Chapter 166, a bill authorizing and regulating the medical use of marijuana.

While I am very sympathetic to those dealing with end-of-life illnesses and accompanying pain, I stand with law enforcement in opposition to this legislation. Marijuana poses serious public safety and health risks. Legalized medicinal use could serve to compound these problems.

The FDA has not approved and does not regulate the medical use of marijuana. This bill would allow marijuana to be produced and distributed for medical purposes without any federal oversight to insure the drug is being used safely and effectively. Additionally, the scientific studies available regarding the benefits and risks of the medical use of marijuana are insufficient.

I also note that neither the Minnesota Medical Association nor the American Medical Association have endorsed this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Pawlenty", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tim Pawlenty
Governor

Senator Metzen/SF 97

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cc: Representative Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Speaker of the House
Senator Lawrence J. Pogemiller, Majority Leader
Senator David Senjem, Minority Leader
Senator Steve Murphy
Representative Marty Seifert, Minority Leader
Representative Tom Rukavina
Mr. Peter S. Wattson, Secretary of the Senate (Legislative)
Mr. Albin Mathiowetz, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
Mr. Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State