



PROTECTING, MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF ALL MINNESOTANS

January 2, 2019

Senator Michelle Benson
Chair, Health & Human Services Policy & Finance
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3109
95 University Avenue W.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Tina Liebling
Chair, Health & Human Services Finance
State Office Building, Room 477
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Warren Limmer
Chair, Judiciary & Public Safety Policy & Finance
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3221
95 University Avenue W.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Rena Moran
Chair, Health & Human Services Policy
State Office Building, Room 575
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
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Representative Carlos Mariani
Chair, Public Safety & Criminal Justice Reform Finance & Policy
State Office Building, Room 381
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Honorable Chairs:

In accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 152.27, subdivision 2, paragraph (b), I am providing formal notice of my decision to add Alzheimer's disease as a new qualifying condition for Minnesota's medical cannabis program. Under state law, the new condition will take effect in August 2019.

This year, as in years past, the Minnesota Department of Health used a formal petitioning process to solicit public input on potential qualifying conditions. Throughout June and July, Minnesotans were invited to submit petitions to add qualifying conditions. The process included [public comments](#), a [citizens' review panel](#) and a set of research summaries for each condition prepared by Minnesota Department of Health staff.

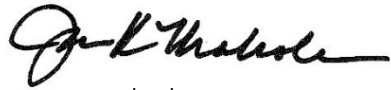
Petitioners put forward seven conditions this year: Alzheimer's disease, hepatitis C, juvenile idiopathic arthritis, opioid use disorder, panic disorder, psoriasis and traumatic brain injury. After reviewing the research summaries and other input, I decided to approve the addition of Alzheimer's disease.

Alzheimer's disease is a neurodegenerative disorder that mainly affects elderly people. It is the most common cause of dementia. Other symptoms include cognitive impairment, delusion, depression and agitation. The MDH research brief cited two available studies, which found that after cannabis use some patients saw improvements in disruptive nighttime behaviors and agitation.

Under current state rules, patients certified to have Alzheimer's disease will become eligible to enroll in the program on July 1, 2019, and receive medical cannabis from the state's two medical cannabis manufacturers beginning Aug. 1, 2019. As with the program's other qualifying conditions, patients will need advance certification from a Minnesota health care provider. More details on the process are available on the [Medical Cannabis](#) website.

I would be happy to discuss this addition with you and answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan K. Malcolm". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jan K. Malcolm
Commissioner
P.O. Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975