

Medical marijuana: Law enforcement is open to careful first steps



Though we can't back the bills as written, we're encouraged by discussion of clinical trials.

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We as Minnesota law enforcement officials have been criticized recently for our strong presence and influence at the State Capitol.

Like every group that advocates for a particular cause in St. Paul, we're thankful that there are lawmakers who value our expertise and real-world implementation advice as they craft key legislation to keep our communities safe.

As professionals who work hard every day to prevent crime and protect victims, we believe it's our responsibility to speak out on topics that affect the public safety of Minnesotans. That's why this year alone we've helped lawmakers improve several pieces of legislation related to expungement, immunity in drug overdose situations, data practice changes, exoneration of innocent people and more.

But when it comes to the high-profile medical marijuana debate, we believe our position has been misunderstood by the public and, unfortunately, miscommunicated by others.

Perhaps we have failed to send a loud enough or clear enough message that we are not opposed to taking a responsible and reasonable first step toward finding common ground on this issue.

We want the public and policymakers to know that we are very encouraged by Gov. Mark Dayton and by legislators like Sen. Julie Rosen, R-Fairmont, who believe a study should take place before Minnesota approves a comprehensive medical marijuana statute. A study and a clinical trial at a reputable Minnesota-based clinic have the potential to bring relief to those children suffering from seizures sooner than any current proposed marijuana bill that we all continue to debate.

Furthermore, we brought a proposal to the table to allow CBD, the main component of medical