

Comment
Patients shouldn't have to pay for a prescription
Allow us to grow plants like almost every other (blue) state does
Will you finally let at least medical patients be allowed to homegrow?
Why bother paying for the medical card anymore when recreational is legal? Not worth the hassle with little to no benefit.
I wish there were more consistent offerings of edibles and different dosage options. Maybe offer 10mg and 20mg doses instead of having to double up to achieve the desired results for pain management.
Make cannabis actually affordable for patients and give people a reason to have to have a medical cannabis card. There's no reason that rec should be getting better prices or better product than people that need actual medicine. And the good medicine that is out there is just not sustainable for anyone to purchase on a regular basis. The monopolization of cannabis in this state is a joke and I hope you guys get it together. And give us higher doses. Why do other medical states provide 1000mg edibles for medical patients only and here we're capped at 100mg which is insane! I don't want to eat 50 gummies to get the dose I need. It's just ridiculous that 12 years later and nobody has made any REAL changes to the program that benefit the end user.
We need better pricing and selection for medical. Many dispo fill their rec menu and leave medical menus bare. Increase edible dosing to 500mg or 1000mg per package like most other medical states. Increase product variety for drinks.
Hello I think there should be more medical dispensary or only exclusive product just for medical patient and we should have more benefit like cheaper prices on product or more discount for GA and we should be able to use it out of state into my market or Pennsylvania everywhere I go it's mostly recreational dispensary and not enough medical sites thank you
I'm great full for the medical cannabis a plant given to us by God that can elevate some of my Constant nerve pain from damage
However, I wish it was not so expensive. I think it should be decreased in price.
There does not seem to be a benefit for medical patients other than no tax assuming the town doesn't add a tax, see Belmawr, South Jersey. The prices are the same as recreational which are out of hand. Variety is needed. Why are edibles only 10mg and why does it cost more for a 100mg bag of edibles in NJ then (1) 100mg edible in PA
The MCP has helped me tremendously with my sleep, pain, depression and anxiety. It helps me live more comfortable and work.
It should be much stronger. Extremely weak. Nothing like real marijuana. Things need to change big time!! No cannabinoids, no resin, no coughing, no real marijuana effects. We can only hope for change. Imagine all the money that has been made so far!! Off of what?
The amount of discounts that medical patients has decreased since the total legalization
The Egg Harbor Twp dispensary no longer offers medical only hours. The costs are way too high, one of the highest in the country and there is no medical discount.
Lower the price for medical patients.
Do you really think it's acceptable to have Dispensaries testing their own Supply!?!?!? How much money did they spend lobbying you guys to get this through? It's laughable and just shows the corruption in this state. Don't act like you care about the patients and their health and safety when you have laughable guidelines like this in place. What a joke. You allow these MSO's to Own us. Prices are THROUGH THE ROOF STILL and most of the "Medicine" is disgusting dry moldy junk. I have to drive at least 45 minutes to get Quality and that's from Breakwater and I basically need to take out a Loan just

to afford it. Absolute Insanity. Meanwhile our Neighboring States NY and PA have much better quality for Half the Price. The Backroom Deals that must be happening in Trenton... Just WOW

Give medical patients the ability to grow at home !!!

Please Legalize home grow for the people in need who cant afford cannabis like me.

The process and two year re-registration is onerous for seniors needs to be streamlined

This program has been a life saver for me

Due to multible failed back surgerys i was on narcotics for pain relief for years i am now off of them completly because of this program

What a life changer this has been

My Dr's are quite happy to see me off those addicting narcotics

John Serafin

As a care giver, I have seen the benefits first hand, the program has helped my wife eat when she wasn't hungry, gave her energy when she didn't want to get up and helped her sleep when she needed rest. We believe the program was/is a critical part of surviving an awful disease.

I have been talking medical marijuana for about three years no and it helps me better than anything I've taken before I'm glad I have them.

I'd like to know when we can have growing at home. I'm disabled sometimes and I can't afford my medicine and it would help if I could grow it.

Lower the cost of our medication.

When I first became a patient, cannabis was not legal in New Jersey. The cost of this program seems unfair. Yes, anything can happen to change the legality of cannabis, but is that likely? Is it fair to charge seniors \$100+ for the cost of a brief phone conversation? This is the type of program likely to be cut by the Trump Administration.

I've been a cancer patient who uses cannabis since the beginning. Now there are multiple stores that have daily specials that are sometimes better than then the 20% discount the stores offer. My doctors charges me \$125 each three months for me to keep my liscense. I don't get any benefits the way things are. It should be 50% off, NJ's prices are among the highest in the nation

My name is Curtis Booz, and I am an 83-year-old participant in the New Jersey Medicinal Cannabis Program. I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the invaluable support and access to treatment that this program has provided me over the years. The gift of cannabis has truly transformed my quality of life. It has enabled me to sleep soundly at night, relax during the day, and manage the discomfort associated with my medical condition.

The relief I experience from using cannabis has allowed me to enjoy my daily activities and maintain a sense of normalcy in my life. I sincerely appreciate the dedication and effort that the program has afforded me. The commitment to providing safe and effective treatment options has made a profound difference in my life.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this program and look forward to its continued success.

Warm regards,

ALLOW FOR PATIENT HOMEGROW!!!! WE HAVE BEEN BEGGING FOR YEARS!!!!

The NJ Medicinal Cannibas has been extremely helpful as I struggle with pain and spasms from Multiple Sclerosis. There have been many evenings when I sit and watch TV with my leg going into spasms and I get scared and frustrated so the cannibas helps calm me down. Similarly, when I lay down at night it's very hard to sleep from pain and spasms unless I have some cannibas. I am not a nightly user, but I do know that the times I need the cannibas I would be out of my skin if it wasn't available. I also have asthma, so I never smoked and am glad the tincture was available to use sublingually and ,of course, gummies now. I also speak for the MSRs that I read about in my blog. It has helped to make this beast of a disease manageable with all other meds.

Talk about one step forward and four back, this cannot happen. I totally understand trying to limit the black market, but if it's legal it's legal. I could see if the rec dispensaries or anything more than a fancy black market, but they aren't. I'm a medical card holder myself, and it just seems as things ran much smoother the second medical became legal back in the day than it is running now. Home grow would solve all of these problems but we all know it's about the almighty dollar and how much the state or government can whittle out of us who actually need this as medicine. Next thing you know they'll start pushing opioids again. God forbid. Know that you have my support in all you do, as it's about time that this great plant given to us from the gods is finally able to be used for what it was intended. I don't hear any word of any of the thousands of people that were let out of confinement in jail possibly getting sent back. Seems like they can change any law they want anytime they want, I thought that these laws came about because they were voted on and passed.

Allow for home grow! Other States do, not sure why NJ does not.

The allotment amount should be raised from 3 ounces to maybe 4 ounces. Sometimes the product is not potent or is stale there is a no return policy. It's expensive to replace product that is not up to medical standards.

For centuries, psychedelics have been recognized for their profound healing potential. Now, groundbreaking research from leading institutions—including NYU, Johns Hopkins, Harvard, UCLA, the VA, and many others—has scientifically validated their benefits in treating major depression, PTSD, addiction, and other mental health conditions that have devastated millions of lives. These disorders not only cause immense personal suffering but also place an overwhelming economic strain on healthcare systems, social services, and communities.

Across the country, policymakers are beginning to acknowledge the urgent need for alternative treatments that go beyond traditional pharmaceuticals. Psychedelic-assisted therapy has shown remarkable success where conventional treatments have failed, offering renewed hope to veterans, trauma survivors, and those battling substance use disorders.

Now is the time to act. New Jersey has the opportunity to lead the way in providing safe, regulated access to these transformative therapies, giving residents the chance to heal, rebuild, and reclaim their lives. The evidence is clear—the right decision is to make these powerful plant medicines accessible to those in need.

You do not make any of this affordable. It's a joke. Luckily it's made other people sell better weed for cheaper. If you get your medicine from a dispensary you're an idiot! No one can regulate the market now. Order online and get free delivery at so many local places. Weed is way better not the shit they give. You would think Animal Face was this amazing bud. Let me tell u you will be very disappointed. I do appreciate how easy it is to find my own weed dealer now online! So thanks for that!!

As a patient with bipolar disorder, I would like to see the qualifying conditions list expanded to include both depression and bipolar.

Legalize growing our own medicine!!

3 plants for every patient.

Allow businesses to sell clone plants as well!

Aren't we the Garden State!?!?

I was on Remeron 45mg and Latuda 40mg. After using medical marijuana I am off Remeron and down to 10mg of Latuda.

Increase monthly limit or completely eliminate the limit. For some of us some months are tougher than others. Just isn't fair anymore.

We need homegrow!!! Needs to happen sooner than later.

As it currently is, the program is working fine for me. I especially like the easy access link to my on-line doctor. At age 82, I am grateful that I no longer have to travel on Route 1 in that horrible traffic.

Thank you for bringing medicinal cannabis to New Jersey. I am a public school educator and have been for over 25 years. I also have extensive medical issues. Since making it legal for me to purchase medical cannabis, one thing that has subsided is anxiety and the thought of possibly losing my job. My body does not respond to traditional prescription medication and since working with medical professionals, cannabis has been a saving grace for my digestive issues. I would love to retire from public education and continue working in the medical cannabis field. Most recently I have been diagnosed with alpha gal syndrome from a Lonestar tick bite, and there is no known cure or medicine for this disease. once again, medical cannabis has assisted with my digestive process and ability to eat food. It truly is a miracle cure for me. Thank you for bringing it to NJ.

First there needs to be more medical only facilities, like Breakwater. Second the prices need to come down, I see what people spend elsewhere and it's embarrassing. Not to mention I should get a cheaper price as a patient than a recreational user. Third baked goods would be awesome, and don't give me that kids might be compelled to eat them. If gummies are legal, so should baked goods. Drinks wouldn't be bad either. I just think we patients should have better benefits.

It's been a long time that legalization of cannabis has been voted in as law, yet legislators in NJ have abandoned medical patients (and recreational) from the ability to grow the PLANT FROM HOME.

It is extremely expensive to purchase medical cannabis in NJ, many states like Boston (much lower prices than NJ) and New York both have a reasonable amount of cannabis that can be grown at home, but not NJ.

This seems like neglectful at best and corruption at worse that forces me and other medical patients to either go without or spend four times what I would pay in nearby states and at least 100x more than if I grew it myself after the initial investment.

Home grow does not affect the cannabis industry in NJ, the amount of people willing and able to grow is far outweighed by those who would continue to buy through dispensaries, and dispensaries can also sell seeds, nutrients and equipment.

You're literally killing us financially and in some cases actually.

Please get sen Scutari on board, it's unfair he has blocked the vote FOR YEARS. His legislative conduct on this matter would prohibit me ever casting a vote for that man.

Sincerely

Stuart Taranto
Middlesex

Mostly Hemp, THC A, for sale. Real cannabis, reg. THC, is not the main focus. Real THC has the super active set and enters the lungs as pure smoke. With THC A the lungs become a BLAST FURNACE as the acid, the "A", is converted within the lungs...bad news. The push in the 2020 Farm Bill allowed the Hemp engineers to create a similar product to Reg. Cannabis, namely THCA. The high bred Hemp is sold as "pot" when in fact it's the other plant with major GMO added. Lots of mislabeling when it comes to THCA vs THC. This is a consumer scam. We need reg cannabis to be LEGAL ! Also need to be able to grow our own as that otc stuff is loaded with NPK, namely P and K which hurts the lungs. Why would I continue to pay a MD \$500 a yr for him to ok what everyone else as free access to.

Please open more medicinal marijuana dispensaries in places without them. I have severe ptsd and traveling to unsafe areas in order to receive benefits. There are so many recreational facilities and it's not fun and games. speaking for myself. MEDICINAL MJ is more important than recreational. I'm not trying to get stoned just to get stoned. I have been in intensive therapy for over half my life for this demonic panic disorder it triggered GERD and it comes and goes in intensity it's been debilitating. I don't even feel human sometimes, I lost so much weight I'm trying to get hungrier and I'm trying to sleep for more than four hours a night. If someone can just read this I feel completely invisible and alone in this. Any more resources for MJ + PTSD could maybe give me a better quality of life. I hope someone can hear my voice in this. I am unable to go out in crowded places, I'm fighting every day I just hope it can get a little easier. Medical MJ is the future. Battling panic disorders is life or death. Help.

Would like to see the community pushed forward on home cultivation as well as more protection for patient to avoid employer loopholes that discriminate against patients

I would love to see New Jersey lower their prices. I went to other recreational and medical states and the prices were way cheaper and it was the same brand that New Jersey provides.

Proceeds from collection of registration fees should be used to subsidize and bring down prices of medication for medical users, as these are still close to if not more than recreational prices in some cases.

Medical users would also benefit from a framework enabling patients to submit to insurance to cover a portion to all of the costs of medication.

I wish they would allow home cultivation. Plus pricing has to come down compared to other dispensaries in pa and ny. How about allowing home cultivation and being able to sell or trade flower back to the dispensaries. This could help off set prices for medical care and allow customers to get better quality care for less expensive cost while still using the dispensary as a assistance for processing the material grown

I have seizures, early onset Parkinson's, I have exocrine pancreatic insufficiency, PTSD, I am a cancer survivor and I'm currently dealing w possibly my cancer being back if not for cannabis I wouldn't be able to function. It helps me eat, sleep and be awake, it also keeps my tremors, seizures and pain at bay. This was the only thing that helped me sleep. This was life saving for me. And I know it helps to s of other ppl I have made many friends over the years. I've had my card since 2019 due to a friend with different medical issues turnt me on to it when I was crying to her about my issues. This is so important in the health world and honestly it should be covered by insurance the same was prescription drugs are since it's prescribed and treated and helps the same way. It needs to be more affordable and more accessible. Especially for people likee who drives 1 1/2 hours to go to my specific dispensary as I only like this certain one cuz the strains are the ones that work best for me. I wish we were able to grow our own plants it would make things a whole lot easier for people like me who don't drive and are physical disabled

I would like to know why people with a medical mmj card can't go to a gun range and try and practice. I know people who go into the recreational store without a medical card and they don't seem to have a problem with guns. Am I missing something?

I have Parkinson's and depression/anxiety/ptsd/ along with several other autoimmune diseases. Medical cannabis has helped me with pain relief, anxiety, depression and temporary less severe tremors

prices have gotten out of hand. The cost for what is medical marijuana is now out of reach for many people. This program is not serving it's intended population. how can product grown and sold in nj cost as much as 600.00 per ounce. for MEDICAL!

We need home grow we want home grow it's not fair. That other states have it and we don't.

Why has home grow not been legalized in NJ? This is the only cannabis-legal state that doesn't allow it and it's a heavy burden on medical patients, as the cost for cannabis is also higher in NJ than in most other states. Legalizing home grow will save so much money for seniors on a fixed income and others who have limited means but rely on cannabis for their medical needs.

Using medical cannabis has done ABSOLUTELY NOTHING to alliviate my pain. The only thing that it has done for me is make me eat potato chips and watch The 3 Stooges!

Please lower the prices on concentrates in this state. It is absurd paying \$90 for one gram of concentrate. It's even crazier paying 60 for a half gram. Please fix this. It affects me every day.

I feel that home grow should be legal for people in need who cannot afford cannabis.

The program works well for me, very appreciated.

I am so grateful for this program which enables me to get my prescription strength cannibus. I suffer from anxiety attacks and I am able to use my gummies to help keep my attacks at bay. I would like to see this program continue as it is. I'm hoping, eventually, we will no longer need a doctor's prescription for these services.

I am in the medicinal marijuana program and I can never afford to buy any marijuana.

My wife, who is handicapped and has serious mobility issues Her card in November 2024. I signed up for a Caregiver card, so I could pickup her items and am still waiting for my card, in March 2025. This puts a real strain on us. Please improve your expediting of these care giver cards.

Will hashish ever be available at NJ dispensaries?

Don't pretend you're doing this for the patients and caregivers. Word going around is that you're going to raise taxes on cannabis and criminalize people buying cannabis from non-licensed sources. Now, I only buy from licensed sources but the combination of those two facts would only indicate that the state is in it solely for the money. We already pay some of the highest prices across the country where cannabis is legalized. It's a plant. You geriatric politicians need to all go away and do what the people ask for. You're not representing your constituents with your policies. You're representing those that can afford to be licensed and grease your palms. If this state gave a crap about the patients or even the recreational community, it would allow home grow and not try to rake us through the coals for more money.

Again, I say, it's a plant. It should be legalized completely without any restrictions. I feel the same way I do about cannabis as I do about psilocybin and other natural psychedelics. It's 2025. Wake the hell up and realize these plants are helping people around the world with numerous mental and physical issues. Far safer than the majority of compounds out there. Virtually unable to overdose on. Yet, alcohol destroys lives daily. Get your priorities straight and stop screwing with New Jersey residents. You're rich enough, now do the right thing for the citizens of this state.

To put things into perspective, 1/8th of Cannabis in NJ goes for (at best) \$35 IF you get a sale on some crap nearing expiration. In NV, 1/8th of fresh cannabis costs roughly \$20-25. If you want a fresh 1/8th here, you're paying \$60. People want safe places to buy their cannabis but at the costs and taxes in this state, barely anyone can afford it. Thankfully, I am a very light user and don't require huge amounts to handle my pain issues, but I know plenty who spend hundreds per month on cannabis. You're literally driving those people towards pharmaceuticals derived from opiates or worse so their insurance can cover it. You're all a bunch of greedy people who need to relieve yourselves of your duties and get people in office that actually care about the people and less about how much money you can get.

I am a medical marijuana patient who uses marijuana daily to manage symptoms caused by chronic illnesses. However due to the high costs of marijuana in New Jersey, I am unable to purchase an adequate amount of medication each month. To save money, I ration my medications, taking less than what is required to reduce my symptoms to a tolerable level, and I purchase the cheapest flower strain I can find within 20 miles of my home. Because flower is cheaper than vapes or edibles, I damage my lungs daily by inhaling marijuana smoke, against the recommendations of my doctors. If I could afford to purchase edibles and tinctures, I would. I prefer them, but unfortunately they are out of my reach due to the high cost.

I would love to see prices reduced so that they are comparable to other states with legalized recreational/medical marijuana. I would also love to see home grow available for everyone, though medical-only would be a start. Home grow would help reduce costs for those like me who can't afford their medication.

Additionally, the New Jersey market seems to only promote high THC strains, even though CBD, CBG, and CBN can help reduce symptoms without the cognitive impairing side effects of THC. There are only two strains I know of in New Jersey that have a significant amount of CBD (Royal CBD and Cannatonic).

They are both available at a single medical-patient-only dispensary (Breakwater) whose prices tend to be higher than other dispensaries. Even then, one of those strains is only available in the form of flower. There just simply isn't enough variety to choose from for medical purposes.

I would love to see more high CBD, CBG, and CBN strains available. Each has their own medical uses but are very difficult to find in New Jersey. When available, they are typically only in the form of expensive edibles and tinctures, rather than flower or vapes.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns.

Let medical cannabis card holders have the right to defend themselves. Let us own guns train with them ect.. alcohol users are more dangerous with a gun then a weed smoker. How many fatal accidents with weed/alcohol. Domestic abuse. Domestic violence most drinking when happening. Not marijauna smokers. This needs to be brought to immidiate attention. So cancer patients who have a card cant defend themselves? Rediculous. Everyone has the right to defend themselves. But alcoholics can but a cannabis smoker cant. Unfair.

As a mental health provider and a patient who has personally benefited from medicinal cannabis, I want to emphasize the importance of maintaining access to this treatment for those struggling with conditions like anxiety and insomnia. In my experience, medicinal cannabis has provided significant relief without negative side effects, allowing me to manage symptoms more effectively than with other treatments.

From a professional standpoint, I have also seen firsthand how access to cannabis can be life-changing for patients who do not respond well to traditional medications. While I fully acknowledge the need for responsible regulation to prevent misuse, the ability for those in need to obtain safe and legal cannabis is a godsend. Denying access to an effective treatment option would be a disservice to many who rely on it to function and improve their quality of life.

I urge policymakers to continue supporting access to medicinal cannabis while implementing reasonable safeguards to ensure its responsible use.

1. Policy and Regulation:

- Legalize Home Cultivation: Allow registered medicinal cannabis patients and their designated caregivers to grow a limited number of plants at home (6-8 plants, with a mix of mature and immature plants).
- Clear Home Grow Guidelines: Establish safety, security, and quality standards for home cultivation, such as requiring secure indoor or fenced outdoor growing spaces.
- Streamlined Registration: Create a simple process for patients to register as home growers, possibly as an addition to their medical marijuana card.

2. Affordability and Accessibility:

- Reduce Patient Costs: Promote home cultivation as a cost-effective alternative to dispensary purchases, helping patients manage expenses.
- Home Grow Assistance Programs: Provide low-cost starter kits and resources for low-income patients who wish to grow their own cannabis.
- Expand Dispensary Network: Increase the number of dispensaries and support home delivery services to improve access for patients who prefer to purchase cannabis.

3. Product Quality and Safety:

- Home Growing Education: Offer resources and workshops on safe cultivation practices, including pest control, mold prevention, and proper storage of cannabis.
- Affordable Testing Services: Establish partnerships with laboratories to offer voluntary and low-cost testing for home growers to ensure product safety and potency.
- Diverse Product Range: Encourage dispensaries to offer a broad selection of products (e.g., edibles, tinctures, topicals) to complement home-grown options.

4. Patient Support and Education:

- Cultivation Workshops: Provide regular training sessions on cannabis growing techniques, from seed selection to harvesting and curing.
- Support Networks: Develop forums and support groups where home growers can share experiences, advice, and troubleshooting tips.
- Comprehensive Education: Create accessible guides on strain selection, dosage, and safe consumption methods for both home growers and dispensary shoppers.

5. Research and Development:

- Promote Cultivation Research: Support studies on best practices for home growing, focusing on low-cost, sustainable, and safe methods.
- Pilot Programs: Consider pilot initiatives for specific patient groups (e.g., veterans or seniors) to assess the benefits of home cultivation.

6. Legal and Social Initiatives:

- Protect Home Grower Rights: Ensure home-growing patients have legal protections, including non-discrimination in housing and employment.
- Public Awareness Campaigns: Educate the community on the therapeutic benefits of medicinal cannabis and the advantages of home cultivation for patients.

7. Administrative Improvements:

- Simple Home Grow Permits: Implement an easy and affordable process for obtaining home cultivation permits.

- **Balanced Compliance Approach:** Use light regulatory oversight, such as voluntary compliance checks or self-reporting, to avoid overly burdensome regulations.

Please regulate the cost of the marijuana. The prices are still pretty high.

Prices are getting ridiculously high on New Jersey. You are already making billions and still taxing. Price just went up again for 1/3 at \$60.00. As a senior and retired person this state has some of the highest prices around. Why is that

I probably will have to stop getting products I use medicinally

I hope something will change. I have seen other state prices and it's not fair we have to pay such high prices and still getting more taxes

What's up with this New Jersey

The program has been destroyed by the recreational market. Dispensaries have extremely limited offerings. We pay the highest prices in the nation, Strains come and go, and as a patient I should be legally allowed to grow my own medicine. Unless things change I will not be renewing my card.

These prices are outrageous. I have barely used my medical card because cannabis is cheaper to obtain not in the dispensaries". Like a lot cheaper, like 1/3-1/4 of the price . It comes with lab tests too. Why can't you guys do this for us struggling with medical conditions? The medical conditions prevent us from making enough income to afford medicine. If starts a vicious cycle. An ounce is worth \$75-\$150, not \$200-300.

Also, the "medical " dispensaries don't even have any bud with CBD in them.

I am a patient enrolled in NJ's medical cannabis program. I am also a biologist, obtaining multiple degrees from several of our prestigious in state institutions. It pains me that I can't cultivate my own plants like those in other states even though I have extensive training in botany. Furthermore, although it has gotten better over time, there are just some genetics unavailable commercially. Allowing medical patients to cultivate up to 6 plants in each stage (germination, grow, veg) would enhance the program and allow for more customized treatments.

Why does the THC level need to be so low on the flower option?

I love the program and has helped me dramatically, except for the fact I haven't been able to add my fiancé as a caregiver and haven't received any help on the matter.

I have a medical card. It helped me a great deal, but it is very expensive to be covered by the insurance
Not as much as they did

I am getting concerned because my prescribing doctor has retired and I am having difficulty finding one near me that takes new patients. I wish the state had its own virtual doctors. I get discounts for my medical marijuana and that is helpful being on disability.

The program really needs to allow for home grow. If we can purchase in the many dispensaries that exist, why can't I grow a few plants for my own medical consumption. It seems hypocritical with the other rules in place, and also why are we wasting money arresting people for this when cannabis is 100% legal in the state. Limits should of course be in place, but I hope this is considered in this review. Thank you

I am a small business owner, medical cannabis patient, and a student of Rowan University. State laws prohibit smoking inside of a residential building, and I'm going to be kicked out of my Dorm Room for using my medicine. So I have two questions, to start; Is there any way the CRC could work on changing the state laws regarding smoking-indoors, so that an exception is made for medical patients living inside of an apartment building or dorm facility? If not, then could the CRC amend New Jersey Revised Statute 18A:40-12.22, so that it applies to public schools as well? Because this specific statue only applies to private schools, and it requires them to establish a policy for the administration of medicinal marijuana, by means other than smoking or inhalation, yet this law is not applicable in my case, because Rowan University is a public institution, they're not private, and it's ridiculous that only those who attend private school have some sort of protections or rights as a medical cannabis patient.

Patients relying on cannabis for medical treatment are being unfairly burdened with unnecessary, costly hurdles. Unlike traditional prescription medications—where a doctor can simply call in a refill—medical cannabis requires constant reauthorization, forcing patients to pay repeatedly just to maintain access to essential medicine. This creates a “pay-to-play” system that disproportionately impacts those who depend on cannabis for their health and well-being.

I urge the program to eliminate the ongoing authorization requirement, especially since cannabis is available recreationally and purchased “over the counter.” Patients should not be forced to navigate arbitrary red tape just to receive the treatment they need. Make medical cannabis financially accessible by removing these unnecessary barriers—because no patient should have to choose between their health and affordability.

As a medical cannabis patient, I have a hard time accessing the medicine that I need, due to the virulent capitalism in the cannabis market. Strains are mostly very high thc and no or low cbd. The prices are still incredibly high for patients. And without the ability for patients to grow their own, it's difficult to find plants NOT grown with pesticides (marketed as “natural”) because the grow facilities are high volume. There's also times when my caregiver is unavailable, and I'm not feeling well enough to drive myself to my preferred dispensary, so I have to suffer because there's no delivery options available.

The initial program was fine. Once recreational came on, the amount we could buy was impacted by now smaller packets and considerably higher prices. Most of us with health issues don't work, or work minimally so higher costs for less product did not work. How can you make the medical program better? Let us have larger amounts again.

I see other states with better selection, wider dosing and MUCH cheaper pricing (Mass recreational is less than NJ medical by a long shot). Also, working to enable us to bring our MEDICINE on business trips...even to legal states...but having a preferred medicine and having to bring crappy pain and muscle pills to other places is backwards, unhelpful, and wrong. I want to help be a part of the solution.

Subject: Patient-Centered Request for Home Cultivation in NJ's Medicinal Cannabis Program

Dear NJ-CRC,

As a medicinal cannabis patient, I strongly urge the NJ-CRC to include home cultivation as part of the updated regulations. Many states with medical cannabis programs, including Rhode Island, New Mexico, and Illinois, allow patients to grow their own medicine, recognizing the medical, financial, and accessibility benefits this provides.

Allowing home cultivation would:

- Ensure affordability and access: Dispensary prices can be prohibitive, and not all strains that work for patients are consistently available. Home cultivation provides a stable, cost-effective alternative.
- Improve patient autonomy: Patients should have the right to manage their own care, including the ability to grow cannabis suited to their specific medical needs.
- Address supply issues: New Jersey's dispensaries often experience shortages or limited product variety, making it difficult for patients to get the medicine they rely on.

While concerns may arise regarding diversion, safety, or regulation, other states have successfully implemented limits on plant counts, security requirements, and tracking systems to prevent abuse while still allowing patients access to their medicine. A reasonable home-grow policy with safeguards would ensure patients benefit without undermining public safety.

New Jersey has an opportunity to modernize its medicinal cannabis program in a way that prioritizes patient needs. I urge you to consider home cultivation as an essential part of patient care.

Additionally Working towards medical cannabis being covered under workers' compensation, Medicaid, and private insurance, as seen in some court rulings in New Mexico and New York.

Many states (like Rhode Island and Arizona) have stronger employment and housing protections so that registered patients can't be fired for off-the-clock cannabis use if they're not impaired at work, or denied housing.

Thank you for your time and commitment to improving this program.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Adair Lafountaine
Patient/Advocate

The program is extremely beneficial for myself. As a professional with a serious medical history, it helps where other options do not. Educate yourself, and respect the program, as it will benefit you. Need more options in the medical locations, and a lower cost would be a huge help.

I would like to extend my gratitude that this program exists. Not only has my mental and physical health improved with access to medicine (cannabis), but also there is incredible peace of mind in knowing the flower I'm buying has been tested and is safe. There are many tainted drugs in the black market, and access to regulated medicine is something I am extremely grateful for. The program has been an essential tool among many that has allowed me to live a productive life contributing to my community through work and service.

It is time to allow patients to grow their own medicine! Almost every other allows this. The GARDEN state needs to as well. It is time, cannabis is legal in this state, everyone should be able to grow their own!

I've had multiple abdominal surgeries. I have a lot of scar tissue, and I have meshes holding my abdominal organs in place. I have tried all types of different medications, including opiates and none of them relieve the pain like medical marijuana does. I am a proponent for this program to continue, and I am glad to say that because of it, I no longer have the constant pain. I use to suffer a pain daily. I prefer it much better to opiate medication.

I don't feel as if there is much benefit to a medical card in NJ anymore. The dispensaries favor the recreational patients and cater to them majorly. I wish it was a privilege and advantage to have a medical card like it used to be. Now it's just a money hungry business

People that have a prescription from a doctor, and/or people that are on disability, be given some type of financial consideration or discount. Perhaps convince health insurance companies to cover some of the cost, for people who are prescribed medicinal cannabis by a doctor.

Please allow home grow.

Seeing how the US Administration is currently trying to cancel programs nationwide, what is NJ doing to ensure and maintain a medical cannabis program?

Please lower cost. Even patient prices are astronomical compared to other states and we can't afford it.

Make higher THC in the flower available and make more Sativa Strains available.

As much as I respect and appreciate our first responders. I find it frustrating the discount they receive at dispensaries compared to a medicinal patient who NEEDS the product. While the average recreational user might consume multiple times per week, med patients sometimes consume multiple times daily and much heavier doses. It must be very hard for patients to afford the cost of their medication being they use it 3x more the average recreational consumer. Sure saving on tax helps but when I get the same product as my peers that are police officers and they save \$50 more than I do it doesn't make sense. When I might have to be back at the dispensary a few days later and they might not be back for 2 weeks. It already cost an arm and a leg for cannabis in NJ and I feel medical patients need a larger discount on products being they use it multiple times daily. Thank you!

The NJ medical cannabis program in NJ is an absolute disgrace to the medical patients. Since the community has gone recreational, there are more and more dispensaries going up, but they are not medical. I have two medical facilities within 20 minutes of my house compared to the 10 dispensaries that are recreational within ten minutes of my house. The limitations for medical vs recreational are very different and you have a much higher variety and assortment in recreational which makes my medical card a waste of time and money. I have gotten better deals and better service at the recreational stores. Medical stores like Cure Leaf have now catered to the recreational side making the medical side meaningless. They are only looking at the consumer for their money, not their

product or making anyone actually better. I have not renewed my medical card and I don't plan on it unless the program allows for some serious changes in favor of the patient.

With the cost of living continuing to increase and the costs of healthcare even rising medical patients are also seeing a lack in ability to maintain affordability with obtaining cannabis to treat their qualifying illnesses making the program contradictory to its founding purpose. We need to see more affordable options on the market for patients as well as consistency in products. Home grow should be considered for medicinal patients who also possess a CRC private grow approval limited to 1-2 plants per 60-90 calendar day period. MSO facilities can organize pick up to remove bio mass/deliver plants and be paid by patients per plant per CRC approval. We need to see higher percentages of thc and terpenes being permitted into the market as well. We are one of the LOWEST quality states in America with the restrictions in place therefore limiting and restricting patients to accessing better quality medication. Recreational menus and medication menus should be different and not have the medical items available to recreational/vice versa. MEDICINAL cannabis should be higher quality and test higher than recreational cannabis since it is being used medicinally. CRC also needs to begin listing if any of the cannabis being sold is radiation free or not. Most major MSO facilities use radiation to cleanse the cannabis from toxins. These are important bullet points and could vastly change the medicinal program in New Jersey for the better.

As a 100% disabled veteran and a medical marijuana participant for many years now, it is important that you continue to uphold the standards that you have already set in the processing in the distribution of cannabis. The veteran community fully embraces alternative medication's in order to treat many mental illnesses including post traumatic stress disorder. It is vital that you support us in this effort, remaining legal while it is still illegal federally.

Is RFK Jr gonna take it away?

We need stronger topics like Vegas and CA have

The monthly allotment is very outdated I live part time and we can get up to 5oz with a waiver some people use this as their Medication I have various issues from muscular skeletal issues and then multiple gastrointestinal issues requiring 420 to help balance that area as well. I utilize at least an oz weekly for the pain and it is very helpful. To even help you forget your pain. Ty Saul

Medical Cannabis Patients should be permitted to grow their own medicine. The Recreational market is established and allowing for medical users to save money on their treatment (which isn't covered by any insurances) would go a long way to supporting patients.

Hello. I have a concern if the Cannabis program is Medicinal, why are the prices so expensive?

How come Medical cannabis user can't grow IN THE GARDEN STATE!!! You do nothing for the card holders.... 😞

I think that we should be able to get a higher allotment each month.

The financial and bureaucratic burden of maintaining medical status is untenable in the face of legalization. Dispensaries are kind enough to offer discounts, but those discounts do not add up to the state's demands. Doctors are unable or unwilling to undergo whatever state certification process enables them to work with marijuana patients in a direct capacity, and so we patients are left to explain our "recreational" medicine to GPs who cannot be assed to understand our therapeutic needs. It is clear that the state's interest in medical use was only as a financial bridge to full recreational legalization, leaving patients to an excessively expensive over-the-counter arrangement, as though my medicine is the world's most financially-demanding bottle of Tums. NJ's medical cannabis program

needs to do significant work to align itself with the needs of doctors and patients, not taxes and budget bills.

Legalize home growing

I have been using the MCP for about 5 years. I suffer from anxiety and have been on numerous medications in my life. I eventually stopped taking everything and tried to work thru it naturally until I came across edibles. They have helped me tremendously and having a MCP card gives me discounts that make it more affordable. TY

When will the medical program be expanded to include home grow for patients? Personally I think we should join all the other legalized states and allow home cultivation for anyone 21 and older, but at the very least patients should have the ability to provide medicine to themselves if they are able.

I've read that Governor Murphy wants to drastically increase the tax on medicinal marijuana as well as for personal use. Those of us that use this for medicinal purposes, experience many large medical bills and expenses. Will there be any difference in the amount that is taxed for medicinal use versus that of personal use users? This economy is such that it is hard enough to pay your daily bills, let alone adding higher taxes on this medicinal use. How does one chose to purchase food, pay rent or a mortgage or purchase your medication.

Program has helped me sleep, pain, appetite . The only thing that can improve is the PRICES and the THC %

Lower the cost for medical patients. Editables price is too high for medical senior citizens. Even with the state discount the physician charges to re-up. Besides medical patients need this to be well. Cut the price!

Allow medical patients to home grow- allow access atc's to sell seeds or plants. Thank you

Cannabis reform is another sad reminder that health is not the priority of the Health Department, Using recreational use and concerns for health issues as a guise, for steering the bottom line agenda of court fees and the vicious cycle that is Our court system. We have Human Living Breathing testimonies of people suffering, taking so called legal approved drugs, that have ruined our lives and the lives of our loved ones, people from ailments across the board, from Civilian, Veterans, to disabled folks across America. Cannabis has brought relief to so many, how can this be an Issue! when anyone can walk into a Liquor store and there are endless rows of variety, of known poison for sale, which is known to be part of almost every Violent incident you can Imagine. We have become a Divided States of America, One of the few things All states agree on, is you have the right to get intoxicated and consume all the nicotine you want, The FDA and Health Department serving its Public, I just want to remind everyone, we are all family at the end of the day we are helping US as a whole, to seek out natural healthier alternatives, instead of constantly just making things worse, to end this with some levity, " Make up your minds, how could you have banned Athletes for using a substance that's so detrimental, was it so unhealthy it gave them a leading recovery edge." To think a pawn like me can figure this out, the game must not be Health, Longevity and Victory. So what do they want for US? I am still hopeful, God willing we will be aloud to use Nature again, and not forced to take Their repeatedly proven approved toxic medicinal regiment.

Medical cannabis for severe pain management is good. But there is a huge issue. The Dr. prescribed me 84 grams of medical cannabis a month but there were no instructions about how many milligrams to take or what strength to buy. Big big problem.

I would like to have the option for less potent strains. Everyone seems to be aiming for stronger versions, but the dosage can be hard to calibrate down. I need to be able to reduce pain while still being able to balance a checkbook, pay my bills or cook a meal.

I have severe herniated disc's with 5 epidural that haven't helped. I can finally sleep through the night without pain due to this program.

I have been a NJ medical cannabis patient since 2021. At no point has the program ever progressed in terms of access or affordability for patients. With the increase in recreational sales, the state seems to have forgotten their responsibility to medical cannabis patients in lieu of copious amounts of tax dollars. I implore this board to make medical cannabis dispensaries more accessible, offer more incentives for current locations to provide medical, and overall reduce the insane price of medicine.

I'm not against the use of Medical Cannabis I use it for pain management.. the growing issue and concerns I have is the growing numbers of people that use cannabis the wrong way. The population today uses cannabis when driving, before going into work, on their lunch breaks and after work. Can there be tougher laws that companies and the state can impose to make this stop. Eventually someone is going to get seriously injured if this issue is not stopped.

I believe the program is doing well but can be improved in the following areas:

The quality of flower is still highly lacking in comparison to other states with legal marijuana. It tastes frankly like rubber, which is partially why I mainly use concentrate. However, unlike in other states, NJ counts 1 gram of concentrate as 7 grams and that is completely unfair. I need it for pain, and having that limitation hinders my ability to medicate. Finally, the prices are still out of this world. I can only afford to buy when it's on sale in any form, once again hindering my ability to medicate. I believe this also pushes people to still buy illegally. You also don't have educated budtenders or allow people to see the products which hinders the experience and ability to know I'm getting what I need as a patient.

I like the program as it has helped with my condition. As a retired person, the high cost of the products as compared to programs in other states makes the cannabis so expensive that I can only afford a partial of the allotment allowed by my doctor. The cost needs to come down. The quality of the cannabis is only marginally better than what can be bought on the street as to make it almost worthless to the patient. No one in their right mind would pay nearly \$500 for an ounce of cannabis.

Who ever holds a medical marijuana card should be able to grow their own plants to a certain number of plants. Would help with the high cost of products.

A lot of adults use only dispensaries with no medical line and the places that sell medical weed are never stocked the same as the adult use side. Adult use has a lot more. They say I do not pay tax but I do not believe them sometimes because the price did not change from when I ordered it with the tax included. The cannabis is better adult use side... a lot of new brands with new choices that are very high in terps. Some of the medical brands are horrible, no terp total on the side. The cost is also the same medical as adult use. We get nothing except the minimal effort. Every dispensary should have to offer medical weed, and all weed should be able to buy medically too.

I am a bilateral below the knee amputee. Medical Cannabis keeps me off opioids and anti depressants

Why is recreational use allowed to have a permit to hunt with a firearm but Medicinal use Cannot?

Close to federal approval?

The prices are to high.

Please make it easier to work the website when up for renewal. I can't stand the website.

Everything is fine except the overpriced weed.

Medical patients should be able to grow their own medicine.

Please remove allotment restrictions on the medical cannabis program. With recreational only having a transactional limit but not a monthly one, I think the medical program should better align with this format as medical should be less restrictive than recreational. Thank you for this opportunity

Disregard my previous email if even possible. I guess I did not read this thoroughly enough. I thought this had to do with the new laws that are being imposed in some of the states which are not looking like they are moving in a forward progress motion. In New Jersey all we basically need are to stop all of the hybrids, as they are diluting the strains quality and just creating more quantity of strains. It is very uncommon to find a landrace or even a good straight indica strain that has good terpene numbers. When a somewhat decent strain does come out you end up having to use it for months on end. There are definite flaws in the program that we're not present in the beginning. I could very easily name 20 strains that were out in the beginning that could still be out and be better than the hundreds they have now. If you can even get any of the decent ones. Don't screw this up New Jersey. Prices need to come down and quality needs to go up as well as consistency. Lose the hybrids, which will never happen and initiate home grow for medicinal and there you go.

I think it's excessive and unnecessary to be required to renew my medical approval for hundreds of dollars so often. My medical issues will not disappear, only get worse. It seems to be a money making exercise. Can we just be diagnosed once at the beginning?

The prices for gummies have skyrocketed. Why is this so and can they be made more affordable I think a high percentage of medical marijuana are retired on a fixed income. The max purchase is 3 ounces a month at about 400.00 each. How many of us have 1200.00 a month expendable cash? I few home-grown plants would give people their medicine at an affordable price. How much is an oz on the street?

I am a 60-year-old male with three knee operations, hardware put in hardware taken out, five hand surgeries, six herniated discs. The gummies that can be purchased at dispensaries are not enough for my body weight (325 lb). I am not on any painkillers, however the cost for gummies is too much to cover a 30-day supply to aid in comfort and sleeping.

As the card now prevents me from purchasing a gun i will never renew again. I wouldn't have voted to legalize except someone from a cannabis organization lied to me and said grow would be included in that vote it was not.

P.S. STILL FEDERALLY ILLEGAL!!

I used to be registered to be on the program but since its expiry, I was not able to easily re-register, which thankfully at that time Recreational was lawful. So, I was able to still get the strands I used during my medicinal era at recreational levels, however people are buying rec for other purposes and requesting street level quality which has totally depleted the medicinal strands I was using. So now if I were to go there, they have this overly ridiculously strong strands that are not even, in my long time of smoking viewpoint, normal strands. What I am saying in a nutshell is that dispensaries should be allowed to evolve with their buying customers, but they need to keep the reality at hand because now all the dispensary strands smell like street weed and it no longer appeals to those who really need it and have real use for it.

I get medical marijuana. I would appreciate if NJ would permit delivery for those on medical . Otherwise, I have no other issues.

I think it's a ripoff to have to pay once for your doctors visit for a prescription. Then again for your medical card. I think we should only pay for the doctors prescription visit once. I mean you really don't need a medical card.

Hello, we need to have home grow approved for medical patients.

It's really hard to be a cannabis patient and apply for a good paying job in the state. People like me have to settle for jobs in industries that don't pay as well, because they don't drug test future employees. A good example are fast food restaurants. I believe the state of NJ should do better for patients in order to support our families and to pay for medical cannabis.

Thank you

Being part of this program has enabled me to overcome significant anxiety and other mental health challenges and avoid going down the prescription drug path. My only complaint is that the recurring fees (to the State, to the doctor) can start to add up. I'm not sure what changes are being proposed with the program, but I would implore those in charge to continue it to help patients like me regain a relatively normal life, again (coupled with other therapy treatments).

It's given me some sort of life again

It is past time that we allow medical card holders a limited amount of plants to home grow. We are the only state with a medical program that doesn't allow it AND we have the most expensive marijuana in the country. It is frequently difficult to get hands on strains that provide the most relief as dispensaries stock constantly varies. We should do better and allow medical card holders to home grow a small number of plants to have year round access to their medicine.

I think the limits should be higher 3 oz is good unless you are far away from dispensary that you have used for a few years. I know there are more dispensaries around but I really like Curaleaf because they are all very knowledgeable about their products and always answer questions.

Local municipalities should not have the entitlement to apply a local tax on medical marijuana sold in dispensaries in their towns. No other prescribed medications are taxed in NJ. Tax recreational not medical.

I left the program due to rising costs to stay in the program. With the increased living expenses it's too expensive to receive any treatment. It did help with pain and inflammation. I am now taking 8 motrin and 8 tylenol a day instead which is causing other health issues. This is a money making program not out for the good of the patients.

It is so expensive. I know myself and others can not afford our monthly prescription. We need a grow at home option or an option where medical prescription cards cover our medications. To fill my monthly prescriptions from my doctor it would cost me \$1,200 per month.

Please help.

Patients should be allowed to grow limited amounts. Dispensaries should sell seeds to patients. Prescriptive and card renewal should be less frequent.

As a caregiver, My biggest gripe is the paperwork that is required every time you need to visit a different dispensary when using a medical ID card. A state issued ID card should allow me to enter any dispensary without filling out a profile. We have a primary that serves our flower needs but prefer another dispensary for edibles

I like the fact that I don't have to take pain medication to be able to sleep

I am completely disheartened with the MMP. I've been to multiple pain management specialists and they all treated the program as a money grab. They give zero advice/instruction, do no monitoring, and only want the fee for the office visit. The only reason for partaking in the program is pain management will revoke my other prescriptions if I test positive for marijuana without being in it. Perhaps dispensaries should cover the doctor fees associated with the program or at minimum give a "real" discount to those in the program. I truly believe the state could care less about medicinal users and used the MMP as a Trojan horse to generate tax revenue.

I'm a stroke victim. I have a speech impairment, right hand debilitated, severe arthritis, approaching my 70th birthday. I take some over counter vitamins, one prescribed medicine a blood thinner, Tylenol and cannabis for pain when needed. It helps to lead the active life I want and needed.

I've Been in the program since 2017 and I say with great sincerity that the medical cannabis has reduced my spinal pain considerably. I only use the MCT oil, 0.75 ml, same dosage never more than once a day. It also relaxes me which mitigates my pain as well. Thanks for a medicine that really works.

To expand the medical program, consider allowing dispensaries that aren't currently medical to expand to medical in some capacity.

NJ Medical/ recreational program should be ashamed of themselves... Not only do you allow below average cultivators to operate in our state, but you allow them to charge double the price then any other state... Take Notes from Maine and how they operate out of love and quality and are truly medicinally for their patients.. NJ is all just a cash grab

Please consider growing real Marijuana. Give the people what they need..

The fact that the program has the prices it does for so long and the medicine they offer is getting worse in not acceptable. Allow home grow for at least a patient level it's been long enough

When is the federal government going to jump on board with this. Because it's very expensive for this medication. And would like help from Medicare or insurance company's . Since it is for medical purposes . And alot of patients need it like myself . Or is there anyway it could be cheaper for the people using for medical marijuana and have the card that was issued by a doctor like myself ?

The medical cannabis program is wonderful including how the state contacts you and guides you through the process when it's time to renew. The only thing I can think of improving is getting it in the mail. I live in southern NJ and the dispensary's here are small and inventory is limited so I drive all the way up to bellmawr to get the product I want. I don't know the implications of the regulations but if this can be added it would make life more convenient. But all in all the program is wonderful and I feel like a better person because of the medicine. Thank you for making this program a reality in our state.

The New Jersey Medical Marijuana Program was a negative experience from the time I joined in 2012. All medical CANNABIS users should be allowed to grow the medicine that is specifically desired by themselves. Patients know which cultivars are good for themselves. Those cultivars aren't available at the dispensaries, and if they are available, they are not properly grown or cured.

It's complete nonsense not to allow home cultivation. The price of nj cannabis is the highest in the nation, and it's the absolute worst quality. Nj doesn't have correct dosing guidelines. The whole program needs to be overhauled.

Where do you stand on home cultivation? If only for medical patients.

i can't explain i have stage 4 cancer colon and liver and i can say i use to drink heavy and begin diagnosed march of 2024 i can quieting and now smoking just medicinal cannabis has really helped me with my pain anxiety of life and just so much more i can't even explain I'm not saying it's a crutch but man it really helps me and hopefully others dealing with anything

I now believe it is not regulated, the weed is to strong now, No regulation on that, if needed should have a prescription from a doctor not a kid behind the counter, you are causing more damage then good . Especially the young generation. If you would like me to give you more information please feel free to contact. It's about the money not peoples well being. Sincerely a former user. God bless

For two decades, I've been treated for generalized anxiety. Year after year, doctors continued to push benzodiazepines and antidepressants, leading me to become dependent on them. Medicinal cannabis has allowed me to break free of addictive benzos. The legalization has also opened up conversations, I feel comfortable speaking with friends and family about my usage without feeling like I am doing something illicit and shameful. Each time I walk into a medical dispensary, I am surrounded by all different types of people. It's not just the typical stereotype that society has attached to cannabis

users, it's elderly patients, people with disabilities, and those also struggling with debilitating anxiety. The commission also helps me to feel confident with the product I am consuming. The transparency and regulations assure me that usage is safe.

I have been in the MMP for 3/4 years. When the recreational sales started the dispensary's tried to still prioritize the med patients. No more is that happening.

We stand in a medical line much longer than the rec sales. It's not right. They never have anyone available for medical patients. Maybe at 7?am which is absolutely ridiculous and not helpful for sick people to be traveling to get to a dispensary by 7 /8 am. We are not a priority anymore. It's quite evident.

Valley Wellness is the worst!!!! Raritan NJ. They treat med patients like crap. They should be fined.

I have given up on the medical marijuana program because it got too onerous. Changing your password every 3 months was ludicrous. Do you folks realize marijuana purchasing in this state is now legal? Doubt this comment is going to change how you do things. I am a 78 year old cancer patient and former state employee for 35 years. I understand how state agencies work and yours was the worst.

tax the alcohol and tobacco product also tax more to reach people not paying any taxes with business write offs.

Hello,

Two comments:

1. My physician who approves my cannabis use requires that I see him every three months. This seems excessive, particularly considering that cannabis is now legal in NJ.

2. The prices in NJ are much higher than CA and other states.

thanks,

Chad

I have been suffering most of my adult life with Multiple Sclerosis. MS comes with many symptoms, and no two patients are alike. One of the many symptoms was horrible insomnia. I've taken many, many different medications to help me with this problem. It wasn't until New Jersey legalize, medicinal marijuana that my symptoms improved! Only a small dose of THC made it so I actually sleep through the night. This was the first time that this happened, and the only drug that helped! I eat a few Gummies about a hour before bedtime, and I actually sleep through the night! Plus, THC IS THE ONLY DRUG I'VE TAKEN THAT HAS ZERO SIDE EFFECTS! I HOPE THOSE WHO MAKE THE LAWS IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY UNDERSTANDS THAT I AM NOT THE ONLY MS PATIENT THAT THC HAS HELPED.

THANK YOU.

I have a medical license, and it has helped me get through some difficult times. Mount Sinai gave me a drug that destroyed my nerves in my hands and legs! The cannabis stops the pain at night so that I can get a peaceful night's sleep.

4oz per month needs to be the maximum allowance per month fpr patients, because all the dispensaries do is say you can purchase more at full price which isn't fair since I have to pay to keep this license current. Also need it for my permanent disability.

I cannot afford my monthly meds anymore. The prices in NJ for low quality items are way too high. And by low quality I mean standard vape carts that are distillate, and flower that is moldy or dry or not cured properly. I will not go near this rubbish. The higher quality items, and there are a few out there like, rso, live resin or rosin, not chemically extracted are so overpriced. I'm trying to save my lungs from the shitty selections. And the price of the high quality items from say Breakwater, are very very expensive and make it prohibitive. I think home grown would be a way to ease the pain in more ways than one. But as a government agency with political leanings I don't expect the people making the

rules give an actual shit about us patients. Because if they did, we wouldn't be in this situation. Also there are way too many MSO's cornering the market as far as what they decide to charge. If I wasn't in my 60's and could locate a reliable black market seller, I would. That pretty much sums up my grievances with the NJMMMP.

program helps me lot, better than regular meds, if gov dont need for himself he should not screw poor people.

he should look into other options. like providing luxury to criminals, make their ass work. dont use lottery money to support criminals, instead reduce property taxes.

Please keep the program strong and accessible. I am a senior citizen and greatly appreciate the products i buy at the dispensary being free of fungicides etc and being able to receive a discount. Really impressed with my ATC, Breakwater.

Since New Jersey has legalised recreational marijuana, it is way more expensive for medicinal marijuana patients to maintain a prescription when anyone can just walk in off the street to a dispensary and buy cannabis products. As a medicinal patient, I had to pay a 100 dollar fee every two months, plus other fees throughout the year in order to keep my prescription current. In contrast, recreational users pay 0. Also, the cannabis is the same price for both medicinal patients and recreational users. So patients, who need the product, and have a prescription from a doctor for the product are required to pay so much more than anybody off the street who do not medically need the product. Cannabis should be much cheaper for medical patients than it is for people who just want to get high and have no medical need for it.

I was part of the medical program before it became legal to the public. It was easy to follow. Bit years later it became a different story. Too much of an outlay of money up front for doctor visits and fees associated with the program. Also too many demands and requirements. Prescription, referral, fees. So I stopped using the medical cannabis program and just purchase as a consumer.

Much easier for me that way.

Prices for medical need to go way down. They are not affordable for the average medical patient and are keeping black market sales alive

If you have a medical card now, limits should already be in place and you shouldn't have to keep going to get a prescription, it should be a set limit for card holders per month and a different perimeter for non card holders.

I wish they hire people that know ASL sign language cause me and my husband are deaf and hard time understand people

John andrew ammeen 5 troon terrace Annandale nj 08801 973-495-9114 born 11-11-1967. Formerly of 13 montage place nj 07042

I suffered without medication for many years and stayed sober. Please don't raise tax on my medication.

Hi, Mr. Ricardo Rios velez here. I would like to know how far does the law reaches or extend to protect patients... Recently 1.5 months ago or so someone did throw away my medicinal cannabis which helps me manage my insomnia, chronic pain, anxiety and my anger issues. Almost \$400.00 worth can I press charges and prosecute such individual? also what are the penalties for such crime of disposing the much needed medicine in nj?

How about increasing the allotment to more than 3 ounces?

Before the medical marijuana program here in NJ I was being put on opioids and I was naturally nocturnal. The last straw came for me when my back specialist put me on 900mg of Gabapentin 3x a day. I was not able to function, I was barely able to think, and there was no way I could even begin to return to a normal job. On the program I have achieved not only becoming diurnal but made exceedingly good progress towards being able to work physical jobs again until covid hit. Now, here I

am once again recovering and working with the ticket to work program in order to find a job that I can do without it breaking me even further. I have had nothing but success with this program except for the simple fact that many people still don't like it being a thing and I am often persecuted by neighbors over it.

New Jersey should offer patients many different types of hashish to choose from. California and other states have these types of offerings for medical patients.

I have had numerous nerve blocks for years but they didn't seem to help anymore. I then had two nerve ablations but they didn't work either. I couldn't get out of bed and even walk to the bathroom without having to hold onto every door knob and piece of furniture. I became so depressed I just wanted to die. I will be 70 yrs old in April and have been using marijuana gummies for a little over a yr. Now. If only you could see how fast I can jump out of bed or get out of my recliner you wouldn't believe there was anything wrong with my back at all. I have several health problems but not being able to move without hurricane pain felt like gasoline on the fire. I couldn't even roll over in bed without whimpering in pain. Those days are gone and fortunately for me all I need is my 10 mg indica gummies Ndebele it helps me fall asleep as well. I wake up pain free, no high feeling and I'm good for the day. My pain specialist is absolutely awesome and he taught me so much. I feel blessed and I could cry just thinking about just how much he helped me. Dr. Daniel Ragone thank you

Is there any plan in the works for medicinal patients to have an opportunity to grow plants within their homes? Also, is there a possibility of medicinal patients to have an opportunity to purchase microbusiness licenses for a discounted price?

As a person who suffers with occasional pain from a terrible car accident, I'm able to purchase medicinal balm(lotion) to massage into any area where I experience pain to feel much better.

I suffer from chronic pain, I have had many surgeries and injuries throughout my career. I was on opiates of all kinds just to try to keep the edge off. Not only that, but I kept getting put on higher and higher doses of pain medications that would work for a week or two, then stop working. I finally found a pain management doctor that prescribed Medical Cannabis and weaned me off the opiates and many other pain-related types of medications.

The problem I have is with the cost; I have a minimal pension, and I am on S/S, and disabled, and still need the cannabis for relief of my chronic pain.

It's just so expensive!

If Medicare covered 40% or more of the cost, it would make it much easier for Seniors.

What about letting Medical cannabis users grow their own?

I am prescribed three ounces of Medical cannabis a month, for me that's almost a thousand dollars a month, I cannot afford to get one once of that! But that's about three plants. We would already be registered (via medical cannabis card) and would have to follow state guidelines and regulations. We already pay a fee to the state for our medical card, raise the price a bit for those who want to grow their own.

I want to thank New Jersey, Governor Murphy, and everyone that fought to bring this fundamental resource to the people.

The Medical Cannabis Program helped me avoid becoming addicted to opiates and getting through several surgeries with no other pain medications.

Now it helps with the aftermath of all those surgeries... Chronic pain.

This is a great program that helps so many people, I think it could be better, if it were more affordable, especially for people with medical cards.

Prices are really high choices in edibles are limited. Dispensaries are on every corner.

Prices need to be lowered! We have some of the highest prices in the country for our products in the medical program, so much so that I can hardly afford to pay for a prescription. The discount received for being a medical patient is not worth it, I'm personally considering not renewing my prescription, and I know my opinion doesn't stand alone. I would like to see home grown cannabis being legal, as it seems a bit silly that I can be arrested for growing a plant, while at the same time, I can legally purchase the products it creates. Imagine growing tea plants being illegal while it being perfectly legal to buy legal tea at the store. Tea doesn't seem very legal in that situation, right? Cannabis must be legal across the board.

It is very challenging to find strains of cannabis that are effective and readily available for pain. Allowing home grow for medical patients would alleviate much of this challenge.

I thought the program was good to help the elderly that have severe pain and a host of medical issues. What I didn't know is the greedy state and/or doctors charge \$130 CASH every 6 months to renew the medical script plus the fee for the medical card. \$260 a year CASH just for the scripts, that's before you buy any medical cannabis! The elderly can't afford that!!!!

I could not renew my script cause I can't pay that kind of money! What a waste of medical card, that is paid for in the next 2 years!

NJ, You have to HELP THE SENIORS!

Why can't a MMP Patient get a firearms license in NJ? MMP card max in a mth can get 3 ounces, recreational can get 30 ounces a mth. Makes no sense. MMP patients have all the rules and regulations. Also some Medical shops charge zero tax, should be same with every Medical shop.

Medical cannabis is necessary for me because I have several illnesses and I can be medicated accordingly

Medical card holders at least should be given a home grow option. Home grow in states that allow it doesn't detract from overall profit margins for distributors. Let those who want to grow for themselves do so.

The medical cannabis program has changed my life for the better. I am diagnosed with depression, anxiety, Bipolar disorder, endometriosis, and fibromyalgia. Because of my conditions I lost all will to live and a last resort I signed up for the medical Cannabis program. I hadn't felt happiness in over a decade, but after my first dose of Cannabis, I was able to feel happiness and life without anxiety. After years of being in the program I actually WANTED to live. I can now get out of the bed in the morning and shower whenever I take it. I am also so much kinder to my son Autistic when I'm on it. Being his sole caregiver was overwhelming me to the point even therapy and prayer wasn't working. I thank God for this program! The only thing I would change, is making more edibles available for medical cannabis patients. It's frequently sold out even though it's at a much more manageable price, it just not available for purchase. Please have the Valhalla company send larger quantities to the dispensaries. And earmark some specifically for medical patients.

Thanks to our cannabis providers, I no longer suffer from anxiety tremors. Just living in this world is difficult, please don't try to change or further regulate the things that get us through.

delivery is a serious problem. not all stores deliver, not all stores have what works. (perhaps medical transport to the stores) pricing is a serious problem. i am on a fixed income. (i am watching stores bring down prices)

i have had delivery many times. it works well. all stores should deliver. i say this because of product effectiveness. certain products work well for me and others simply dont. when one store doest have it, i have to search out the country side for cannabis medicine.

price of medical products. i feel medical should be less than recreational in price. simply put, "if i wasnt bent in half in pain i may not but cannabis often at all" i used to smoke it for pain and hope it works, now its way stronger and it works every time. im happy for it. but back to price, "if i wasnt hurting, id use the recreational for about 30 dollars every 45 days or so but im in pain so it like for it be less than 30 dollars a week and have enough to work ect"

its a nice safe place to do business. the staff has been accommodating during my walking difficulty. i learned alot about cannabis enough to really consider industry involvement. i love it. i never excepted to see the cannabis industry happen and im glad i did with a medical card. i will say in defense of anyone in recreational who thinks that medical has it better.....no, we dont. at this point, recreational is strong and it is drowning the medical aspect of the use. becuase of recreation users, and the broken pocket and will, you are seeing this message today. i love the program but medical should sucseed from recreational or something to that effect. cannabis was private and somewhat sacred, especially in a health manner, recreation has nothing to do with that. 'wicked" brand gummies ect....

also perhaps product names- illicit? eh....illicit isnt legal. why name a brand that? am i funding streets? do these companies have ties to their old crime ties? its questionable. so i attempt to avoid names that promote perversion "deez runtz" and or "wicked" and or "mafia" bites when i buy. in ones opinion these are marketing matters however it effects the medical consumer greatly.

honestly, the government of NJ is doing great with rec and med. as a medical patient, i feel medical can now be bolstered with product ammount expansion via dropping the price for med and perhaps getting a "medical cannabis taxi" to a store sometimes if the delivery ammount cant come down to 30 dollars.

i love it, i learned alot and the cannabis program makes my life better. if it wasnt for you guys, id be laying in bed all day crying. thank you for evertything you do!

i love AYR, BLOC, New Era, and Valley wellness and earth and ivy when they have what i need. everyone has been more than nice. im excited for the future of medical and i want to see what the sciences and cannabis come up with next. its been great. thank you! :)

as far as instore, perhaps a wheelchair/walker ect. and dropping prices and or free cab there or drop delivery minimum to 30 dollars ie a non metric example. rush buds has a 50 dollar minimum but they dont alsways have the product that works for me.

ps medical has been great seeing that i can say recreational has it pretty good too. good prices for both has been going on. everyone on all sides of the industry has been doing great work and its been really nice.

Hello, I have been in New Jersey medical marijuana patient since 2013. The nearest only medical marijuana dispensary to me is in cranberry New Jersey, which is a half hour drive. It's my understanding that Breakwater in cranberry New Jersey is the only medical marijuana dispensary left in the state of New Jersey. Is it at all possible that the New Jersey medical marijuana commission can help Breakwater expand to more locations. And honestly, in my experience, Breakwater in cranberry is really the only dispensary in New Jersey that gives you fresh good marijuana. For example, I've been to Curaleaf in Bordentown and they sell you eight months to one year old weed. It's ridiculous. nonetheless I appreciate what y'all have done for us. Medical marijuana patients in New Jersey thus far thank you Michelle.

As medical patients, we used to have access to edibles with stronger doses. I feel it would be fair to return medical doses for edibles back to 350mg

Home grow!! I'm not a medical user but I strongly believe that medical users should be able to grow their own medicine at home.

Dear NJ - CRC Commission,

Thank you for making cannabis legal in New Jersey. I have had back issues, including surgery, and using cannabis has allowed me to avoid all painkillers. It really made my life much better.

My only comment is that I wish you could get a gun license with a marijuana card. I know this is nothing you can change, but it would be nice if this issue was resolved at the federal level.

Also, because it is legal recreationally, I no longer need a medical card and I don't buy enough to make the tax waiver meaningful.

Thank you again, I really appreciate the work you are doing. Elisabeth Schwartz

Home cultivation should be approved if the state wants to help patients.

I am a medical marijuana patient. Recently it has been increasingly difficult to find the products I need because they are only available to recreational customers. Products such as transdermal patches, edibles, liquid, sugar to use in food/drink. These products are necessary for me so I do not need to always smoke and inhale since that has been causing respiratory problems. I was even forced to purchase on recreational and they refused to give me my medical discount. They have even done away with their medical only hours.

NJ needs to start insuring that medical patients are getting correct "medical" label added to packaging upon purchase. This is NOT happening at multiple ATC locations or is happening inconsistently. That medical label keeps patients legally safe. Especially any patients under 21. Budtenders need to be on top of this. Please address this with the ATC locations.

Thank you,

Mike

NJ MMP program is a insult for those of us who need it. Many of us are on a fixed income no budget for it. No home grow no insurance coverage rising taxes and very high prices. It wasn't designed for the poor. I have a stage 4 end of life disease that prevents me from taking traditional medicine my body has a hard time processing them my kidneys are destroyed... Where is the tax money going? Colorado fixed the roads with proceeds called it operation pot hole.....NJ just gets rich and brags about profits it's all it cares about profit not care.

Need to renew my cannabis license

The maximum medical monthly allotment of 3oz is far too low, the way products are now counted (carts, vs flower vs edibles vs. tinctures vs topicals. Recreational users can buy an ounce every day but with a max 3 oz medical allotment a month, I can't obtain the variety of products I need to properly manage my medical condition and stay within my allotment. Additionally, now that recreational use is legalized in NJ; it is discriminatory to continue to deny MMJ card holders the right to apply for a fire arms permit.

I would like to see more local dispensary for medical sales. Thank you.

Since I started taking medical cannabis, my life has, changed. I have less pains in my spine and body. I am more alert, less body spasms. I perform my daily duties much better. Before I slept 3/4 of the day, and having this weak feeling from sleeping so much. My digestive system was on a rollercoaster, I was miserable. I thank God for my Dr.T as I called him, and this program , for changing my life for the better. I thank the Mosthigh, I am Much more tolerable among friends at functions. Thanks.

This program works

Permit homegrowing for medical patients, there are a lot of beneficial strains we cannot access because they don't fit the scope of a growers P&L. The health and wellbeing of NJ residents should not

be dictated by a company's bottom line. It is audacious and reprehensible of NJ legislators to condemn the growing of a purely natural and beneficial plant that Jesus and Mother Earth gave us while still permitting deadly and addictive manmade opioids to remain accessible and legal. Thank you for your consideration.

I have a mmp card for glaucoma. There is only one Cannabis on their menu that mentions helping Glaucoma. Using that my numbers went from 18 and 19 to 10 and 13. I only use that one or two times a day so it really helps.

As a New Jersey medical cannabis patient, I am submitting this comment to strongly urge the Cannabis Regulatory Commission to formally recommend and advocate for the legalization of home cultivation ("home-grow") for registered medical patients. While I understand that the CRC does not have the power to unilaterally permit home-grow, the Commission does have the ability — and I would argue the responsibility — to advise the Legislature on policies that would directly improve patient access, affordability, and medical autonomy.

The cost of dispensary products remains a major barrier for patients, especially those who require consistent, long-term treatment. Not only is the price prohibitive for many patients, but product availability is inconsistent, and dispensaries do not always stock the specific strains or formulations that best meet individual medical needs. Home cultivation would allow patients to grow the exact cultivars they need, in a clean, organic, and affordable way, free from supply chain disruptions or corporate price inflation.

Many other states with medical cannabis programs already allow home-grow because it aligns with the original intent of these programs — to compassionately serve the unique needs of patients, not just create a corporate marketplace. Prohibiting home cultivation forces patients into financial hardship, restricts medical autonomy, and places profit over patient care.

I urge the CRC to formally recommend that the Legislature amend New Jersey law to allow home cultivation for registered medical patients. The CRC's support could play a crucial role in finally securing this right for patients who deserve safe, affordable, and self-directed access to their medicine.

Don't brag about how long the state has had Medical Marijuana. It's an abysmal program. Murphys recreational reform is laughable too. Saying he wants to address racial disparities. Now, still, to this day, the only people that can afford the medicine are the people with lots of extra green in their pockets. It's crazy to think that illegal growers and uneducated hustlers can produce better marijuana and sell it for the lower. Quality has fallen off at every dispensary since covid. This state sucks in so many ways. The more this state tries to improve, the more it fails. I can see why we are the most hated state in the whole United States.

The prices for medical patients is just as crippling as my depression and anxiety. Cannabis helps to lower my anxiety but the prices for a 10 pack of gummies run \$30. I take a larger dose and finish 1 pack within a day. I end up spending almost \$1000 monthly just on edibles. The prices are outrageous.

Where is medical home grow? It's so overdue.

The program needs to allow growing at least for medical cannabis patients. Unfortunately, a lot of patients can not afford the amount of product they would benefit from. Allowing them to grow their own plant would tremendously help the financial burdens of many. Thank you.

Why do we have to designate a source to purchase and regular users can go to any store we should be able to go to any store without having to go website and change source before going to - it's a hassle- thanks and prices are higher now than when weed was illegal for regular users-

I will probably drop out of this con of a program. Ayr dispensary is a big ripoff. They say Monday is double points. I go Monday, I'm told no, double points are Wednesday. I go Wednesday and again I'm told NO, WRONG DAY! I spend a lot of money here but no more. I'll take my business elsewhere. I'm a medical, senior patient and it seems I always have to remind them about my discounts.

Thanks but no thanks.

The Medicinal Cannabis Program has made it possible for me to utilize an alternative method for treating mental health & migraine conditions. I am a person who reacts badly to many medications. Working with doctors that are connected to NJMCP was extremely non-judgmental and easy. Providing my info to NJMCP was also a seamless process. This a program that benefits many from different walks of life. It is rare for a program to successfully maneuver multiple populations.

The most important step is a means to track quantity of cannabis and cannabis products, use. I have started doing this in the past year and it is very difficult and obviously dependent on patient report.

I am interested in commenting on certain topics but in writing

Please consider home grow. I use it to sleep, but it's very expensive for someone who is broken enough to not be able to do strenuous high paying jobs, but not broken enough to collect disability.

The benefits from the medication is better than any pills the Doctor recommended.

The expense is what limits my ability to stay pain and anxiety free

Medicare could help us over 65 folks continue to try to enjoy our golden years.

I need my medical marijuana, it helps with my body aches as I am a 68 year old.. Pretty much helps my general well being...

Products are too expensive. There needs to be some type of insurance coverage for prescribed products.

I have Rheumatoid Arthritis and am a medical user. I have noticed recreational dispensaries opening up all over the state yet no new medical ones. There are none in Morris County. Will more be opening. Thank you

The cannabis industry in this state is laughably expensive and I can hardly ever afford the medicine I need

It would be very helpful, as a medical patient, if dispensaries not only listed the terpenes for each product but also the potential medical uses for the product. This would save so much time looking up medical uses on other websites making the medical patients life a little easier.

As a medical marijuana patient, it would be helpful if taxes were not applied universally (some dispensary's take it off) or there were another way to reduce the cost. Between the cost of the product and doctor copays to keep the medical card it really adds up. For me, the program allows me manage debilitating pain, to eat and keep my weight up and sleep at night.

Medical clients need grow rights like other states. Medical cannabis is too expensive and patients have to choose between food, rent or medicine. This is unacceptable.

So far so good

When can we expect home grow to be an option in NJ? Cannabis is not fully legal until all aspects of the plant are made legal.

There seems to be no benefit to having a medical marijuana card now that legalization has happened. It appears to be a loop of continuous cash grabs by the state to patients. Cannabis isn't cheaper for patients other than a tax break and preferred parking spots. The only real benefit for me is having access to Breakwater ATC, which is so far in distance. Curaleaf's quality is terrible.

My anxiety is not a full time problem, it's mostly under stress. Stress is life. If I get overwhelmed I take a puff. It does not pay for me to pay \$200+ for a prescription when I'm not going to pay that much in taxes....

Hi, I really appreciate all the benefits of MMP. But both medical and recreational marijuana vendors are charging too much for their products. I typically run out and struggle near end of each month. We need to legalize growing up to 10 marijuana plants for each medical marijuana patient. I let my medical card expire and go to recreational marijuana for my medical needs now as I can't afford to pay the average \$200 fee for doctors approval and because it is no longer worth it. If you approved medical patients to grow their own marijuana, then I would find a way to pay and get my MMP ID card brought up to date. Please..... Thank you.

Measurements for 1/8 of oz or more are off. Once is an accident, twice a coincidence and 3 times a pattern. On several occasion the weight looked short . i weighed it on accurate scale and more often then not It was short 3.5 was 2.7/ When I bought 7 it weighs 5.6 Over time that is a lot of money.

There are no regs for producers re evaporation.i looked on line Why don't companies gross it up to 4 so the patient (it is medicine) get the 3.5/. . The only requirement on labels is no graphics to attract kids and the label must tell the truth. THE LABELS DON'T TELL THE TRUTH \UNLESS YOU ADD "EVAPORATION CANNOT OCCUR BUT NO GREATER THAN X % IS permissible.

This is a young industry . There should be at least the same level honesty as it was in the old days when you bought and it was weighed in front of you. Or add weighing option at dispensary

Set regulations re minimum evaporation amount permissible and gross it up

As a patient in New Jersey and a medical cannabis pharmacist in Pennsylvania, I have seen both sides of the aisle when it comes to provided information on medical cannabis for patients. Many patients use an online certification program to get their cards, including myself, and the education is not there. My job is to do the educating to our new patients who come into the dispensary and have a post graduate certificate in medical cannabis education. I think adding a regulation that educational consults are required on first visit and then on request as they are with any other prescription medication in an outpatient setting would allow for safer use and treatment of ailments. Although budtenders can be a wealth of knowledge and dispensaries tend to give a decent training on products especially for recreational, there is a lot of information that is missed that could make the medical experience more beneficial if there was health professionals on staff that was available for initial care and picks.

Please let medical patients grow their own. They usually have financial issues and growing their own would elevate this issue. Thank you so much for your consideration. Sharon O'Brien

I wish that all dispensaries took the medical form from my doctor.

I am a disabled veteran. It is hard for me to travel outside of my home. I am on medical marijuana, but it is hard to get out and get it being that. No one else is allowed to pick up my medical marijuana. Something needs to be done with this. If anything else, can we get delivery?

Democrats feel that legalizing marijuana use in America can attract voters and Republicans feel that eliminating marijuana use will reduce its use-BOTH ARE WRONG!

SAFE BANKING AND WHY

Alcohol, Civil War, Temperance Movement, Prohibition, Repeal prohibition -Medical Marijuana
Dear Congress,

I am sure you have heard the alcohol vs marijuana controversy, but the reality is, we have controlled alcohol distribution and still have alcoholics and drug addiction centers, while treating alcoholism in the U.S. Alcohol as a social libation in limits has been accepted over time, but prohibition never worked (stats show over 3 million deaths globally to alcohol poisoning and systemic organ breakdown. We believe state and federal controlled marijuana manufacturing and distribution could be a positive move for society -no one has died from a marijuana overdose(only brain cortical centers and not brain stem are affected). The problem is, that 70% of marijuana produced in the US, even in legal medical marijuana states, is illegal and sold in the black market. It is also dangerous since it can be laced with bad chemicals and has no potency limits. Also not only is illegal marijuana not taxed, much of it is being produced by cartels or criminals without controls. If congress accepts medical marijuana only, we should have as a minimum, safe banking. Eventually these present medical marijuana (MMJ) companies will be bought by big companies, price should adjust lower, and cartels and bad guys will exit the business. Please consider this appeal, since it makes sense to many. Please don't kick the can down the road!

Below, is an undocumented (GROK) history of alcohol since the Civil War: No overdose deaths from medical marijuana.

Yes, alcoholism from the Civil War era played a role in shaping the cultural and political forces that eventually led to Prohibition in 1918. Here's an overview of the connection:

Alcoholism and the Civil War:

- During the Civil War, alcohol consumption was widespread among soldiers and civilians. Alcohol was used as a painkiller, a ration for troops, and a means of coping with the horrors of war.
- After the war, heavy drinking and alcoholism became increasingly visible problems, especially in industrial cities. This exacerbated social issues like poverty, crime, and domestic violence.

The Temperance Movement:

- The post-war period saw the rise of the temperance movement, which sought to curb alcohol consumption. This movement was fueled by:
- Concerns about the social and economic impacts of alcoholism, particularly in working-class communities.
- Religious revivalism, which linked temperance to moral and spiritual reform.
- The influence of women's organizations like the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), which highlighted the impact of alcohol on families and women's safety.

Legislation Leading to Prohibition:

1. Cultural Shifts: By the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the temperance movement gained momentum, viewing alcohol as a root cause of societal ills. The movement leveraged the legacy of post-Civil War alcoholism as evidence of alcohol's destructive potential.
2. Industrialization: The rise of factory work demanded a sober workforce, and employers supported

temperance to maintain productivity.

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3. World War I: Prohibition advocates capitalized on the wartime atmosphere, associating alcohol consumption with unpatriotic behavior. Grains used for alcohol were argued to be better allocated for food supplies.

4. 18th Amendment (1918): Prohibition was solidified when Congress passed the 18th Amendment, banning the production, transport, and sale of alcohol. It was ratified in 1919 and enforced by the Volstead Act in 1920.

While the Civil War itself was not the sole cause of Prohibition, the era's alcohol-related problems were part of a broader

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While the Civil War itself was not the sole cause of Prohibition, the era's alcohol-related problems were part of a broader historical trend that influenced the temperance movement and the eventual push to make alcohol illegal..December 5,1933 REPEAL OF PROHIBITION!

Feeding Drug Cartels vs removing incentives

One theory is that if you give drug cartels incentives, like open borders, corrupt agents, or highly profitable, their leaders will pursue manufacturing those drugs. If you police the illegal drug manufacturing in the United States, reduce incentives by commoditizing a drug sector, you have a

chance to tax the drug, use pharmaceutical grade, but only large companies can afford to be in the business. These are the incentives present that if safe banking was here, tighter restrictions on licensing, pharmaceutical grade production, and major cost reduction due to aggregating present State licenses, allow up to 10 major producers/distributors to purchase those assets, and dramatically bring the price down, the end result would be a safer environment for marijuana use and States with Federal Government can tax the items. There should not be any deaths from controlled medical marijuana that is pharmaceutical grade, since marijuana use only touches cortical levels in the brain. This writer is not a proponent of any drug, but is a realist and why let cartels benefit financially and control marijuana.

Lower Prices If i pay a doctor \$400 and go to 2 visits a year for medical card,. the prices should be a lot less for medical patience . Prices are to high for medical marijuana please lower it.

I feel medical marijuana should have a price of our co-pay for insurance . some places medical price for even a 3.5 grams is outrageous like \$50 to \$60 where few places have for around \$200 for 28 grams . if they even have it at all . sometimes you find deals as recreational more then patient prices !!

I will continue to work on it

Need card

Medical cannabis has helped me with my pains and to sleep, which was very difficult for me.

To whom it may concern

Hi how are you? I hope everyone is well. Now I would just like to seriously thank you for accepting me on the medical marijuana program I take it very seriously because it does a lot for me one thing the biggest thing is it helps with my pain no it don't take it all away of course but it's one of the only other things besides my pain medicine that helps and you don't know how much I value that because I'm in chronic pain all the time so for relief you wouldn't believe what you'd give. Now I might smoke and it distracts me from the pain I don't know I really don't care how it's doing it but it's helping and that's all that matters so from the bottom of my heart I thank you cuz you probably saved my life because I don't know how many years I could have just went on and went on and went on in that much pain because it's getting worse like I just woke up the other day when it was 22° outside I was in so much pain because the weather affects my leg I couldn't believe it I couldn't get out of bed all day I watch TV all day didn't even do anything extra just your basics. But I just wanted to let you know it helps me with my eating issue because for some reason I just don't get hungry but if I smoke I can eat the other thing it helps with is my anxiety I have horrible anxiety that's what it probably does the most for because without that I almost don't want to go places like without my medicine I am so much more anxious and uncomfortable like I went to the flea market this summer and I was okay around all them people that used to really get to me that bad yeah I felt it just cuz it was a lot of people but compared to what I was feeling every time I went there being around that many people at once but anyway it helps with a lot it helps with my mood it helps with me always sweating me sleeping and falling asleep staying asleep I have big issues with that and the medical marijuana kind of seems to Aid in all these things like yes I've smoked marijuana when I was younger but I didn't look for benefits medically like I am now now when I go to dispensary I tell them hey I need something for chronic pain sleep and anxiety and they give me the proper marijuana that will help me the best and I trust them for the most part you

know. Now I am sorry this is long but I just really wanted you to get the point just in case I don't know what exactly this is but I wanted to get it all in this letter that you wanted but that's the gist of everything I think. He is okay I got it.

Terry Medley

I have chronic lower back pain from an injury sustained in a car accident. Medicinals help me to sleep without pain. I would like to know why Medicinal Marijuana patients pay taxes on purchases in NJ - I have been charged tax at all my transactions. We go to CVS for medicine and pay no taxes. For instance, Jersey Roots dispensary in West Milford, NJ charged me 6.625% + 3% tax: Total 9.625% - That's the 10% discount I should receive for using the MMP card. So there is actually no discount when you include taxes. I also notice a lot of dispensaries are supposed to scan your license - I have an MMP card and yet they do not scan my MMP card because they say they are not equipped to scan an MMP card. So they end up not scanning anything. I don't feel patients with chronic pain should pay tax on medicinals. I see an orthopedist doctor regularly about this condition and have to pay them an annual fee of \$150. We should pay less for being on MMP not more or the same as everyone else. I wouldn't need to use this stuff if I didn't have a condition and since it is used only at night I do not consume much. Please take this into consideration and thank you for this program - it has saved me from many sleepless and painful nights.

I have MS and am constantly in pain. I have never tried marijuana in the past, but when I wound up in the hospital with three ulcers and a hiatal hernia from taking too many painkillers, it was time to try something else. Cannabis has been both a miracle and a lifesaver. It helps with my pain immensely and actually helps with my walking ability because it stops my muscle spasms.

The New Jersey medical marijuana program is good. But now that recreational has been approved the medicinal marijuana prices did not go down which was expected. I like the MMP and will renew my card but feel like it's not affordable to pay for medical marijuana, to pay for the card and to pay for a prescription.

Vapes should be sold to all medical patients regardless of age. They are convenient and medically helpful in harsh moments.

I have 4 years sober from alcohol and my life back because of the NJMMP.

How can I get resigned up?

As a medical marijuana card holder, I would like to know why insurance companies will not cover this medication.

The money I must spend each year in order to keep my card and prescription really has no benefit now that marijuana is legal in N.J.

I was able to cancel my Percoset prescription when I became eligible; initially, I didn't qualify because I had finished chemo, as if the body is somehow healthier than prior to chemo.

The problem was that Gov C openly believed marijuana was a gateway drug so the eligibility list was short & stringent. A far more enlightened Gov M expanded the list so I can safely & sanely manage chemo induced peripheral neuropathy, arthritis & the effects of aging.

It would be nice for more variety, reduced pricing for medical patients and the ability for home grow. Of course not talking about a large field or a farm just a small amount maybe two or four plants per person just to help. Offset some of the costs.

Marijuana has saved my life. It is extremely misunderstood and miss used. Please watch 'The Marijuana Conspiracy'.

Why not have dedicated Medicinal Cannabis dispensaries instead of mixing in Recreational?

Now that the NJ Cannabis industry is successful and stable, there is no reason to deny Medical Marijuana patients the ability to grow their own product in limited quantities for their own use. In the past 5 years, I have tried 115 different strains to find only 2 that meet my criteria. 1. Good pain relief. 2. Helps me sleep. 3. No side effects. I don't want to get high, or hungry, or dry mouth. I don't want GMO's, or cannabis that tastes like bus fuel. As an organic home vegetable gardener I believe I can grow organic cannabis for my own use to meet those requirements for my chronic pain condition. It can be grown inside if growing outside causes concern. Thank you for your consideration.

With respect to the governor and elected officials, it is time to put patients first in NJ and allow home grow for medicinal use. The state government restricting patients from growing their own medicine is further setting the deck against patients with high costs at dispensaries. Oz of cannabis here is never 250/350\$ in states like Michigan and CA with home grown for at least medical pts costs are much lower. We need to support the legalization of homegrow for patients to reduce costs and enable people to grow and make the medicine that they benefit from.

Medical Marijuana is too expensive. It's \$150.00 to get the card. Then another \$150.00 for the doctor's prescription. That's \$300.00 before you even get the need marijuana. How is one supposed to afford that every year. So now they just go to the dispensary and buy the regular marijuana. There is no compassion or empathy for pain sufferers in this state. Shame on you! You are supposed to help the citizens not prevent them from getting the relief they need.

The program has significantly helped me to deal with PTSD, anxiety, depression, and chronic pain/fibromyalgia. I can sleep at night because this program exists and having a medical card allows me to feel confident/worry free. I do wish the strains were a bit stronger and sometimes the information is overwhelming. I'd love to be able to list my symptoms and find the best strains. Thanks for bringing this program to NJ, as a veteran I am very grateful to live here.

I recently became a medicinal patient in NJ and have enjoyed the medical card's benefits. However, I am concerned about the price increases I have seen over the past several months and want to know what the regulatory commission is doing to bring prices down. As I'm sure you're aware, the price of everything has skyrocketed in the past several years, and it appears marijuana is not immune to that. NJ already has some of the highest, if not the highest, prices for medical or recreational marijuana in the entire country, and affordability should be a top concern for the commission.

I would also like to see home grow added as an option, at least to medicinal patients for now. The ability to grow at home would go a long way to easing price increases on medical consumers. Smaller operators should also be given equal access to the NJ cannabis market, as the state has favored large corporate interests and growers (e.g., Curaleaf) at the expense of smaller operators. Having more competition would also help lower prices for everyone.

Lastly, I think the commission should re-examine allowing municipalities to ban dispensaries within their borders if they choose to. This practice stifles competition and limits access to consumers. Liquor stores and bars litter nearly every street corner and intersection in this state, yet there is pushback from the public and local governments when more than 1 or 2 dispensaries open up in an area. This should end sooner rather than later. Dispensaries should be given the same access to the public that places like bars or liquor stores seem to get.

It would be beneficial to create an option for homegrown that would allow modest quantities. In addition to my earlier comment, I just want to let you know that whenever I've had a question and called the commission, I have had very pleasant experiences and great customer service.

At the RISE medical dispensary in Paramus, they are very helpful.

However, I would like to purchase ONE Bags of Sativa.

Pure Sativa - I don't care what flavor; it's for medical use.

Why get Eight jars with fancy colors and labeling.

Thank you very much for what you do. The program has helped me for years. eliminate the fee of 100\$ we can get it without the card if we choose. makes no sense to pay when we can get it no fee.

Please eliminate the requirement that patients have an established relationship of at least 4 visits before the physician can prescribe cannabis. I can go to any medical clinic, see a doctor for the first time and they're able to prescribe medication immediately. The medical marijuana program should be no different.

Many recreational dispensaries opened in north jersey. No new medical dispensaries. There's only two medical dispensaries one in Passaic county and one in Essex county. And their both Rise dispensaries. Only Rise offers medical cannabis sales. ° As a medical cannabis patient please provide medical cannabis dispensaries not only recreational. This is critical!

I had been given a card by my doctor which had expired at the end of February. I would like to get another card. I need the low dose of medicinal cannabis mostly to help me sleep and also helping me with ongoing pain after several bone operations.

I appreciate the idea that I can find relief through more natural remedies rather than pharmaceuticals.

Thank you for taking the time to read this message. I have been a medical marijuana patient in New Jersey for over 5 years.

Most products in the state are designated as adult use products, meaning a medical patient has to pay tax on their medicine. Regardless if it is labeled as adult use, medical patients should have access to any and all cannabis products in the state without having to pay tax on their medicine. I think there should be a change made where if you present a medical card at any NJ dispensary that all taxes are removed from your order.

If the legislature deemed medical patients should not be taxed on their medicine, then why are we paying a 2% municipal tax at medical dispensaries?

Another item I would like to address is edibles. 100 mg of thc/10 mg per piece maximum is simply not enough for many medical patients in the state. Many medical patients need well over 100 mg, sometimes double that or more for positive effects and having to eat 20 gummies is not the answer. Medical patients should have access to higher dosed, and larger quantity edibles.

Home Grow should be legal for patients. Growing a single cannabis plant in NJ can land a medical marijuana patient in prison. This is absurd. An overwhelming majority of states with medical programs allow their patients to grow a number of plants. Even decriminalizing it would go a long way, yet NJ just keeps up the status quo that it is a felony and that is insane in a state where the plant is legal.

I also would like to express my concern with Senator Scutari's recent bill he introduced, Senate Bill 4154. Trying to re-criminalize cannabis in any respect is moving in the wrong direction. His bill will simply make minorities get targeted again at an overwhelming majority as they were in the past, and will absolutely make no dent in the people who shop the "black market". We should be looking to improve the adult use and medical cannabis programs in our state, not go backwards and make both programs worse. He is also trying to make it so medical products can be transferred over to adult use products, which would lead to even less products for medical patients.

I believe you should get rid of the allotments for medical patients. It is silly that I can buy unlimited cannabis on the recreational market at one ounce per transaction, yet I am limited to 3 ounces a month as a medical patient. Due to the very high prices in the state, I have to constantly check dispensary websites for discounts. These discounts generally have to be jumped on right away to secure them, so when my allotment is full or near it and I am unable to get the lower priced items I see it affects the amount of medication I can get.

Pricing in the NJ medical program is another large issue. I can't understand why recreational cannabis and medical cannabis is priced the same. In PA, medical cannabis is often 50% of the price of recreational cannabis. Why are patients paying as much for their medicine as recreational users?

Medical patients in the state seem to have been left behind with the adult use program because we don't bring tax money into the state. While the state should incentivize businesses to open medical dispensaries, the CRC doesn't even have an option for a business to apply as a medical dispensary. How can we expect the program to improve with the extremely limited amount of medical dispensaries in the state compared to the large amount of adult use dispensaries?

Marijuana is helping

As a medical cannabis user I find it very difficult to jump through so many hoops from having to get a medical card that constantly requires me to change my password that must be done in a set time frame, to having to go to the doctors to prove my medical conditions have not changed. The most upsetting is NJ having the highest prices for cannabis, but when I get home and weigh the products they are always short in weight, and with the product now off the premises and opened it's not like I can return it. The other issue is I find a product that works and then the distributors later discontinued it because they are looking to maximize profits on other products. It is also unfair that I cannot use my purchases for medical deductions on my taxes, it is NO different than other patients who can use medications for tax purposes, but not medical cannabis users, we are penalized.

although recreational Cannabis is available, I much prefer the medical facility Breakwater in Cranbury. It would be wonderful if a Medical Only Cannabis store opened closer to Toms River as it is a 50 min ride. I'm shocked at all the recreational stores, but only one dedicated to medical where I believe the strains are much better fit & the knowledge of the staff is much better.

As a senior I find it hard to afford my Cannabis which I use for a number of ailments from Chronic Back pain and arthritis, to Peripheral neuropathy, depression, anxiety and it helped me quit drinking (alcoholic). Insurance won't cover so our only option to afford it would be to grow. Please let us grow our meds so we don't have to go without.

I am using cannabis due to spinal stenosis and walking challenges I experience pain everyday of my life I am a licensed Pharmacist/PharmD in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. I am currently employed by Zen Leaf in Abington PA as a medical professional for the dispensary. My job is to review patient certifications and provide consultations to new and existing patients. I have experience providing cannabis product recommendations and medical advice. I have also been a medical cannabis patient for a while, holding my patient card in the state of NJ. I would love to be a part of the NJ medical program in any way. Although the state has legalized and gone recreational, I believe pharmacists can play a huge role guiding medical patients in their therapies with medical cannabis. Whether it's working alongside certifying physicians to consult or to become a certifying provider, or to work in dispensaries to better assist our communities with medical advice, I believe someone like myself would be an asset and can make a difference. Thank you!

The medical marijuana program is extremely flawed. Unlike Pennsylvania there is no way to get a customized product. In PA you can meet with a pharmacist to get a custom tincture to help with specific issues.

I was one of the first people in NJ to receive a medical cannabis card. I've kept my card active ever since. Cannabis has helped me immensely both physically and mentally. It allowed me to eliminate most stress, lose 100 pounds and feel happy and youthful again.

I have diabetic neuropathy, spinal stenosis and stomach cancer. Thank God for cannabis but the prices are high as it is but you let municipalities charge us a tax. Every little bit hurts. Stop charging medical any kind of tax, please. Maybe even better discounts for medical patients.

Please for the love of all the pain I feel and for any Diety you believe in please allow us to grow just one darn plant at home. Some of us cannot afford the high price of this medicine and when we can it is several months old and the state also has the most allowable PPM of mold allowable in our flower. I beg you please help patients by allowing some kind of homegrow law however limited.

Medical Cannabis Card renewal should not require complete documentation as if it is the first registration. A driver's license and new Photo (for the new ID) should be sufficient for renewals.

I have been using medicinal cannabis at night for about 2 years and it has improved my pain levels and my ability to sleep longer and more soundly. I have chronic back issues that made it difficult to sleep and I did not want to take narcotic or addictive pain or sleep medications. Medicinal cannabis provides just enough relief to allow me to relax, get to sleep and stay asleep. I am even learning how to make

medicinal salves for topical use for during the day when I want to remain alert. I would appreciate the commission looking into limited home growing for personal use so that it is not so expensive to make the salves.

Being that it's not access affordable for all who have medical conditions and needs like myself have to make sure I don't go through a lot more than those who have access financially

Should be stores that are medical cannabis patients only

74 years old with Crohn's disease and I am very grateful for medical marijuana. My request is that people in our state should be allowed to grow a couple of marijuana plants for our own use. Thank you

My experiences have been consistently good. The way the dispensaries are run is professional. The staff are excellent. I have been to three or four different places, and it was always a good experience. New Jersey is doing this very well.

I'm a senior using medical marijuana for sleep and relaxation.

The extra time and extra expense of getting ID cards plus the extra time and extra significant expense of getting the physician to order the necessary prescription make participation in the medical marijuana program actually disadvantageous to persons using cannabis for medical reasons when the same products can be purchased through adult use. We have stopped participating in the program as long as these conditions continue.

As a 50-year-old woman living with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, I have found that using cannabis to ease muscle spasms and decrease my pain level has been invaluable. It has offered me a form of relief that prescription medications could not, with the added benefit of helping me to manage the symptoms of anxiety and depression that are inevitable when living with chronic pain. However, the cost of purchasing cannabis for daily use remains high--high enough that I have to ration my use. I also find it frustrating that I am limited to using one dispensary . Different dispensaries have different offerings, and I would appreciate being able to use my card wherever I am in the state rather than at the one location where I've most consistently found the products I prefer.

Please stop increasing the TAXES on medical sales, extremely not fair!!

Letter to NJ Cannabis Regulatory Commission

To: New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission (crc.compliance@crc.nj.gov)

Subject: Comments on New Jersey's Medical Cannabis Program

From: William N. Sosis, 15 Brantwood Terrace, Mansfield Township, NJ 07840

(William.N.Sosis@gmail.com)

Date: March 9, 2025

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my concerns about the evolution and current state of New Jersey's medical cannabis program. As a medical cannabis patient and advocate for compassionate, safe access to medicine, I believe the program has strayed from its original intent and is failing to meet the needs of patients.

When the Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act was introduced in 2010, it was promoted as a compassionate measure to help residents with serious illnesses. Patients were promised safe, regulated access to cannabis, free from the risks of the black market. The program was marketed as a safer alternative, with rigorous standards for testing, consistency, and product quality.

Regulated medical cannabis was intended to provide dependable treatment options through consistent formulations and product availability. Patients were assured that regulation would bring stability and safety. But in practice, that promise is not being fulfilled.

One critical shortcoming is the absence of a requirement for repositories to maintain consistent stock of specific cannabis brands and formulations that have proven effective for patients. This inconsistency undermines the entire medical purpose of the program. Patients, especially those with chronic or serious conditions, rely on specific cannabinoid and terpene profiles. When those products disappear from dispensary shelves, treatment efficacy can suffer, and patient health can be compromised.

Pharmacies are required to stock the same formulations of prescribed medications to ensure continuity of care. A change in drug formulation—even minor—can lead to reduced effectiveness, negative side effects, or medical setbacks. Medical cannabis should be treated with the same care and consistency. Patients deserve access to the specific formulations that work for them.

Allowing repositories to alter product lines at will creates an unintended loophole. Producers can rotate products, avoid scrutiny, and still meet technical compliance, all while sidestepping responsibility for patient health outcomes. Even though New Jersey bans pesticide use and requires testing, inconsistent product offerings diminish the impact of those protections. The Commission's commitment to "Safe and Responsible Consumption" must be matched by a commitment to "Safe and Responsible Production."

By failing to ensure consistent availability of medicinal cannabis products, the program has shifted from a patient-focused initiative to one driven by market dynamics. This contradicts the original compassionate goals of the 2010 legislation. Patients are being left behind in a system increasingly tailored to profit rather than care.

As a medical cannabis patient, I have personally experienced the consequences of this inconsistency. When a product that effectively treats my symptoms disappears without warning, I am left to

experiment with alternatives—often with disappointing results. This is not compassionate care—it is compromised care.

I respectfully urge the Commission to require repositories to consistently stock the same brands and formulations for patients who rely on them. This policy change is not only medically necessary but essential to uphold the program's integrity and original mission.

Thank you for your time and commitment to improving the safety and effectiveness of New Jersey's medical cannabis program.

Sincerely,
William N. Sosis
Medical Cannabis Patient

Please change the monthly limits for patients. The rec market products do not suffice for medical patients who only shop at Breakwater for their medicine and are restricted to 3 ounces a month. This has been a strain for years and it's frustrating to have to resort to subpar expensive rec products to bridge the gap

I believe the NJ-CRC should be afforded the same opportunity as traditional medication. Not one bit of the program, medication and/or dr. visits are covered by insurance, and this is an extremely hard financial burden.

Prices are way too high for patients, med prices should be half of recreational prices to really give people a reason to get their card

Hello - Thank you for everything you do and for reaching out to seek information to enhance the Medicinal Cannabis Program. I would like to see the following positive changes below:

- 1) Opening of consumption lounges
- 2) Home grow for medicinal patients
- 3) Purchasing limit of six ounces every 30 days (Our state possession law is six ounces)
- 4) Random state lab testing to compare results to private testing facilities to keep everything transparent, and reduce data manipulation
- 5) No 2% municipal tax at all (Most townships still collect tax on medical cannabis transactions)
- 6) Discounts through health benefits to lower costs of medications (Bennabis Health exists but I would like to see more options)
- 7) The end of cannabis prohibition and the stigma which remains

Feel free to reach out if more information is needed.

Have a pleasant day.

Jason Sporer

New Jersey should implement home grow.

It will help eliminate fentanyl

AS SENIORS WITH HEALTH CONDITIONS ON FIXED INCOMES, WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE CITIZENS ABLE TO GROW CANNIBUS ON THEIR OWN PREMISES. MAYBE 3-5 PLANTS. THE HIGH TAXATION OF CANNIBUS MAKES IT REALLY EXPENSIVE TO PURCHASE AT THE DISPENSARIES, EVEN WITH A MEDICAL LICENSE. AN OUNCE IS AROUND \$400!!! WE HAVE FOUND CANNIBUS TO BE REALLY HELPFUL FOR MANY AILMENTS AS WELL AS THE SIDE AFFECTS OF ILLNESSES AND PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS. MANY FOLKS, ESP SENIORS, ARE TAKING AN ABUNDENCE OF PRESCRIPTION PILLS, AND WE HAVE FOUND THAT USING CANNIBUS HAS ALLOWED US TO CUT DOWN ON MANY PRESCRIPTIONS, AND THERE ARE VERY FEW SIDE AFFECTS FROM CANNIBUS.

No

I'm a medical patient since the beginning however at this point, I get no benefit as my doctor charges me \$125 just to give me 3 months. With all the recreational market open. I see no point in keeping card. Plz advis

I have arthritis and have trouble sleeping so I use cannabis for pain and inflammation as well as a sleep aid. I would like to see better information on packaging. For example, I need it clearly marked if it is Indica for sleep. Also the content of gummies for example 1:1 for the arthritis because I need equal parts THC for the pain and CBD for inflammation. Sometimes I can't find the information on the packaging.

Is there a possibility eligible conditions will include autoimmune diseases in the future?

When will the Medical Cannabis Program allow NJ residents to grow their own plants in order to offer an affordable alternative to paying for medical cannabis at a dispensary which has become unaffordable for many including myself? Thank you

Patients should be allowed to grow their own cannabis, which will save them money because the prices are outrageous. It's unfair

I fully support the Medicinal Cannabis Program! I am a post menopausal woman and taking gummies to assist with getting a good night's sleep as well as pain relief for arthritis and lower back issues has been life changing. Many seniors are now benefitting from the use of cannabis for a range of aging issues, including Alzheimer's, anxiety and Osteoarthritis pain.

I continue to object strongly to the law against growing cannabis. How does it make any sense to go to jail for growing an ounce of cannabis when buying same amount is perfectly legal. If the issue is revenue to the State, then issue a license to do it.

For people/patients who require psychiatric Rx (chronic mental illness/disorder, etc.), it is unsafe to combine with marijuana, in any form. Also, please keep in mind, as a safety/health/quality of life concern/issue, smoking is smoking. And all forms of smoking pollute the air/environment, lungs/health etc., second hand smoke impacts/effects, just all the same. People should have the right/peace/experience to enjoy public parks/places/even places of residence-apartments etc. without smoke /smell of any kind in the air/environment doing damage. People should also have the right to choose whether or not they want to use marijuana medically etc. for their treatment/healthcare etc.

why aren't you running town meetings on Trump and Musk's actions?

My one and only comment is that marijuana should be outlawed, not legal in NJ. The State is making money off having it legalized and the rest of us have to suffer with users smoking while driving with their windows down. You can walk in any mall and smell it from people who smoked the putrid stuff before entering. My sense is it is causing the fast and furious, dangerous, driving on NJ roads today. Plus, people are fooling the authorities that they need it for medicinal reasons!! I will only vote for a Govenor in the next election who will make it ILLEGLE!!! My other pet peeve is the layers put on black windows that are being used illegally. It is one thing to have a legitimate skin condition, however it does need all windows covered and with so many illegal plys to the tint, there is a law that covers how many plys are legal. The authorities must be having lots of trouble approaching a car not knowing what they will encounter!! Serious trouble for them!!

I'm a Veteran. Being such, Why aren't Veterans able to be Prescribed Medical Marijuana?

I'M IN CONSTANT PAIN

IM GIVEN bloodwork and Urine Tests to verify No Marijuana is Present in my body. Not given a possibility that it may be able to help.

Why aren't Veterans able to be helped by being given a Chance for this to help and get some relief? Without worrying We will be Kicked out of VA Medical Program.

I am a caregiver for my husband who had strokes in 2015 develop epilepsy from the strokes and now has dementia I thank God for the medicinal marijuana. It has calmed my husband to where he doesn't wander As bad as he used to. It calms his anxiety, which helps me a lot also he used to get very anxious and upset but that has slowed down significantly, since he has been on the medical marijuana. Thank you

Being on a fixed income, medicinal marijuana as it is still very expensive but is needed for my illness. It helps with nausea, pain and muscle spasms. I was able to replace four prescription drugs but is still not affordable. Will we be able to cultivate our own plants anytime soon without prosecution?

Can I get my medical card

Please continue to update me on any new responsibilities for card holders

Or any challenges the program becomes aware of where my voice could matter

Why can't medical patients grow their own cannabis at home like New York. Big cannabis is not the best, they even have lobbyists enlisted to prevent home grow, this is concerning.

It help me with my arthritis and the pain

NA

How can we stop medicinal cannabis from getting into the hands of teenager?

It's there going to be a discussion on making it easier to get medical Cannabis or home delivery for medical cannabis?

I think it would be easier if we could go to any Medical dispensary. We have a Medical card and the Medical dispensary should have access to our records of valid prescription.

Picking one place now that there are so many to try different products would be helpful.

I don't see no reason why you're not allowed to grow a couple plants instead of paying them extremely high prices for everything that you gotta go get when you could grow it yourself

Need more dispensaries

Stop making it so hard

Very satisfied with the program. It has helped me immensely in reducing suffering and improving the quality of my life.

I'm a severely disabled veteran rated 100% by the VA. The only thing that helps my pain. I don't want to take big amounts of pain medicine and cannabis actually works better. 3 ounces limit goes very quickly. The amount of medical cannabis should be raised. Just my humble opinion.

Please stop making this legal. Where I live smells like pot.. I can't stand the smell.. Citizen's should not have to smell this.. its awful, not to mention bad for people's health !!

Ooooo please...I see the State of New Jersey got too much money....now spending on marijuana... what's next? Heroin programs?

I have a bad back and have had both rotator cuff surgery as well as a knee replacement. I use both a balm and a cream with THC and it helps me considerably. I use about 4 of each (balm and cream) a year. It costs about \$90 bucks a year to get Medicinal Marijuana certificate. It is not cost effective for me to get a certificate. In my judgement a THC balm or cream has no other purpose but for medicinal purposes and as such should be afforded the benefits of being considered medicinal regardless if the purchase has a medical marijuana card or not. I'm not sure if I articulated my point clearly or not, but hope I have. Thanks for listening.

I think it's absurd that medical patients are being charged tax on medicine and that they aren't able to claim medical marijuana as a medical expense on their state taxes because it's illegal at the federal level. These are two things that I feel need to change to improve the program. There should also be certain strains or products that are consistently available for medical marijuana patients since it can be frustrating to find something that works only to have it be unavailable in a few weeks or months. It seems that recreational marijuana sales have started to dominate the dispensaries and take priority over medical patients when in the beginning it was the opposite. It makes medical patients seem like they were just being used as a front to get the dispensaries up and running for recreational use and now they are being left in the dust as recreational sales have become the priority due to greed. This program was meant to help people and those people should remain the priority for dispensaries, not recreational users.

People using medical marijuana should have to do so indoors. Smoking has been banned in public places and social this it affects people and the community around them.

Asap

I buy only one type of cannabis for my back pain. I use a indica live rosin vape It's the safest kind because it uses no solvents .But I have trouble getting it even when I order online. It is either

unavailable or they run out before I get there to pick it up. Why can't they hold it for the medical patients ? If they truly are concerned And feel that the medical uses are legitimate.

I wish this was never approved. It's upsetting to go to any store and have people wreaking of weed. The odor disagrees with me and I can't go anywhere without someone smoking cannabis.

As a senior, in the last two years, I have had a hip replacement and a knee replacement. I had a lot of pain and insomnia with the knee replacement. My doctors were prescribing various painkillers and nerve medications that didn't really help. I asked my physical therapist about cannabis Gummies and he said a lot of people had great success with them. I went to a dispensary and tried their gummies. For the first time I was able to sleep soundly without pain. Even though my pain has subsided, I continue to take them at night to give me a good night's sleep. I cut the Gummies in half since I find that works for me. A month's worth of Gummies costs me around \$20. Very affordable and no side effects compared to the medication that I had been prescribed. It also doesn't interfere with my other medications as well. I am very happy to be able to use them in New Jersey legally!!

I would like to know where I can find a Medical Marijuana Doctor

As a medicinal cannabis user for 5 years for anxiety, I can say that the NJMMP has been incredibly helpful and enjoyable the entire time. I can only hope when medical marijuana will be covered by medicaid because it truly has tremendous benefits to those plagued with physical anxiety symptoms such as me.

Learning more about medical cannabis

Have a dream of branching out in many communities to bring back more earth and start healing and helping each other one way or another

Business services

will to learn

The legalization of medical and recreational marijuana has led to many problems. Individuals are now showing up to work high driving under the influence of this drug and smoking a publicly stating that they have a right because of a medical marijuana card I personally do not want to smell this at my home because my neighbors are smoking or out in public. It is unregulated since it's been passed. Please put some ground rules around that use and enforce them

I dont think medicinal marijuana should be available in any smokeable form. The rest of us are getting sick, very sick, from other people's smoking -- no matter what the reason. I'm sorry they are in pain, but that doesnt mean they get to cause ME pain, and put my health at risk. Marijuana should only be legalized in non-smokable form!!!

i take cannabis for medicinal reasons and would like to provide input

The training and knowledge of staff in dispensaries is very good. Most staff members can be very helpful in the selection of products to aid in medical issues.

As a nurse I have seen patients with severe pain, at the end of their incredible hard battle with cancer, that have died before they are approved or their medical marijuana cards. They do the right thing and go through the proper channels but the system is failing them. Especially with the fentanyl epidemic with street drugs we need our medical marijuana to be more accessible so patients can receive safe treatment for their pain.

prices for medical marijuana to high and doctor visits

I support and believe that patients should have the option to grow cannabis at home. Though they should not be able to sell what they grow, at least they can continue to grow their own medicine when supplies are low or in the event of supply chain issues.

I have been a patient since, 2018, it has helped so much with my pains. However, through the years different growers change chemical compounds of the ones that work, medicinally. Therefore, I have to purchase different blends to get relief. They stopped growing the medical stuff once recreational started, and honestly, they shouldn't have access to medicinal marijuana. And once it was fully rolled out, products that worked for pain relief were discontinued or mother plant died, their excuses. You should reevaluate how growers should grow better medicinal marijuana. The State had no reason to force growers to keep THC within a certain level. I want to stay off of Opioids, so I want MMP to continue in New Jersey, and I want you, MMP, to address the medical needs over the recreational needs. This is a business, please adjust levels so people can get off the painkillers and opioids 🙏

Enough is Enough! I am so tired of smelling pot no matter where it go...parking lots, cars driving in front of me, venues, the grocery store, my backyard. You have made it absolutely unbearable for people like me who don't smoke, don't want to smoke and don't want to smell it. One of the many reasons that sooner rather than later, I am out of this state. Very disappointing!

Does cannabis affect the efficiency of anti rejection medications for a person who just had a liver transplant?

My son is blind, autistic, CP and developmental delayed. He is 29 and requires 24/7 care. We have been using cannabis in addition to rispiradone to help with insomnia and anxiety for about a year with tremendous results . We didn't want to put him on another drug for the insomnia and cannabis has been a great solution that we can use as needed when he has anxiety episodes. It has helped him be calmer and more engaged which makes caring for him easier. I know the scientific evidence is not robust on cannabis use, however our experience has been very positive and grateful that we have access to it in NJ.

Please vote NO to Medicinal Cannabis in the town of Sparta. Those that need it can go to nearby towns. Let's continue to keep our positive reputation of being one of the safest towns to live in intact. Thank you.

I'd like more info on the use of tinctures. Do they relieve pain & in what amounts? Are there aftereffects? Does the user's age matter re: dosage?

I have seizures n the cannabis helps in many ways. Your not going out n robbing people. Or killing for it it mellows me out.makes me happy.n I'm happy they have places like you..n it's legal

Interesting in learning more about the medical stuff and remedies

I have been a patient of the medicinal cannabis medicinal marijuana program in the past and have found it to be very beneficial. I feel access to this treatment should be made available statewide with easy access and no stigma or embarrassment. The state should encourage availability so people can obtain medical cannabis more easily. My feeling is that the differentiation between recreational vs. medicinal cannabis should be minimized and just allow people to purchase this easily and completely eliminate the process of having to get certified to obtain medicinal cannabis. Since recreational cannabis is available the only real benefit for separating the purchasers is possibly convenience of separate purchasing times. I agree that could be beneficial but overall I think with more facilities opening hopefully every county will have medical cannabis available. I have used medicinal cannabis for migraines and find it very helpful. I was very happy that Governor Murphy added that as one of the first qualifying conditions. It also helped with anxiety and insomnia. Education is key to obtaining the best strains for different conditions. I was happy to be able to purchase it but at first the only clinics were very far from me. Fortunately one has now opened near where I live. I feel marijuana should be completely legal and reverse prosecutions for those who were charged in the past for possession . Also police should be released from searching for or evaluating anyone for marijuana use or possession. It is consuming officers time unnecessarily. There are far more important things that are a priority. I feel access to minors should be allowed for those children with conditions could benefit from it's use. I feel

a doctor should not be inhibited from prescribing it for children for serious conditions be it cancer, epilepsy, migraines, etc. Medicinal cannabis is a very helpful and warranted medical treatment and there should be absolutely no restrictions on its use by anyone. I understand it could be best for doctors to prescribe it for children after evaluating but I feel parents should be allowed to decide if they want to pursue its use as a treatment and have avenues to be allowed to purchase it for certain qualified conditions such as cancer, seizures and migraines without doctor prescribing it. I think parents should have a stronger role in making these decisions. And I absolutely do not think any parents should be prosecuted for giving their child CBD or THC for serious illnesses if it is determined it can benefit the child based on research and studies that confirm it is a valid treatment. Doctors should become educated as to the use and benefits of medicinal cannabis as part of their training. I was using the cannabis not to get high but to relieve symptoms of severe migraines. It relieved my symptoms of throbbing, piercing, pounding, unbearable head pains. I have suffered with migraines since I was 8 years old and have endured horrible headaches causing nausea, vomiting, dizziness and fatigue. I have classic migraines with aura so I suffer also from sensitivity to light, sound, smells, movement and various stimuli. So with all of these factors if I could have gotten relief from the misery of these incapacitating headaches as a child with use of cannabis I think it would have been helpful. It may not work for everyone but it is worth trying to relieve excruciating pain of migraines at any age.

As someone who has had medical license for years, I believe it is wrong to ask us to call a doctor every year to pay \$200 to get our prescription renewed. Cannabis is expensive in NJ as it is and far more expensive than other states or the illegal market. Plus because the retail market in NJ is now active there more concentration on that market and less choice for Cannabis for relieving pain. Anyone who has a condition needing Cannabis to relieve pain should not have to deal with this expensive requirement. I rather spend my money with my doctors than call a cannabis doctor who just makes \$200 and nothing else for you. Please amend the law to do away with this requirement to see a doctor each year to renew you prescription.

Medical cannabis has offered me a pathway to relief from the symptoms of anxiety and depression that is unique from traditional medical treatments. While I greatly appreciate these benefits and their positive impact on my quality of life, their cost is unacceptable (especially considering the tens of thousands of dollars I already contribute to my healthcare cost). There is no reason why medical cannabis should not be subsidized in the same manner as any other doctor-prescribed medication.

I live in West Orange and we still don't have access to medical cannabis. What can a patient do to advocate for this resource in my municipality?

I would like to see more options for edibles and beverages. Prefer not to smoke and the typical 10mg dose isn't all that effective for me. I'm on a fixed income and edibles in the dose I need can be unaffordable.

Why can't we have a cannabis grow permission at least for medical. I believe we are one of two states who have legalized cannabis and still prohibit growing. It would be welcomed relief to grow instead of buying my medicine.

My concern is that there are times I cannot physically get to a dispensary due to my illness. There are not any dispensaries in my area who will deliver. Maybe someday there will be but right now it causes me much anxiety & stress.

I would like to express my concern about any carcinogenic or harmful chemicals contained in the products. I am confident that Americans would also be interested in this information. I sincerely appreciate your assistance.

To whom it concern.

I am a retiree with several medical conditions. I have been using Cannabis since it has been legalized. It has helped me deal with chronic back and neck pain, fibromyalgia, and tinnitus to mention a few. Cannabis has replaced so many marketed drugs that have so many negative side effects and addictive liabilities. I use it responsibly at night when I tend to feel the struggles of the day by micro dosing, using less than .1 gram cannabis a day. I cannot consume alcohol because it interacts with my medication. Before Cannabis, I was prescribed narcotics to manage my pain. I was never a fan of them and only used them when absolute necessary. I wish I didn't need to use Cannabis, but it has helped me to deal with my situation, both mentally and physically. My hope is that more medical research would be done to make cannabis more standardized while exploring the compounds to be used more specifically directed to the symptoms people are dealing with.

My personal qualms with the current distribution of Cannabis is that there seems to be an ongoing experimentation with the cross breeding of strains. This makes it harder for people who find a particular strain that works for them. It's on the market for a month or so, then it is impossible to find. That makes it more difficult to assess since every strain is a little bit different. Great for recreational use, not so good for someone who needs a go-to strain that works for them. I'm also not a big fan on the pricing. I usually end up buying products that are being discontinued or reaching their end date. Some vendors offer discount pricing for First Responders, Medical Personnel, and sometimes Senior Citizens. Although this seems like it might be a 'good deal'. I often find that the prices have been set to offset the discount making it just as pricy as buying it elsewhere. It would be nice to have one day set aside where I could get a discount as a senior on a fixed income.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your study. I hope my input will be helpful. I look forward to the future of the industry. I hope by studying its potential it will someday be formulated to help people as an accepted medicinal alternative to help with their pain, PTSD, anxiety and so many other crippling and disabling factors we are plagued with. Cannabis has contributed to my quality of life. My hope is that more people are helped by its benefits without feeling ostracized in today's polarized society.

Thank you,
Sal Ferrara

- 1) It is no surprise that the NJ medical marijuana patient roster has declined since recreational marijuana. This has happened in every State that has gone "recreational." NJ failed to heed any warnings on this and insisted on trying to establish a marijuana marketplace to encourage recreational drug use in our communities.
- 2) it is a waste of taxpayer money to try to lure more people into buying "medical" marijuana in order to try to keep an economic stream - these dangerous, unproven products are NOT FDA approved for the treatment of any medical condition; the only cannabis-related products that should be sold for medical use are those that have gone through the proper pharmacological processes and are sold in bona fide pharmacies, not "dispensaries" by budtenders.

First, I would just like to say thank you for allowing us to submit comments for discussion in the public forum. I am currently a medical patient with anxiety and panic disorder. The strains of cannabis that I use to help treat my symptoms must have a higher CBD to THC ratio than what's currently being presented in the current NJ market. Using these strains allows me to not have to take as many benzodiazepines. Strains like these are becoming more difficult to find. Therefore, I'd like to fully endorse my support for medical patients to either home grow or to potentially have increased productions on these types of strains. thank you.

What is the state doing to ensure that the square radius of available cannabis vendors is appropriate/regulated? In some cities (urban cities), there could be 3 vendors on one block, directly near schools, hospitals and daycares. Meanwhile in more affluent or suburban cities, they are few and far, but many residents from those suburban cities are traveling in large amounts to urban cities frequently. These locations thus are open late, often in areas of town that have high crime, but business keeps them open and it is a public nuisance in some cities, for many reasons. There is also the issue of smoke shops that may not have a nj licence to sell cannabis but indeed do sell it 'discreetly'. Using custom made cabinetry, wall decor frames to conceal their cannabis which is being sold. Such businesses perhaps don't require a license but they are evading paying taxes that may be required by the state which would benefit NJ residents in different sectors. What is being done to address such issues/businesses across the state? My background is in healthcare and I support the legalization of marijuana that NJ has taken on but I am more concerned over the health and wellbeing of the community that these businesses are in, since these are community members who have lived in these areas for decades prior to these businesses opening.

I have been a medicinal cannabis patient since 2018 and it has helped me immensely. I have taken numerous prescriptions for my various health problems and natural cannabis is far more effective than pharmaceuticals I've been prescribed over many years. I experience no unpleasant side effects and I feel more in control because I can titrate my own dose as needed.

It is safer for people in general because there is no long list of weird potential consequences like typical prescriptions have, and NO risk of death from overdose. If someone tries it and they decide it's not right for them, they can stop immediately without the risk of debilitating withdrawal symptoms. Some concerns out there such as hyperemesis are *extremely* rare and again, it cannot be overstated that there's zero risk of death from overdose like virtually every other pharmaceutical product.

Due to these factors and more, it is imperative that the the State of NJ approves cannabis home growing for patients. It is absolutely safe and would be a much more convenient and affordable solution for people like myself since health insurance doesn't cover this amazing plant. People can also choose to grow the cannabis strains that work best for them since there are so many different strains available and it is impossible for commercial growers to cultivate even a fraction of what's out there. Commercial growers are focused on maximum profits, not patients' needs. For the patients who are physically able to grow, it is worth noting what a relaxing and rewarding hobby gardening can be, especially when you can take pride in the fact that you are producing your own medicine.

I know home grow bills have been proposed in NJ and shot down due to unfounded public fears and the greed of the entities that control the entire industry. Home grow has been legal in other states for years without the problems that people here are worried about or just pretending to be worried about for their own benefit.

There will always be a market for recreational users and medical patients who do not want to grow their own cannabis, which has been clearly demonstrated for many years in other states like Oregon. I have visited Oregon several times, where home grow is legal for both recreational and medicinal consumers, and they still have a thriving industry, as evidenced by the multitude of dispensaries and lower public stigma that comes with experience. The prices are also dramatically lower than in our state but they have no shortage of paying customers.

New Jersey, get with the program and legalize cannabis home grow!

Now that recreational is legal there really is not need to get a MMC, I am not saving much with it

There's a disparity in what the dispensaries offer in their medical menu vs the recreational one. Often the medical selection is paltry by comparison. It has fewer strain options and often there are brands unavailable on the medical menu. Also, black market stuff is still cheaper and better quality. Medical cannabis at the dispensaries averages about \$400 an ounce for anything decent. With an allotment of 3 ounces each month that's \$1200 I'd have to come up with, which in this state with taxes and rents being high, who's got that kind of money? It's impossible, so I am forced to use it very sparingly, which in turn means I'm unable to reap the full benefits of my medicine. Which brings me to my next point. Medical patients should have the ability to homegrow their own cannabis. It would alleviate cost pressure for patients and we're about the only state with legal recreational and medical that doesn't allow it, and it is well past time that changes. Thank you.

The change of law regarding marijuana in New Jersey -- is having negative repercussions/consequences on non-smokers.

It is an extremely challenging issue for non-smokers living in lower income housing (multi-unit dwellings). The smoke/stink enters my apartment while I'm sleeping and wakes me up. I'm unable to walk to the mailbox to collect my mail without being accosted/assaulted by marijuana smoke. I have asthma and the smoke exacerbates the condition. There are several (5 or 6) marijuana smokers on my block and I'm unable to breathe fresh air now that this law has changed.

It isn't easy for me to move, as I'm lower income, disabled and living solely on SSD income. I've been looking for a safer, non-smoking apartment and haven't been successful to find something I can afford and that will take my housing choice voucher. It's a very difficult situation. Marijuana smokers' rights should not come at the expense of non-smokers. Especially non-smokers with underlying health conditions.

A law needs to be created & promulgated to ensure that marijuana is not smoked in public spaces or near shared front doors of an apartment building, near children's parks, mailboxes, post offices, libraries, supermarkets, etc...

I live in Boonton, NJ 07005.

1. Cards & visits renewal need to be the same. Either all one year or all two years. It continues to confuse patients and make unnecessary steps for providers by calling making them active.
2. Patients are consistent in feedback about the availability of low THC products, lack of variety in terpene products, as well as non inhaled products. They also talk about the poor "real" help for products while shopping- since COVID the menu descriptions are not complete and the pressure while shopping allows them to make rushed choices or the same choices when other products may be a better fit.
3. Again as a provider who takes great pride in educating my patients- we have to do better. I still receive transfer patients with minimal education about the products they use. I get that I personally charge a very low cost and make it work, but we've got to do better!
4. Please spell out the benefits of the Medicinal program. At this point, there are few for the average experience. We need to be upfront and honest.

How to start a program in NJ

I have MS, Medical Marijuana helps me with Pain, Muscle Spasms. The Pain is very Bad, Spasms too. I have 15 Unhealed Fractures, I Have End Stage Osteoporosis, I use Medical Marijuana take it lightly to heal the Pain, Spasms.

I have been to the medicines, but they don't help as much as the Medical Marijuana. I will not drive, I make sure to stay at home.

Needed

This is a farce. The current “medicinal cannabis” program is a farce, is not medical, is not science based. It is an entirely political set up and is an embarrassment.

I'm a medical patient & will continue to be a medical patient. While the strains are amazing, the prices are a bit to high . I appreciate the discounts, I receive , but it's just not enough. Now that it has become recreational, I feel our patient prices need to come down. There is greed, and then there is greed. No need for that here, please lower medical prices. No tax is a Great deal.

I use medical cannabis for epilepsy and a chronic condition of neuropathy. When medical first came out my neurologist gave me a prescription. I filled it at the Green leaf dispensary in Montclair. Senior were given 10% off, and a totally different tax structure. In today's world there are very few medical cannabis dispensary's. Not only is the cost crazy the people who come in for recreational have apparently lost their minds. Today going to Costco in North Plainfield I noticed countless dispensaries all on Route 22. They were a mile apart but there were at least 8. Medicare should be accepted for those of us that depend on cannabis candy, gummies and liquid that I put in coffee if I need immediate relief. I have more fear leaving the house than I did before recreational was approved. I carry a fair amount of cash. Especially in these times of inflation to avoid the extra percentage. Knowing that young people need money for this very expensive product.

Prices need to be lowered for medical patients. We should be allowed to grow plants for medical use.

1) Why do I have to renew the Medical card every two (2) years?? Make it longer duration say 5 years until renewal??

2) I don't see the discounts (\$) when I compare Medical Program pricing to Recreational Program?

Topic: Public Consumption?

It's very difficult to find a Place/Location to treat oneself throughout the day without raising eyebrows. My question is will there be physical facilities that Legal Patients can become a member of such as Lounges or Speakeasy connected to Dispensaries?

The medical marijuana card registration & renewal process is ridiculous & cumbersome. You recently sent an email that you changed something (registry?) , that required the patient, to recertify or reload all information that was in YOUR DATABASE! Did you lose that information or what? That's utterly ridiculous and time consuming for people with disabilities and medical conditions that really don't need the harassment. Honestly, find a better way.

I cannot fully convey how thoroughly help medical cannabis has been for managing my physical pain while working to improve my spinal health, especially as it relates to my mental health. The pain still exists, but knowing I have periods of reprieve has allowed me to function more normally compared to my experiences without.

I am an APN, and I practice with the oversight of a collaborating physician.

If collaborating physician(s) are not knowledgeable, encouraging, or comfortable with this.

Do APNs depend on them to sign up?

I really appreciate the fact that dispensaries have a separate line for medical patients. This is invaluable to me. If I have any suggestions its that you require packaging to be easier to open for those with arthritis. This is very frustrating for me and I am sure others.

Another suggestion is to only require 1 patient tag out per item. Curaleaf prints out like 10 tags and puts them all over the product so A. you can't open easily and B. There is identifiable information on there which is private.

Is there a way you can require dispensaries to carry topical medications? Very difficult to find when needed.

Lastly, how about making it a bit more affordable for us?

I would like to know who can establish whether a prescribed amount of medical marijuana purchased in NJ can be transported to another state while on vacation?

Any other medicine I've been prescribed, I am able to carry with me when I travel.

Why & who has the right to deny me access to my medicine while traveling?

I suffer from acute arthritis. I would rather ingest MM than pain killers while traveling.

Something needs to be done to update any policy that goes against these current provisions.

I am concerned about the rising tax rate on the medical use and wonder if there could be 2 taxes rates. A lower tax on medical purchases and a higher tax on the personal use. Those on the medical use and/or disabled, are more likely than not, to be in a situation where they are on a tight budget. I believe that those who chose it for personal use should be charged a higher rate. The individual I am a caregiver for is 100% social security disabled and only receives a social security check. He is lucky if, after paying rent, insurances and utilities, he has even \$50 to his name. This month he has to borrow money to be able to pay the rent at the end of the month.

When will there be a insurance that helps with medical cannabis, especially for the disabled?

Being able to get safely grown and created THC edibles has made a huge difference in my quality of life. I wish they had been available for my dad when he was suffering with Lewy Body Dementia. They would have helped him so much. I have neuropathy in my hands and feet to the point where it wakes me up with stabbing pain or burning. I take only 5 mg and sometimes a blend of CBN/CBD and I can actually get some sleep. I'm only 63 so I am convinced this will actually help me live better and longer without taking manufactured drugs with horrible side effects.

I think that medicinal and recreational cannabis is the best thing that's happened to NJ, and me in years. I could only sleep 3-4 hours a night for years. After I started Indica gummies, I literally sleep 8-10 hours a night. It is the only thing I use medical cannabis for but I can't imagine my life without it now. Thank you. I go to Cureleaf Bellmawr and they are great, helpful and professional. Keep up the great work!

Hello, my name is Shane Collins, I am representing most inventory managers ATC workers who manage inventory.

To simplify my comment, I'd just like to recommend that we think about directing the type of medical/rec sales at the point of sale. For example all items need to be available for patients, that are on the rec menu. (Garden Greens) holds only a recreational manufacturing license. So it's impossible for a patient to buy that as a medical purchase. I'm suggesting a merge of the licenses. Inside the back of house of a dispensary is a lot of confusion knowing which companies possess both med and rec. So instead of designating product to license, why do we not decipher if the purchase is medical or recreational at the point of sale? It would cause less patients confusing why they can't buy something on their account so we have to ring them up Rec.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my statement

I am a medical patient in NJ who is seeking to redress grievances with the CRC as afforded to me by the 1st amendment of the United States constitution.

I'd like to begin by reminding the State of New Jersey and CRC of its origin. The New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission was created with the purpose and promise to protect and prioritize medical cannabis patients. Long before the CRC was founded, a thriving medical cannabis industry existed. In 2021, the patient population was approximately 120,000 patients which had grown due to an expansion of qualifying conditions.

The Jake Honig Compassionate Use Medical Cannabis Act was created to give medical patients more rights, accessibility, and protections. It helped to de-stigmatize cannabis, showing with empirical evidence that cannabis is a viable alternative medicine. Without patients like Jake Honig, and many others, the New Jersey CRC and adult use market would not exist today.

Medical patients have paved the way for the legal adult use market but somehow have been left behind as we stand in 2025. Now, with over 1 BILLION in sales, patients like me find themselves the most helpless they've ever been due to the environment the CRC has created and its failures as a state body / commission.

The commission and state legislators have failed in many more ways than one. I appreciate the job it is trying to do, but there is a major difference between trying and doing. There's a proverb; "If you don't plan, plan to fail." Many of us know this to be true, but a guiding principle for me in life has been knowing that planning is only half of the equation to success.

Plans mean nothing without the ability and actions to implement them. Unfortunately, the results of the CRC's efforts to date are abysmal at best. The results and realities of medical cannabis in 2025 have been retrogressive, and a lot of negative impacts are affecting the patients you promised to protect and prioritize.

Respectfully, your data points are misleading and often seem misrepresented. The cost of cannabis for a medical patient was supposed to go down and become more affordable as adult use markets expanded. However, patients are still paying exorbitant prices for their uninsured "medicine". Ask yourself, "how is it a medicine, if it's not covered by insurance, and it cannot be consumed at a hospital?"

You have failed to distinguish fundamental differences between medical cannabis and adult use cannabis. Are all adult use cannabis products totally void of medical value? If not, then aren't adult use retailers also selling "medicine"? They are not mutually exclusive, as cannabis is a medicine for all. You simply have two separate systems, selling the same products. Both have the same purchase price, but adult use has slightly more cost through tax not paid by patients. This is the difference of about \$5-\$8 per product.

Effectually, adult use markets have not subsidized the medical market to make medicine more affordable and accessible to patients. This was a promise and commitment overlooked by the CRC and is ongoing negligence. The state does have an ability to impose regulations that would support and encourage cultivators and purveyors to provide more affordable medicine to patients.

Instead, the opposite is happening through the policies and regulations implemented by the CRC. There is no incentive for companies to prioritize patients, especially when the patient population was cut down to 60,000 patients, likely caused by the ineptitudes of the state and CRC.

Operators and legally licensed entities are not operating in the best interests of the patients who enabled them to sell legally to adults without qualifying conditions. They are being pigeon-holed and cannot make sustainable profits. Majority of legally licensed places operate with the SOP to provide the lowest quality of product at the highest cost.

Since the inception of the CRC, I've seen the medical market, and its products, shift drama

I was supposed to speak but missed it. I have Scleroderma with Calcinosis (with masses throughout my body) osteoarthritis, and pinched nerve in my back caused by calcium masses. I'm a medical marijuana user. I will not take opioids for pain. The MMP has helped me remarkably. If it wasn't for that I would be lying in bed or chair most of the day. I don't have to worry about feeling horrible if I don't take it for a few days. Marijuana doesn't have side effects. It is natural herb. The best decision I made was becoming an MMP patient.

When will there be a registration for institutional caregiver services? What would the requirements be? Will licensed nurses be able to perform this service?

My Public Comment for the NJ Cannabis Regulatory Commission

Topic: Affordable Access and Home Cultivation for Medical Cannabis Patients

Good evening, members of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission. Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. My name is Theodore Hussey, and I am here to advocate for the rights of medical cannabis cardholders, particularly seniors and individuals on fixed incomes like Social Security, to have access to affordable cannabis and the ability to grow their own medicine.

New Jersey's medical cannabis program has been a lifeline for countless patients managing chronic pain, arthritis, insomnia, anxiety, and other debilitating conditions. However, the high cost of purchasing cannabis from dispensaries creates an insurmountable barrier for many, especially seniors and those on fixed incomes such as myself and spouse.

I have suffered many injuries and surgeries, over the course of my construction career, and I developed severe chronic pain. Each injury or surgery I was prescribed some type of narcotic for pain. Over time my body began to need more and more as each higher dose became less effective.

Fortunately my insurance covered the cost, but the medications were causing other problems besides being less effective. Then came the proclamation from the doctor and my pharmacist that they have to cut the meds down drastically due to government guidelines. I was able to find a pain management doctor who suggested Medical Cannabis. The doctor helped me get my medical card and gave me help selecting the strains that would help with pain sleep and some of the other symptoms my wife and I suffer from.

My doctor prescribes 3 ounces of flower per month, but I can't afford even one. There are many more seniors and disabled that would benefit from cutting the price in half and or having the ability to grow our own. These individuals should not have to choose between their medicine and other basic necessities like food, housing, or prescriptions.

Allowing medical cannabis patients to grow their own plants would provide significant financial relief and ensure consistent access to safe, personalized medicine. Home cultivation empowers patients to take control of their health, reduces reliance on costly dispensary products, and eliminates the risk of turning to unregulated sources. For seniors and those on Social Security, this is not just a matter of convenience—it's a matter of dignity and quality of life.

Furthermore, home cultivation aligns with the core principles of New Jersey's medical cannabis program: to provide safe, effective, and accessible treatment options for patients in need. By permitting patients to grow their own cannabis, the NJ-CRC can reduce financial burdens, promote self-sufficiency, and demonstrate compassion for some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

I urge the commission to prioritize policies that support affordable access and home cultivation for medical cannabis patients. This is not only a moral imperative but also a practical solution that benefits public health, reduces healthcare costs, and upholds the values of equity and compassion that New Jersey stands for.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope the commission will take meaningful steps to ensure that all patients, regardless of income, can access the medicine they need to live healthy, fulfilling lives.

Conclusion

Medical cannabis is not a luxury—it is a vital treatment for many individuals managing chronic conditions and age-related symptoms. For seniors and those on Social Security, the high cost of cannabis can create insurmountable barriers to accessing the medicine they need. Allowing patients to grow their own cannabis or providing more affordable options is a practical, compassionate, and equitable solution that prioritizes public health and human dignity. It's time to empower patients, reduce financial burdens, and ensure that everyone has access to the care they deserve.

Nice program a bit complicated though for some folks like me.

I just want to write on here that marijuana has saved my life I'm 37 years old and I have a lot of ailments and I'm in chronic pain I was in a very very bad car accident 11 years ago it shattered my femur into 10 pieces and it shattered my hip and my little ball and hip socket so all that had to get redone I was in the hospital don't quote me on numbers please cuz I'm guessing but about 2 months and then I was in a wheelchair for 2 years and then I went to crutches and then now I'm on a cane but it's still so hard like do you know how hard it is to shop with a cane? It's not easy LOL and you lose them all the time so it sucks but anyways I just wanted to say I thank you for allowing me to be on the program you've saved my life my appetite my sleep my eating big time and just My overall care about life like I don't know how to explain what I'm trying to say but like it just helps me I don't know what I'd do without it yes I do think I need to be I don't know just some days I feel like it's running out and my anxiety is all over the place so I feel like a medication adjustment needs to take place but I'm not the doctor and he paid to go to school for a long time so I just listened to my doctor follow all my rules and hope that his process hurt. I would like to thank Dr valcarcel for listening to me and sitting down and talking with me every time he takes the time to sit down and see if I'm okay like actually takes the time don't just send in a nurse yes he does send in a nurse but she just does my vitals and all that like they even do all that they're like it's almost like evil or what do you call it a physical because you get your weight you get you know everything done to you I think they hooked that thing up to you and then I know they do your blood pressure and your oxygen so you know they check on you there they don't just get you in now like that's why I travel there I mean yes it is technically my hometown but well my mother's Hometown but it's like mine so but anyways I would continue going there just because I truly know I have a lot of health issues and Dr Valcar sale the only one I trust along with his staff

As a medical patient, I feel we have been lost in a sea of badly harvested/dried flower, edibles full of distillates and topicals that are VERY hard to find (only 2 dispensaries in S. Jersey carry them). The products made available to us are CRAP (for lack of a better word). I am in constant excruciating pain and cannot tolerate pharmaceuticals at all. I rely heavily on cannabis products in order to function on the most basic level. The flower in the dispensaries is awful. It is so dry it literally disintegrates when touched and turns into dust. It all tastes the same... Like moldy hay !! I cannot use the vape oils as they are mostly just distillates as opposed to full spectrum, live resin or rosin, and as such are ineffective and only serve to make me "high" as opposed to relieved. The edibles are also mostly just distillates and are only remotely effective as such. I have only been able to find ONE dispensary that offers full spectrum/robin/live resin edibles and they go out of stock VERY quickly because they are the best. We need better products. We need WAY more products that aren't just THC distillates. We need consistency in inventory in the dispensaries. I cannot tell you how many times I have found a product that works well for me only to find them discontinued or unavailable for long periods. We need more dispensaries offering FULL SPECTRUM, LIVE ROSIN, LIVE RESIN edibles for those of us opposed to smoking or vaping. I pay an enormous fee every year to a cannabis doctor and every 2 yrs to NJ state in order to have access to products geared for medical patients and what I am NOT finding in these dispensaries are products that are effective. Distillates are garbage. They are isolated THC without all the cannabinoids that work together to bring effective relief (synergistic effect). I don't want to just be "high" ... I NEED full body relief. Whole plant products with ALL of the cannabinoids intact are effective products !! PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE push for better full spectrum products and for the love of all that is good in this world, PLEASE stop selling dusty, moldy, dried out flower. As a medical patient, I feel that I deserve better. We all know that the recreational cannabis industry in this state is all about making money. Its not "really" about helping out people like me. Its about money. SO, if you all want more money in your coffers, bring on better products. It will be a win-win for everyone. The state will make even MORE money and desperate suffering people like me will get the full spectrum products that we

need for our ailments. If the state cannot manage this and offer products to medical patients that actually help us, then please just let us grow our own cannabis. At the very least, medical patients should be allowed to grow a plant or 2 every year that we know will work for us. Thank you for your time. I hope that something I have said here will make a difference.

As a patient, I'm not clear why I have to only use one dispensary in the entire state to access my prescription and purchase as a medical user. Sometimes it's more convenient to visit another dispensary, but I'm limited to the one location.

Also want to express support for reducing the fees on medical. It's onerous and expensive to renew the prescription so frequently. My anxiety certainly isn't going away, particularly with the current insanity at the federal level.

Lastly, urging you to allow home grow.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the review of New Jersey's medicinal cannabis regulations. As you work to enhance patient benefits, I urge you to prioritize affordability. Medical cannabis should be accessible to all patients who need it, yet New Jersey remains one of the most expensive states for medicinal cannabis. Given that the actual cost of cultivation is relatively low, there is no reason patients should face prohibitive costs for their treatment. Any financial barriers—whether due to licensing fees, taxation, or supply chain inefficiencies—should be removed for medical care purposes.

I'm grateful for the program but the approval process needs to be quicker. It took something like 3 months and by the time I got my electronic id my prescription had expired.

Improve delivery options for medical patients. Currently delivery is available but very limited, by selection and delivery location.

Also medical patients should be able to order items that are only on the Adult/recreational menu and get medical benefits.

The Jake Honig Act called for “Institutional caregivers” in the state. These caregivers are employees of a health care facility who are authorized to assist registered qualifying patients, who are patients or residents of the facility, with the medical use of cannabis, including obtaining medical cannabis and assisting these patients with the administration of medical cannabis. Currently, most health care facilities forbid the use of medical cannabis in the facility. This is a dangerous and potentially fatal situation. A patient who suffers from seizures may be admitted to a health care facility and then denied access to the only medicine that controls their seizures--medical cannabis.

It is my sincere hope that the state will recognize its responsibility to the institutionalized patients in New Jersey. For 25 years, I have worked as a registered nurse (RN) in the state prison system and at a state psychiatric hospital. I know that many patients in these institutions qualify for medical cannabis and could benefit greatly from it. The staff there are already trained to administer, account for, and evaluate the effect of controlled substances. There is no reason to withhold this important medical therapy from these patients. In fact, courts have determined that inmates are entitled to “community standards” of healthcare. Edible medical cannabis products will improve health care in state institutions, group homes, hospices, etc., and will reduce the costs of running these programs.

Marijuana is a mainstream medicine. The adult use industry exposes even more residents to the therapeutic benefits of cannabis. As more and more people experience these benefits, health care professionals in the state must become comfortable incorporating cannabis use into the therapeutic regimens of their patients. This can be done most efficiently by requiring education on the Endocannabinoid System for all health care professionals who have prescription privileges in the state of New Jersey as a condition for continued licensure in the state.

In fact, the New Jersey Department of Health’s Executive Order #6 Report on 3/23/2018: DEVELOPMENT OF PROVIDER EDUCATION PROGRAM AND DOSING GUIDELINES With the expansion of authorized debilitating conditions, the Department recognizes the need to provide education and guidance to providers. To that end, the Department is exploring the creation of an education program for all physicians, with focus on the endocannabinoid system. The Department plans to leverage the expertise of the Medicinal Marijuana Review Panel to oversee the curriculum development for this program. This education program will serve to create best practices for the safe and effective administration of medicinal marijuana to the expanded universe of qualifying patients. In conjunction with the provider education program, there is also a need to develop standardized dosing and administrative protocols for medicinal marijuana products, including information on expected effects, side effects, and adverse effects. In addition to the provider education component above, the Department will charge the Medicinal Marijuana Review Panel, in an advisory role, to oversee the study of the efficacy of medicinal marijuana in treating New Jersey Medicinal Marijuana Program patients. This research will inform dosing and administration protocols to create best practices and improve health outcomes for qualifying patients. The Department believes that this refocusing of the Medicinal Marijuana Review Panel will make the best use of the expertise that the Panel provides to create best practices to inform health care providers and improve health outcomes for qualifying patients.

It is past time to implement this Executive Order.

Ken Wolski, RN, MPA
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NJ Medicinal Cannabis program has been slow to start, compared to some other U.S. States. Also, we are forbidden from growing (EVEN 1 SINGLE PERSONAL USE PLANT) in NJ without the roster of getting arrested and jailed. Just about every other U.S. state allows adult residents at LEAST 1 (ONE) MEASLY PLANT, THAT IN ALL LIKELIHOOD IS MALE AND GARBAGE TO ME!!!!

WAKE UP NJ, ALLOW CULTIVATION AT HOME FOR "PERSONAL USE" AND get off.residents backs LEGALLY CONSUMING MARIJUANA!!!!!!

RESENTMENT WILL END BAD FOR YOU, PROMISED!!!!

It's very difficult for us patients to go solvent less for our health when the limits are low and a half gram counts as an eighth. Please change the limits to reflect this, we shouldn't have to be forced to the rec market for almost half the month every month.

Good Morning,

I have Rheumatoid Arthritis and have since I was 17 years old. I began the Medical Marijuana Program (NJMMMP) in February of 2019. After learning about Terpenes and their properties, I found several strains that really helped with the inflammation. I also found Strains that helped me sleep better. Other Strains helped me with anxiety. I was really surprised how much the marijuana helped me. I am still in the program today. Just like any other medication, it is expensive. The guidelines don't make

concessions for low to middle income persons. You must already receive certain benefits to qualify for help. I'm hoping this will change and I will receive some help acquiring my medication. How long do you think it might be before it is legal on the Federal Level? I know it's speculative, but I'm curious. Thank you.

Thank you for skills and training & knowledge

Cannabis has been a great help for me. I use tincture to help in my sleep. (PTSD).

When will the state allow us to grow our own plants?

Breakwater is excellent for my personal needs.

Why should I keep using Breakwater vs one of the several dispensaries that I pass on my 45 minute drive to cranberry? This is my wifes question. I feel the quality is better - is it?

Sorry i cant do zoom.

I am interested in finding out if there are any research initiatives regarding the use of medical cannabis and cardiovascular events. Specifically I would like to find out about the safety of inhaled vaping and dry herb vaporizing in this regards. Research on potential benefits to Alzheimer's disease of low dose tinctures is also of interest to me. Thank you.

WISH TO TAKE PART

Sorry I had to leave the live meeting. I primarily purchase sleep aids and pain creams. I would like to suggest that a patient review option is available for products. For the past 2 years I've been trying different brands of gummies looking for the right fit. They either cause headaches or increase my anxiety. Are the product reviews on the websites from patients or the manufacturers? I also hope that more pain creams are offered and that the prices not be so high. I seem to only shop during sales. Thank you to the NJ Cannabis Industry in assisting NJ residents in their medical care.

Hello, and thank you for taking the time to read this message. I have been a medical marijuana patient in New Jersey for over 5 years.

Most products in the state are designated as adult use products, meaning a medical patient has to pay tax on their medicine. Regardless if it is labeled as adult use, medical patients should have access to any and all cannabis products in the state without having to pay tax on their medicine. I think there should be a change made where if you present a medical card at any NJ dispensary that all taxes are removed from your order.

If the legislature deemed medical patients should not be taxed on their medicine, then why are we paying a 2% municipal tax at medical dispensaries?

Another item I would like to address is edibles. 100 mg of thc/10 mg per piece maximum is simply not enough for many medical patients in the state. Many medical patients need well over 100 mg, sometimes double that or more for positive effects and having to eat 20 gummies is not the answer. Medical patients should have access to higher dosed, and larger quantity edibles.

Home Grow should be legal for patients. Growing a single cannabis plant in NJ can land a medical marijuana patient in prison. This is absurd. An overwhelming majority of states with medical programs allow their patients to grow a number of plants. Even decriminalizing it would go a long way, yet NJ just keeps up the status quo that it is a felony and that is insane in a state where the plant is legal.

I also would like to express my concern with Senator Scutari's recent bill he introduced, Senate Bill 4154. Trying to re-criminalize cannabis in any respect is moving in the wrong direction. His bill will simply make minorities get targeted again at an overwhelming majority as they were in the past, and will absolutely make no dent in the people who shop the "black market". We should be looking to improve the adult use and medical cannabis programs in our state, not go backwards and make both programs worse. He is also trying to make it so medical products can be transferred over to adult use products, which would lead to even less products for medical patients.

I believe you should get rid of the allotments for medical patients. It is silly that I can buy unlimited cannabis on the recreational market at one ounce per transaction, yet I am limited to 3 ounces a month as a medical patient. Due to the very high prices in the state, I have to constantly check dispensary websites for discounts. These discounts generally have to be jumped on right away to secure them, so when my allotment is full or near it and I am unable to get the lower priced items I see it affects the amount of medication I can get.

Pricing in the NJ medical program is another large issue. I can't understand why recreational cannabis and medical cannabis is priced the same. In PA, medical cannabis is often 50% of the price of recreational cannabis. Why are patients paying as much for their medicine as recreational users?

Medical patients in the state seem to have been left behind with the adult use program because we don't bring tax money into the state. While the state should incentivize businesses to open medical dispensaries, the CRC doesn't even have an option for a business to apply as a medical dispensary. How can we expect the program to improve with the extremely limited amount of medical dispensaries in the state compared to the large amount of adult use dispensaries?

I do hope these comments will be taken seriously and that the CRC actually has intentions on

improving the medical program and access for medical patients because currently, it is clear medical patients are the lowest priority for the NJ legislature.

Thank you for experience

The NJ state medicinal marijuana program desperately needs to allow our patients access to grow their own medicine or specific strains that treat their particular medical condition best. There are particular strains unavailable in the NJ market. The many different cannabinoid/terpene profiles affect every patient differently. Patients should be afforded the freedom to grow their own medicine and have a choice. Every other state that has a medical program also implemented patient home grow laws almost instantaneously.

It should be a patient's "God given" right to grow their own medicine responsibly and have sensible laws that protect the patient and all of society within our great state. We are allowed to grow our own produce and raise animals.

The laws in NJ are very outdated for cannabis cultivation. A patient faces a first degree crime (10 -20 years) for maintaining a personal homegrow of 10 or 12 plants. This fact is totally unfair in a state where cannabis is legal with a medical program for almost 15 years. This is a fact that needs to change as soon as possible.

First and foremost...

I do not understand Why can we not self grow our own medical cannabis?

After several years of being a medical patient I find myself asking this question over and over.

Consistently disappointed with cost, quality, and travel required.

The reality of our medical program is it's an actual rec program masquerading with the title of medical...

Where is patient support, where is our improved/specialized quality products to our so called medical medicine, it is in fact the exact same product being sold as recreational.

As a 100% disabled veteran, I receive the same discount dispensary's offer medical patients. 20%.

I actually lose money as the costs associated with being in the medical program. Only upside is doctor oversight.

Downside reality is there is no actual benefit of being in the medical program here in NJ.

Nevada and California could provide guidance here.

Hello everyone, my name is Mario Gutierrez.

I've been a medical marijuana patient since late 2017, early 2018—back when chronic pain was finally added as a qualifying medical conditions. But my journey started long before that.

In 2014, I was in a serious motor vehicle accident. I broke my back, my nose, my lower right eye socket, and my hand. I underwent a spinal fusion from T6 to T10, and a metal plate with a small screw was inserted in my eye socket and I went on having 5 more surgeries. I spent 25 days in the hospital and was discharged on 120mg of morphine per day.

That was just the beginning.

To even go to the bathroom, I had to take three different laxatives. A year later, I was switched to 30mg of oxycodone—but the problems didn't stop. I still couldn't go to the bathroom. I had no appetite. I was physically dependent on the pills. If I skipped a dose, I'd shiver, sweat, and feel like I had the flu. It was brutal.

Then the medical marijuana program opened up, and I asked my pain management doctor if I could try it. He agreed. And it changed my life.

Medical cannabis helped me break free from opioid dependency. While I still use some prescription medication for nerve pain, it's nothing like the opioids I was originally prescribed. And today—I don't need three laxatives just to feel human. That alone feels like a miracle.

So, why am I here?

When I got your email about celebrating 13 years of the medical marijuana program, my first thought was: Wow... 13 years. And what have we really done for medical patients since then?

I'm a patient who prefers solventless hash rosin—a clean, effective cannabis concentrate. But it's expensive: \$80 to \$110 a gram. And under current allotment rules, every gram of concentrate counts as 7 grams against my 84-gram monthly limit. That gives me just 12 grams of medicine for the entire month. That's over \$1,300 out of pocket—just for the medication I rely on.

Why is it that recreational users can buy up to an ounce in a day, but medical patients are capped at 3 ounces a month—with convoluted conversion rates that make it harder for us to afford or access the products that actually work for us?

And don't get me started on the dispensary experience. I walk into a medical/recreational shop, and what do I see? One cashier for medical patients, four for recreational. I'm standing there in pain, waiting—while recreational customers are flying through the line.

Theres been times where I weigh my concentrate at home and it's not even a full gram—maybe .78. Sure, the dispensary gave me a credit. But that's not the point. Where's the accountability? Who's auditing these dispensaries? Who's making sure they treat medical patients fairly?

You allow out-of-state medical cards—which means more revenue—but what about us, the in-state patients who built this program?

It's been 13 years. What now?

I've called before. I've asked about increasing the allotment. If the law won't change, then at least adjust how concentrates are counted. Make 1 gram mean 1 gram—why does it need to be converted at all?

Yes, we appreciate the tax break. But we need more than that. We need fairness. We need action. We need you to care for the people this program was originally built for.

Please. It's been 13 years. Help us now.

It is nearly impossible to source a product low in THC and high in CBD. My goal as with any medication, is to use the smallest dose necessary to accomplish the maximum change in pain relief. I stop when I reach a dosage of diminishing returns. Lacking scientific study and methods, left me relying on the recommendations of sales people. By accident I found a product sold by Garden State Dispensary (has a new name) in Eatontown called Haleys Hope, high CBD and low THC. This worked best for me in flower because gummies metabolize in me at an unpredictable rate. When Garden State became a recreational dispensary Haleys Hope was discontinued. I was informed by the staff there was limited grow space and the demand was for high THC. They said they expected it to return, but it never did. Luckily they did sell the balance for their stock to a dispensary in Belmar where I purchased a 9 month supply. This gave me time to look for alternatives. I was told by Garden State staff the high CBD product was popular with many patients so expected this replacement search to be simple...NOT.

Eventually I did find a product called Royal CBD at Breakwater in Cranbury. Not as good as Haleys Hope but closer than ever other product available in NJ. Now Breakwater is getting ready to open to recreational customers. So they too are discontinuing their low THC and high CBD products. Breakwater is telling me the same thing Garden State said. We expect it to come back at some point. It is being discontinued because of limited grow space and demand is for higher levels of THC.

No recreational facility sells low THC high CBD flower product because the demand is for high THC only. My brother dropped the program out of frustration. Every time he found something that worked for him they discontinued it.

The other issue I would like to mention is that of testing. I've been reading in the paper about some of the problems regarding testing reliability. I would argue in addition to the obvious issues of strength, insects and human hair (as indicated in the Asbury Park Press), there is an additional issue of comparative testing results. When I go into a dispensary and purchase product X and then go into a different dispensary and purchase product Y the only means to evaluate the expected outcome is by comparing line item strengths. When I use this method to anticipate outcome it varies widely from what the test labeling suggests. As a retired engineer it is clear to me you need to get the professional advice of an industry professional to design testing methods that produce clear reliable comparative and trustworthy results if you are going to continue to attract patients and not individuals who just want to get high. Since the product name has no specific industry identity the only transferable quality a product has is its unique testing signature.

My first experience with cannabis was a few years ago after a decade of doctors trying to convince me to try it. It took many operations and the loss of one leg (I led a very active and enjoyable life) for me to break down and try the program. My inexperience combined with an industry lacking fundamental scientific research and practicing little quality control (and near zero quality assurance) leads me to believe unless things change in the direction of predictability I am close to leaving the program.

The planets do not revolve around my head. I am not the center of the universe. The only reason I bring this to your attention is based on my conversations with others, my experience is not unique. If this only effects me then too bad for me. If this is the experience of many (which I believe it to be) then it is worth my time on their behalf to bring this to your attention.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Regards,
Rich James