

**New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission**  
**Public In-Writing Comments**  
**Public Meeting: August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Sender	Date	Comment/Question
Leeanna Lozada	7/15/2021	<p>On all meetings, how can I see the comments, PowerPoints, and attachments of all the participants and speakers in the public meetings. I found the meeting on Tuesday interesting and helpful.</p> <p>I am interested in this for all the meetings please, so I can research and learn more.</p> <p>THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!!</p> <p>Leeanna</p>
Jessica Geldhauser	7/22/2021	<p>When will we be allowed to grow? We voted for it and are currently the ONLY state that doesn't allow people to grow. This needs to be approved LAST WEEK! What is the hold up?</p>
Conor Harrison	7/26/2021	<p>WE WANT HOMEGROW!!!</p>
Martin Pfaff	7/28/2021	<p>Hi!</p> <p>My partners and I are working on a micro cultivation business and are having trouble finding a municipality to establish our business. I found one town that is close to where we live, (I can easily move there to satisfy the residency requirement of the micro license) but they will only allow 3 canna businesses to operate there.</p> <p>My concern is that this will be a common restriction in many municipalities. We were attracted to the micro license because there wasn't a limit on the number of licenses issued in this first round. However, if each municipality has a limit on the number businesses that are allowed to operate, then this would essentially restrict the number of micro businesses that are allowed to operate — this directly conflicts with the state's vision of encouraging many new small businesses to operate throughout the state.</p> <p>Has this concern already been identified or addressed?</p> <p>If not, I feel that this is a major obstacle in the way of small businesses (such as ourselves) to be able to get started.</p> <p>Regards, Martin Pfaff</p>
Jared I. Mancinelli	7/28/2021	<p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment to the Cannabis Regulatory Commission on the types of edibles and extracts which would be available under New Jersey's adult-use cannabis program. I am Jared I. Mancinelli, Esq., an attorney and co-founder of Cannabis Law Digest and caretaker of a medical marijuana patient.</p>

My primary reason for writing to you today is to urge the Commission to expand the variety of cannabis products available, particularly those products meant to be consumed orally. This is of special concern to medical patients, who may require the use of edibles or tincture because inhalation of smoke or vapor may aggravate pre-existing health conditions.

For example, my mother is a medical marijuana patient here in New Jersey. She typically uses flower or a vape pen to medicate. However, she has been concerned that if she were to be afflicted with COVID-19 or some other respiratory illness, she might not be able to get the relief she needs, due to the limited variety and supply of edible products on the legal market. In such a situation, it would be useful for medical marijuana patients like her to have products with other routes of administration available.

Moreover, there is no public policy rationale for limiting the variety or types of cannabis products available to patients and adult-use consumers. Nothing in the language of 2020 Public Question #1, which amended the state constitution to legalize cannabis, places limitations on the production or sale cannabis products. Medications which are far more dangerous than cannabis, such as opioid painkillers, are sold in multiple form factors, including lollipops and nasal sprays. Cannabis, being less addictive and far less medically dangerous than opioids, should be available to patients in forms which are safe and appropriate to their own medical circumstances.

Finally, a decision to diversify the scope of available cannabis products will aid in the development of a robust, competitive cannabis industry in the State of New Jersey. Many jobs will be created in permitting the sale and production of edibles, extracts, topicals, and other cannabis products. As further research and development in this sector continues, a larger number of uses for the plant will undoubtedly be discovered. New Jersey should remain on the forefront of this industry, especially given the state's dominance in the pharmaceutical industry.

Bonnie Spencer

7/28/2021

I recently completed an application requesting to be identified as a women, disabled veteran, disadvantage minority, in order to receive a micro business licenses. After completing the application (which I can no longer locate) I was denied. I believe it was because I am presently living out of state. I grew up in New Jersey and my second child was born in New Jersey. My family still lives in New Jersey. I presently have a New Business listed with the State of New Jersey. My request is an explication requiring the time limit.

Johnny Smith

7/29/2021

As a part of cannabis social equity, does the CRC plan to make an official recommendation in support of homegrow? A recommendation for homegrow, something every single other legal state has in some form, from the CRC is the single most important thing this commission can do for cannabis equity.

Sara Joslin

7/30/2021

I strongly encourage cannabis labels which includes health & safety warnings for pregnant, breast feeding mothers. Labels should indicate for medical use or for use by adult over age 21 and include the warnings about cannabis impact on brain development. I urge a written warning label for Cannabis. A simple picture of a cannabis leaf ("contains cannabis") is insufficient warning. "This product includes Cannabis, a government controlled substance. Keep out of the reach of children and animals. Cannabis products may only be in the possession of persons age 21 or older unless the person is a qualified patient. The intoxicating effects of cannabis ingestion may be delayed up to two hours. Avoid Cannabis use while pregnant or breastfeeding as it may be harmful to the developing child. Cannabis impacts the developing brain in children, adolescents and young adults. impacting memory, learning, decisionmaking, and motivation. Consumption of cannabis products impairs mental functioning including the ability to drive and operate machinery. Use extreme caution."

Gaetano G. M.  
Lardieri

7/30/2021

30 July 2021

Cannabis Regulatory Commission  
Via web submission

Re: Written Comments In Support of Cannabis Research/Science

Dear Chairwoman Houenou, Executive Director Brown and Commissioners,

I am speaking to you today on behalf of myself -(Gaetano Lardieri)- and Mr. Michael Hoffman. We both have specific scientific research backgrounds and wish to make a joint recommendation. I know two of you personally which I have interacted with over the years at many Cannabis events and other occasions.

For everyone else, I am Gaetano Lardieri from Newark NJ, born/raised currently reside. I have been in the medical field since 1978. I spent 26 of those 43 years in Oncology research at the hospital/medical center level and in Big Pharma designing/conducting global oncology trials.

In 2015, I got into the Cannabis space starting off advocating for social justice. During that time I have founded two Biotech startup companies specializing in Nanotechnology/Synthetic-biology/ Cannabinoid Synthesization and AeroSpace Science.

Mr. Hoffman, in addition to being an attorney, has an undergraduate degree in chemistry, spent several years in laboratory research leading up to law school. Since then, he has been admitted to practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office as a Patent Attorney, and has utilized his scientific knowledge with regard to expert testimony and considerations in civil, criminal and regulatory matters.

Science and technology, especially in light of our backgrounds, were what brought us to activism in the Cannabis space. Cannabis science is important to us, and it should be important to New Jersey. New Jersey is internationally known for its' innovations, academically, through universities like Rutgers, Princeton, Stockton, Rowan, Seton Hall etc. New Jersey is known as "the-medicine-chest-of-the-world" due to the fact that there are more Pharmaceutical companies headquartered here than anywhere in the world. We also have more MDs/PhDs per square mile than anywhere else in the country. In addition there are many private companies making advancements and performing groundbreaking research. That research goes beyond merely the medical benefits of cannabis to patients, but has included research into the socio-economic effects of the war on drugs and practical effects, like the study of methods of determining acute impairment by cannabis.

The advancement of this research by the CRC is essential, and set forth in the CREAMMA Statute. Section 18.d. states, and I will paraphrase, the CRC shall review and commission research, create a task force, and report findings to the Legislature and the Governor. That statutory and scientific necessity for research should be reflected in the CRC's organizational chart. We see a gap here that needs to be addressed/filled. We would recommend that, under the office of the executive director, an office of cannabis research and development be established and staffed, to directly address the continuation and importance of science in our cannabis industry. The Cannabis industry and New Jersey research acumen are axiomatically "perfect together." Let's not

miss a great opportunity to match up those synergies.

New Jersey, through this CRC, should be leading in cannabis technology, science, education and development. The CRC is reasonably and statutorily constructed to improve, coordinate and advance cannabis science. While setting up the complex industrial and regulatory structures required to manage this nascent industry, the future of the industry lies in a full spectrum of research and development, from the farmer, to the chef to the nanotechnologist. We respectfully request that the CRC actively and formally focus on and support cannabis research and development.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gaetano Lardieri BA LMT MPM Michael A. Hoffman, Esq.

Lawrence  
Russell

7/31/2021

Are there any updates on when we can start applying for cannabis business licenses/micro businesses?

I believe that opening up this industry for local entrepreneurs will bring in plenty of local taxes to fund the communities and help build more local businesses (not necessarily cannabis related businesses) to create more activities for locals to do and lower drug use/overdose due to lack of activities in local townships with higher drug related crimes.

Justin Piatt

8/2/2021

Thank you for the opportunity to write. As you know, there is no process in New Jersey for voters to propose ballot initiatives, so we're in the unfortunate position of having to beg for rights that citizens of other states are able to propose and vote for themselves.

I have attended previous meetings virtually and I've heard you discuss how to deal with the supply and demand issues of both medical patients and an emerging retail market. The answer, of course, is homegrow.

I've heard the word "equity" in these meetings more times than I can count. The way to create equity is by allowing homegrow. This can be done in a responsible way, similar to states like Maine.

Without homegrow, we have no equity. We not only have a shortage for our medical consumers, but we are slaves to that system. Medical consumers will be forced to pay whatever is being charged, have no alternatives if there are product shortages, and might have to deal with an inferior product.

We live in the age of the internet. We know that every single state that has passed recreational cannabis through the ballot box, besides New Jersey, has homegrow, including Connecticut, which legalized cannabis within the last few weeks.

We know that there are are problems that huge multi-state growers and producers have when it comes with maintaining their crops that smaller growers will not. We've seen them suing some states to allow them to not destroy crops based on the amount of mold found on their crops. We've seen them use terpenes to artificially color their product green so they can sell it at a premium.

We know that common sense dictates that the only way to guarantee that when we open the floodgates of recreational users, medical users will have access to their medicine, is if we let them grow it themselves, and we didn't need Google for that one.

Heck, most of us thought that when we voted Yes to legalize cannabis, that it legalized home grow at the same time. I don't think anyone really imagined that we would be the only state where a ballot initiative meant something different than legal cannabis and homegrow provisions.

This meeting is an invitation for citizens to finally sit at the table, but the tone of the meetings has been "how are we going to regulate the citizens of New Jersey?" I am begging you aim the bulk of your regulations at the people who are spending the most money to tilt the scales. I think, if the purpose of these regulations is to keep us safe, you should be looking at the people who are most dangerous.

Yeah, it'd be cool if alcohol companies stopped making Cake-Flavored Vodka, and maybe you can focus a little bit on whether or not you're setting a precedent in NJ that will eventually force alcohol manufacturers to bear the brunt of their responsibility of making products that appeal to children, but it would be a lot cooler if you would make it so that I'm not dependant companies that have been caught making unsafe products for my medicine.

I want you to force all growers to be transparent about the amount of terpenes used in their grows, what chemicals are used, and ensure that if any mold is found during a grow operation, the crop is destroyed. I want to be able to grow my own medicine in case what's on sale doesn't look like it's up to standard.

I want the same freedoms that will be legal in New York State in about a year. I don't know if these meetings are just a show or what. We hear the same words over and over, and you're saying the right things, you're asking for suggestions as to states to look for, and I cannot comprehend why you don't already know what's going on, or you're talking as if your decision isn't about future fight for cannabis industry in NJ, whether we're fighting to change these regulations, to make our citizens free, our medicine free of contaminants, our retail industry large, our small businesses with more licences so it can actually be a thing people do for a living, or if we're fighting to uphold the

Ezra Helfand

8/2/2021

Can I be put on a mailing lists so I may receive alerts on upcoming meetings and how to access them>  
Thank you,  
Ezra Helfand

Michael Harris

8/2/2021

Given that time is drawing near for townships to have decided on cannabis operations, is the licensing process still on track to begin 30 days following the 180-day decision making period? For the canna-business industry, a swift yet socially equitable application and licensing process is essential.

Malissa Arnold

8/3/2021

!. After the policy framework is laid out and licensure begins, will the CRC expand to have more members- will a medical doctor be one of them? Neurology, Pulmonology or like?  
2. What percentage of the funding will go to youth prevention , and for substance use recovery and treatment programs ?

Justin Escher  
Alpert

8/3/2021

August 3, 2021

Dear Honorable Members of the CRC:

Another postponed meeting? We have blown so much political capital. Free citizens are already freely and responsibly exercising the economic liberty. We have so overcomplicated with red tape.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We have no prospective timeline for micro-licenses.</li> <li>- We have no systemic accountability for the cash flows associated with the corporate operators of our medical ATCs.</li> <li>- We have constructed no accountability metrics for the slush funds that will flow into the “impact zones.”</li> </ul> <p>Hard not to feel like we are totally lost. The mission itself is broken.</p> <p>From the vantage of the CRC, what should responsible personal cultivation look like when we secure the Blessings of Liberty?</p> <p>Respectfully submitted,</p> <p>Justin Escher Alpert</p>
Jonathan Gordon	8/3/2021	<p>Will you be offering Delivery-only licenses? Delivery only businesses have a number of positive factors affecting them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-They are safer from theft and crime than retail storefronts.</li> <li>-They are less of a nuisance in that there are no crowds that gather outside, minimal employee parking is needed, and no trash from customers smoking or using their products after purchase.</li> <li>-They allow for small businesses to succeed.</li> <li>-It is a current common practice in the illicit market and it is important to provide a venue to regulate and tax what is a familiar practice for cannabis customers.</li> </ul>
Jennifer Martin	8/4/2021	<p>Hi, I'm a cannabis compliance consultant, and I'd like to ask for clarity on the "1000 plants per month" limit for cultivation micro-license holders. Does that mean that they can only have 1000 plants total at any given time, or they can bring in 1000 new plants per month, or? And, at what age and/or size does a seedling or clone officially become a countable plant? Thanks!</p>
Rachna Manglani	8/7/2021	<p>Will the upcoming statewide township ordinance deadline, affect the decision making for the pending 2019 RFA??</p>
Terry Johnson	8/11/2021	<p>Will you discuss the mandates on Licenses and how Micro-businesses can obtain licenses? Costs, stipulations etc.</p>
Robin Amjadi	8/16/2021	<p>I would like to know how to apply for the limited amount of licenses to open a Recreational Marijuana Dispensary where I live in Atlantic County New Jersey</p> <p>. Thank you.</p>
Peter Susi	8/16/2021	<p>There is no excuse for not allowing NJ's citizens to grow their own marijuana. This is legal in many other states. If it's legal to brew, bottle and drink beer from easily obtainable kits, If you want vodka, to brew it in our own bathtubs. But grow our own marijuana for personal use, HEAVEN FORBID NO! As that would take away profits from the MJ Megagrow companies. How much did those companies pay for lobbyists to influence our legislators for this powerful perk for them? Let us grow our own stuff! Not farms for an individual. 5 to 15 indoor or backyard plants would be nice. Though a small farm for Mom &amp; Pop stores would be nice. Read as a vegetable roadside farm.</p>
Bryan Nesci	8/17/2021	<p>Hi , I want to ask a question on the rules and guidelines for micro grow licenses. If we are not able to get a full cultivator license, we looked into the rules for a micro license. We noticed there were two limiting factors with the micro license, square footage and number of plants. Is the CRC open to lessening these regulations to just square footage rather than not square footage and number of plants?</p>

John Pollock	8/18/2021	<p>The CRC has made disingenuous posts on their social media about what their role is in regards to advocating for the implementation of homegrow. The CRC needs to come out and make a formal recommendation to the state legislature in support of homegrow. Our neighbors directly over the river in New York already have this right secured by their legislation, and it is an outrage that NJ citizens do not enjoy similar rights to them.</p> <p>The CRC has close connections to the legislature, both personal and professional, that should be utilized to their fullest extent by advocating for the taxpayers who pay their salaries and who voted for *full* legalization, which we believed would include homegrow.</p>
Donna Pixton-Hacker	8/18/2021	When/How will NJ residents be able to apply for/submit applications for micro business licenses?
Bill Day	8/18/2021	When are we going to hear who has been awarded the NJ licenses? This has been dragging on forever!
Corey Dishmen	8/18/2021	<p>My name is Corey Dishmen and I am a representative of The Library of NJ. Our company is attempting to obtain a retail license (or micro-business retail license) so we just wanted to formally introduce ourselves to The Commission. I had all intentions on speaking at the last meeting which was cancelled but I am currently in recovery from surgery. Nevertheless, we are a minority owned establishment, seeking to evoke change through education and community outreach. In conclusion, is there anything that social equity applicants can do to better their chances? In addition to that, with only 25% of all licenses being micro licenses, will that really leave any room for small retail shops in the bigger municipalities? Thank you for your time and we will be watching from home!</p>
New Jersey Urban Mayors Association	8/18/2021	<p>Dear Chairwoman Houenou,</p> <p>On behalf of the New Jersey Urban Mayors Association (NJUMA) we write to express to you the concerns of the organization in reference to the State’s cannabis regulatory process. Since the Murphy Administration’s preliminary conversations and legislative efforts to legalize cannabis the members of the NJUMA have long supported equality, diversity, and inclusion in all aspects of cannabis decriminalization, securing cannabis licenses and the process of regulating the industry. As the Cannabis Regulatory Commission (CRC) works to establish the State’s cannabis regulations the NJUMA membership requests the following:</p> <p>1) Equal opportunity and access to licenses for all</p> <p>Communities of color face several barriers in obtaining equity in the cannabis industry. Some of these issues include the lack of capital to obtain licenses, being required to have a brick and mortar location – which for many entrepreneurs depletes their savings as they await their licenses to be granted, and construction being stalled until a license is granted. The News 12 article entitled, “Minority entrepreneurs say they are struggling to get into the new legal marijuana business in New Jersey,” provides firsthand accounts from new and potential licensees and can be accessed at: <a href="https://newjersey.news12.com/minority-entrepreneurs-say-they-are-struggling-to-get-into-the-new-legal-marijuana-business-in-nj">https://newjersey.news12.com/minority-entrepreneurs-say-they-are-struggling-to-get-into-the-new-legal-marijuana-business-in-nj</a>.</p> <p>Additionally, the NJUMA strongly suggests uniformity and thresholds in reference to local ordinances. Some municipalities have begun setting local fees for entrance into the business which are as high as \$25,000 and \$50,000. Given that communities of color disproportionately lack the revenue to enter into the business, without clear guidance from the Commission, these exorbitant amounts will only create more barriers and inequity in the cannabis industry. We suggest that there are required additional local entrance fees for microbusinesses that are more affordable.</p> <p>2) A program to assist talented minority entrepreneurs with obtaining a license</p>

As noted in the above referenced article many entrepreneurs from historically underserved backgrounds lack multifaceted networks to aid in navigating the cannabis industry. The NJUMA suggests that the CRC create a learning network of experts that can aid minority licensees in the processes of starting, growing, and maintaining successful cannabis businesses. These experts should include successful cannabis business owners, medical professionals, legal counsel, etc.

3) Representation on the Commission Expert Committee with Mayor Warren, Mayor Baraka, E.D. of the Watson Institute or their respective designee on behalf of the NJUMA.

Mayor Warren, Chair of the NJUMA Cannabis Committee, Mayor Baraka, President of the NJUMA, and the E.D. of the Watson Institute who oversees the policy platform of the NJUMA seek to regularly represent the needs and concerns of the NJUMA membership by sitting on the State’s Commission Expert Committee. In the event that they can not participate their designees will attend the meetings.

4) Mandate that the Commission provides an annual report which includes identified progress with equal access to licensing. In efforts to maintain transparency and effectively track progress as it pertains to equity the Association requests that the Commission annually releases a public report that contains the efforts putforth to maintain equity. This includes funding to aid with start-ups for communities of color, technical assistance for historically underserved communities, and regulations that empower and protect communities.

Smit Acharya

8/18/2021

Hello. Thank you to the CRC for letting me comment publicly today. Wanted to note that I’ve been very impressed by the diligence and transparency of this committee.

My name is Smit Acharya and I’m a 26 year Edison native (born and raised in this great state) and currently, also a cannabis entrepreneur.

I’ve partnered with UnityRd, the first of its kind cannabis franchisor, since as someone relatively new to the space, felt it provided all the benefits of a national corporate player, while still keeping the wealth local here in the state.

Wanted to address the CRC in light of the ACLU recommendations that were released yesterday. For the sake of clarity, I endorse their plan.

But, specifically, wanted to address two points: (i) potential private funding opportunities for equity applicants and (ii) adopting ACLU’s hiring requirement.

Firstly, there is a clear need for communities most affected to have a legitimate opportunity to access start-up capital. The ACLU has recommended a \$100mm public fund – which makes sense, but will likely be challenging to fund given the State’s budget deficit. But, regardless if implemented, we wanted to make sure the CRC, those listening & reading were aware that groups like UnityRd and others national groups, provide a private option to start-up capital for those who qualify under the equity definition. From our research, there are multiple private options to partner with national players to access the resources and strategic funding that might help lift some of the barriers to entry. We urge the CRC and other public education groups to make those interested aware of these programs.

Secondly, I'm privileged I wasn't affected by the War on Drugs, but I still feel a deep sense of advocacy to promote a more inclusive society. With that, our Group has pledged to adopt the hiring requirement for at least a third of our employees to be equity applicants. Additionally, we're committed to investing in public education and outreach programs and investing our own capital in other microbusinesses / other equity entrepreneurs to help grow the market. We hope other operators adopt the same and urge the CRC to make it part of the application itself, if possible.

Thank you CRC for your time and hope to continue the dialogue here.

Gregory  
Richard

8/19/2021

I know I will never get a call to discuss this, but I hope you will prove me wrong.

How will the CRC commit to a level playing field for MSOs and Micro License holders? How is the State going to reduce prices for all patients? The MSOs that are already here have artificially inflated prices for medical patients such as myself, I'm sure the same will continue into the Rec market. I'm disabled and don't meet the criteria for the new subsidy/discount. This medicine I rely on daily to survive. It shouldn't bankrupt me while having to try various treatments that have been costing me thousands. The lack of regard for patients, especially mental health patients, is absolutely appalling.

The CRC hasn't shown any desire to look out for patients, but should at least interface with legislative partners and express the sheer volume of inquisitions regarding home cultivation. I know it isn't the CRC's decision, but it's the responsibility of the CRC to represent patients and their needs. Many of us cannot afford to pay into the medical cannabis racket to get the relief we need.

Robert Devine

8/19/2021

Hello, My name is Robert Devine and I am a NJ Medical Marijuana patient and advocate for cannabis. First, let me congratulate all of you on getting to the first round of rules regarding applications for the NJ cannabis industry, it is an exciting time in NJ. I wanted to write a few brief comments mainly related to the medical side of things that I hope can be considered in a timely manner and quickly implemented:

1) Home Grow - While I know the CRC cannot grant home grow and that it is up to our legislature, I would like to ask that you at least advocate on behalf of medical patients and the cannabis community to allow home grow to the NJ lawmakers. The CRC certainly has a lot more political weight than the thousands of patients whose lives would be greatly improved simply by being allowed to grow a portion of their own medicine.

2) Costs - Costs for cannabis at an average of around \$430 per ounce of flower is extremely high, especially when compared to many other states medical programs (Maine, for example). Costs in dispensaries need to be controlled or come down, and this is just another reason to advocate for home grow for NJ residents, and especially NJ patients.

3) Product Variety - While we are slowly starting to see some new products trickle into dispensaries, the need for a variety of edibles (in various strengths) and concentrate options has continued to grow in the state. Please consider adopting regulations related to different products so dispensaries can start making these products for patients that need them.

4) THC limits on edibles and cartridges - the 350 mg thc/70% cap per package of edibles or cartridges in the state needs to be eliminated. Making manufacturers shoot for 70% in a cartridge is just going to result in more diluents to be put into the cartridge which patients do not want to vape. We just want full spectrum cannabis oil and if it tests at 90% THC, then that is a positive because I can take 2 hits from my vape instead of 3.

		<p>As far as the edibles go, for many patients, 10 mg doses will simply not do anything for them, and some patients like myself need to take 10-20 times that dosage for proper effects. All people process edibles very differently, so having varying options in strength of edibles is something that is important. Otherwise, patients are left making their own edibles and hoping their calculations are right as far as dosage.</p> <p>5) Allow large quantity purchases - Please start allowing the purchase of larger quantities of a strain. Like with most bulk products, if you are buying one ounce of the same strain, there should be a discount from buying a single quarter. It would also be more environmentally friendly cutting down on the amount of packages/jars a patient leaves a dispensary with.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts and concerns and I am available at any time to discuss further if requested.</p>
William Winton	8/19/2021	NJ should allow home grow in the state. Aside from being "The Garden State", the proposed regulations exclude home grow of Cannabis which would make it the only state to legalize adult use yet still outlaw the ability to grow at home.
Joseph Brecht	8/19/2021	What will the CRC do to reign in the absolutely exorbitant product prices that medical patients currently have to pay? Will the CRC ensure there is adequate competition in the recreational market?
Rejane Ferreira	8/19/2021	Newark came out with preliminary regulations this week. They are stating churches will not be counted in the feet from a cannabis location because there are simply too many. Is the state following the same rule come application time? Also, Newark is not accepted conditional licenses, will that be a legitimate ban of the state issues one? I'm addition, will applications granted licenses by the state AND the city of Newark become public record? How do we circumvent political favoritism in the process? Will relationships to local politicians be disclosed in applications? And be made public? Will social equity applicant being given financial resources to pursue a license? Newark stated they are offering none at all, leaving room for deep pockets to swoop in. Also, Newark stated that no cannabis location can be 500 ft away from another cannabis location, how will that be implemented? What if someone gets a lease pays earnest money, then it gets taken from under them because another dispensary is closer. Who will get the location, how will that be chosen? I appreciate your responses. Thank you.
Dan	8/19/2021	You let the people decide on legalization, in which they did. We are very confused as to why you would allow towns to decide whether it could be sold within their town when we have supported statewide legalization. Could you please clarify
David Julian Fiscarelli	8/19/2021	<p>I would like to thank the NJCRC for taking your valuable time to read my comment. My name is David Fiscarelli and I am the co-founder of the start-up Jackalope Crafted LLC , a New Jersey based edibles and extracts company specializing uniquely crafted edibles based in molecular gastronomy, who will become fully operational company upon licensure into the NJ adult use cannabis industry; We are currently in the process of legally selling our 50 state legal infused,, bean to bar chocolate that we produce with sustainably and ethically sourced ingredients that helps reduce and mitigate environmental impact, combat child labor/slave labor, and to give people in third world counties not only a living wage but a wage that allows wealth development. We intend to use our company as a vehicle for local and global change donating sizable amounts of net profits to charities we support but also charities the consumers of our products support. At 41 I became a father for the first time and at 45 a father for the second time. It gives me a heavy heart knowing the status of the planet and our country we have left them and as adults it is our duty as adults to sharply reverse course. Corporations are run by adults and corporations have an ethical duty, especially those that manufacture consumable products or are heavily invested in human labor to lead by example</p> <p>The vision above for our company has not come with significant costs. While, there have been financial cost it's the emotional</p>

costs that are the most expensive. Startup in a cannabis company has been both an extremely exciting experience as well as an extremely depressing and mentally challenging experience; with in a day you can oscillate from clarity and high self confidence and belief in your success to obscurity, self doubt, low self confidence and every other negative emotions that tag along. We are fortunate that we have strong Mercer county have been approved to operate in Trenton and are awaiting to get approved by other jurisdictions in Mercer county for a potential manufacturing location. Even though we have connections, full CAPEX and operating capital still remains elusive as finding \$1.8 million for CAPEX and first year's operating expenses is NOT EASY so it should go with out saying that it's been extremely hard; I'm the only one the ground in NJ as one partner is growing certified organic hemp in VT to be used in our products, my wife has been on maternity leave and taking care of our children while I focus on start up. My third partner works in the restaurant industry and has a very unpredictable schedule. My current business has been devastated by the pandemic, startup capital has been significantly reduced and money that should be saved for my family had been put to a manufacturing consultant. I've worked extremely hard to get to where we are now yet the road is still foggy.

Everything I have stated is most likely a strong commonality many small cannabis start ups are facing. As someone who has been following the industry I have recommendations that can significantly remedy the problems I have highlighted.

1. Allow a two year waiting period for companies outside of NJ to enter the market (Colorado did this)
2. The NCRC and the state should open a insurance/lending institution or develop grants to help obtain capital and insurance
3. Micro business foot print greatly needs to be expanded. (Jackalope cannot operate at 2500sq/ft and in my opinion these restrictions tie hands)
4. Micro business need to be able to look for locations to put their business out of their jurisdiction or adjacent jurisdiction.
5. Develop a phased roll out with class 2 license almost last; there needs to ample cannabis supply in the system to process and generate revenue since sourcing from out of state is illegal If class 2 license are issued in the beginning of the rollout revenue generation will be difficult and operating expenses unnecessarily onerous.

Dan Jensen	8/19/2021	Will there be any changes from the aspect of electronic security going into adult-use facilities that differ from the already listed guidelines of medical facilities in NJAC 8:64? This would apply to CCTV, Burglary systems, and Access Control. Thank you.
Manuel Munoz	8/19/2021	How is the delivery license going to work if Federally you can not accept cc or debit payments only cash, this creates a risk for anyone delivering to customers carrying c.o.d
Lorraine Williams	8/19/2021	Please elaborate on the residency requirements for a micro license.
Kyle Sosnicki	8/19/2021	What will the microlicensing application process look like for entrepreneurs who do not have the financial connections, angel investors, or capital of more affluent competitors?
Brendan Bartlett	8/19/2021	What is the criteria in determining who gets a license? How can we be sure further corruption won't happen?
Rory Wood	8/19/2021	<p>GOOD AFTERNOON TO ALL CRC MEMBERS. MY NAME IS RORY WOOD. MY QUESTION IS IN REGARDS TO FUNDING TOWARDS SOCIAL EQUITY BUSINESSES. WOULD SOME OF THESE FUNDS GO TOWARD PROVIDING GRANTS TO INDIVIDUALS IN DESIGNATED "IMAPCT ZONES" FOR TRAINING ....SUCH AS CULTIVATION, BUDTENDING, EXTRACTION OR THE BUSINESS OF CANNABIS IN GENERAL? IF SO, HOW WOULD A COMPANY OR SCHOOL BE ABLE TO APPLY OR HAVE THESE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS WHO QUALIFY IN THESE AREAS?</p> <p>I FEEL THAT FOR INDIVIDUALS TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS INDUSTRY, THEY NEED TO HAVE PROPER "HANDS ON" TRAINING VS ONLINE/VIRTUAL CLASSES.</p>

		<p>BEST REGARDS,</p> <p>RORY WOOD</p>
<p>Jerry Luis Segovia Garcia</p>	<p>8/19/2021</p>	<p>Hello NJCRC,</p> <p>It's my pleasure writing to you all,  I've requested to meet with me members of the commission and never got a response.  I've been working closely with the Paterson City Council. I'm a potential cannabis business owner and I'm looking into connecting with you.</p> <p>I've worked on the cannabis industry with TerrAscend in Boonton, NJ.</p> <p>I have much experience with the chemical industry and regulatory and compliance in New Jersey for over 10 years. My team is ready to work with the State to bring about Equity and Safety.</p> <p>We are in complete conversation with Paterson city Council. I have information and background to back up my proposal for a business Opportunity in Paterson, NJ.</p> <p>I've submitted everything to the City council,  We need supper from the NJCRC.</p> <p>My team is local to Paterson , we are planning on hiring 70% of personnel for mg our town.</p> <p>We want to comply with all ordinances and regulations set by the State. I've worked under all regulations here in NJ. My experience is very extensive and we deserve a chance to bring jobs and opportunities to minorities here in Paterson.</p> <p>Please I request to speak with a commissioner or commissioners as soon as possible.</p> <p>Paterson City Council needs to be represented by it's people.</p> <p>Thank you  Jerry Segovia</p>
<p>Joseph Perrone</p>	<p>8/19/2021</p>	<p>Will micro licenses exist during the first time slot for applications in 2021</p> <p>Will hydrocarbon extraction be allowed to produce concentrate extracts</p>
<p>Dr Monique Hamilton</p>	<p>8/19/2021</p>	<p>Please make the slides for this meeting available ASAP for public review</p>

Dr Shena Vander Ploeg	8/19/2021	<p>Hey there, I hope this message finds you well.</p> <p>I have been a licensed physician in OR working with special focus on endocannabinology, cannabis therapeutics, and cannabis education since 2014. I also have experience with cannabis/botanical product development since 2008.</p> <p>I have two residences one in Oregon and one in NJ. What are the resident requirements for the license application?</p> <p>Yours In Health, Dr Shena Vander Ploeg</p>
Moises Luque	8/19/2021	When will the full regs drop for the transportation license ? Please
Ariel Lopez	8/19/2021	Can you clarify the 2,500 sq ft for micro-licenses? Does that mean the entire dispensary and consumption lounge cannot exceed 2,500 sq ft but the building can? For example, if we have a location that is 5,000 sq ft but the dispensary only takes up 2,500 sqft but the remainder 2,500 is given up for consumption lounge and storage would that be acceptable?
Shakespearecia Cadet	8/19/2021	<p>Good Afternoon Commissioners,</p> <p>I was very pleased with your statements during the zoom call today and your vote. I wanted to add that we have many legislations that look great on paper, but many fail not because of the law itself but because of the lack of implementation at the local level. I wondered whether the commission has decided to create an authority that would go around each municipality to make sure that these rules are being followed regarding equity. I want to ensure minorities of low income who have been decimated by the war on drugs can have an opportunity to participate in this. Like many other laws meant to assist and aid the minority community, funding and resources are always lacking where minorities simply cannot participate due to lack of funds. Are there any incentives to help those individuals?</p>
Mahim Gupta	8/19/2021	As you mentioned earlier, 2,500 sq ft. facility space for cultivators of microbusinesses is allotted. Is this in reference to the canopy space specifically used for growing, or in reference to the total sq ft space of the leased building space?
Cesar Pinto	8/19/2021	Question: For the grow micro business, is the 2500 sf limit the flower canopy area, or the entire facility? Thank you.
Jessica Kaiser	8/19/2021	In other states, you can look up a license number to confirm that a product comes from the legal industry, this helps prevent black market products from being mistaken for legal products and keeps consumers safe. Are there plans to develop a consumer-facing tool on the CRC website to verify specific testing laboratories have been approved, and confirm the status and validity of licensees?
Kerry Wiles	8/19/2021	<p>Thank you, Director Brown, Madam Chair-woman, the Vice Chair and all other Commissioners in the CRC.</p> <p>I am a disabled veteran, a minority and owner/founder of Essayons Greenery, a cannabis company seeking both a cultivation and manufacturing licenses.</p> <p>As I have tried to put myself in position to apply for a license, gaining access to municipal and city officials has been very difficult. Over the past 8 months I have only been able to sit with two officials from two very different townships. Which I will not mention here.</p> <p>There's a very real barrier facing small companies such as myself with these cities that have already made up their minds, as they have been in talks with these larger companies.</p> <p>I have been scrolling through the documents on the website and its amazing to see the rule do promote an equitable marketplace</p>

		<p>and I would like to thank each member of the Commission for their hard work and dedication. Although I have been able to pool together some money to make a bid for a license. Access to a significant amount of capital is a very real barrier for companies such as myself. I am nowhere near the level of those large MSOs and venture firms stacked with investors.</p> <p>But, in closing, let me say, that I understand there's nothing the CRC can do about that, or to stop a landlord from raising leases, or stopping a city from charging local licensing fees (which by the way is blowing my mind) or keep those cities from engaging in biased business practices.</p> <p>What you do control, is the licensing process in the state, that, more or less, is the silver lining for companies like mine at having a chance at a license. It evident in the rules and I do commend you. The ball is in your court to follow fair practices in this initial phase of licensing to ensure a true economic cannabis marketplace.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and I look forward to combing through the rules and putting forth my application.</p>
Adam Blaier, Esq.	8/19/2021	<p>First, let me thank you for taking the time to put the rules and regulations together. I'm sure it was a grueling process.</p> <p>With that said, if the goal is to promote an equitable marketplace, I would suggest the CRC find a way to consolidate its regulations. While applicants with more capital may not mind paying substantial legal fees for attorneys to comb through the rules and regulations, other applicants with less capital will have difficulty ensuring compliance. A more conscience and streamlined regulatory framework would benefit all applicants.</p> <p>As far as the application process goes, as a business attorney, I help many entrepreneurs open legal entities in NJ and elsewhere. One process that NJ does better than most states, is the NJ Division of Revenue's online legal entity filing system (LLCs, Corporations, etc..). My second suggestion would be to find a way to use a streamlined process similar to the Division of Revenue's legal entity filing system for Microbusiness licenses and other licenses (if possible).</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
Ray Jones	8/19/2021	<p>I would like thank you for all your hard work and congrats on this historic on the initial rules. I have 2 questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I noticed that on the social equity information that business that have state MBE status is favorable designation. However new companies cannot get the MBE designation in time to have that information on there application. How will the CRC look at this I don't believe the state of NJ could turn around the certification fast enough</li> <li>2) For distribution business license 2500 sft appears to be a small footprint to operate could the CRC look at the space limit for Micro distribution licensing size standard</li> </ol>
Bill McKee Jr.	8/19/2021	<p>The commission should build into their regulations and laws that all marijuana businesses now and in the future must have the following prior to starting any operation.</p> <p>Must show the community their entire site plan; including the odor, noise, water and light prevention systems.</p> <p>Prove they have a loan that will pay for all odor, noise, water and light prevention systems.</p>

		<p>Must get approval for their site plan with public hearings prior to starting any operation.</p> <p>If approved then they must purchase and fully build all buildings with odor, noise, water and light pollution systems in full operation prior to beginning any business operations. Because it just isn't fair to anyone living near one of these businesses to suddenly get stunk out.</p>
Clarence K. Carter	8/19/2021	Is there a rule or resource for people who do not have any money to start a cannabis business in New Jersey?
Kristen Haas	8/19/2021	<p>Good afternoon madam chairwoman and commissioners, and thank you for the opportunity to speak on this important day. Also, thank you for this framework of cannabis regulations introduced today. It boosts my hope in the NJ cannabis industry and the beneficial role that minority-owned small businesses can play.</p> <p>My name is Kristen Haas and I'm the founder of The Botanica Boutique in Maplewood, a former NJ public school teacher, and the executive director of the Maplewood Chamber of Commerce. During the July meeting, I spoke about equity for small businesses and I'm really excited to see the regulations around equity that you announced today. This time I want to discuss cannabis education and how important that is to developing a successful industry in our state.</p> <p>Currently, my business offers high-quality CBD products and cannabis education to my consumers. When the ability to apply for a license becomes available, I will be applying for a microbusiness license to create a cannabis delivery service that will educate consumers about cannabis, help them to find high-quality products that will work well for their needs, and offer seamless, safe, and discreet product delivery. Once again, as education is a cornerstone of my business, it is part of my mission to develop an understanding by my consumers and the greater community about the benefits of cannabis and the harm done to this country by the war on drugs and the work that we need to continue to do.</p> <p>Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to speak to you all on this historic day and thank you for all the work you have done to make this day happen.</p>
Vanesa Apaza	8/19/2021	<p>(1) I understand use of pesticides, fungicides, insecticides is limited. I do not see myclobutinil on the N.J.A.C. 7:30 list which is very concerning. I am wondering if this is or is not being considered on the list of bans of substances or limited in any capacity.</p> <p>(2) When and how often will inspections and enforcement of cannabis businesses commence? This is very concerning to me because Governor Murphy passed a ban on flavored vaping devices and I have seen several vape shops, liquor stores, and bodegas selling these banned products.</p> <p>(3) This bill only mentions Delta-9 THC and not Delta-8 THC products which is currently being sold in our community. Can this be added in the list of regulated marijuana products in New Jersey?</p>
Kristen Haas	8/19/2021	<p>Good evening madam chairwoman and commissioners and thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight.</p> <p>My name is Kris Haas and I'm the founder and owner of The Botanica Boutique in Maplewood, NJ, a former NJ public school teacher, and the executive director of the Maplewood Chamber of Commerce. My online business offers high-quality cannabis products and cannabis education to my consumers.</p> <p>I want to thank Nina Parks for bringing up microbusinesses and the concerns around packaging and equity. As a microbusiness myself, this is one of the many concerns entering into this new industry in our state, along with other similar topics. I would like</p>

to ask the commission to please remember microbusinesses when making mandates around things like packaging.

As a parent-friendly company planning to serve Northern NJ, child-proof packaging on cannabis products is important to me.

Another important branch of my business is to educate my consumers. Using QR codes is a great and cost-effective way for products to link to lab tests, ingredients, and other important information. This is also something that can be easily updated.

When the opportunity becomes available, I would like to apply for a microbusiness license, for a cannabis delivery service that educates consumers on what products will work best for them and offer seamless, discreet product delivery. My intention is to provide each consumer with a reusable child-proof bag (as pictured during one of the presentations). The idea behind this is that consumers can keep all their products (or just edibles) in this bag to increase safety around cannabis in homes with children.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak and I hope to participate more in the NJ cannabis dialogue in the future.

John Adames

8/19/2021

Hello,

Just a quick question - when applying for a Cannabis business license, are you expected to have already formally created your business entity, prior to filling an application for Cannabis license?

I ask because I am interested in potentially pursuing a Class 5 license for retail sale, as a micro business, and am a minority person, as I identify as an Afro-Latino American, and noted that for you to get preference as a minority business, you are required to be certified as a minority-owned business by NJ state. Not sure if that is possible without formulating a business beforehand.

Thank you for your time, and look forward to your thoughts!

Best,

John A. Adames

Jo Anne Zito

8/19/2021

Dear Cannabis Regulatory Commission Leadership,

I would like to start by saying thank you for your work and engaging with the community on how to best regulate cannabis in New Jersey.

I've been an activist with the Coalition for Medical Marijuana of New Jersey for roughly seven years now and in this role and as someone who's suffered greatly under cannabis prohibition, I appreciate the opportunity to be heard on the matter.

In my life I've only ever been arrested for cannabis and although simple possession disenfranchised me, it was home growing cannabis that devastated me and my family the most. It was that particular law that put me in jail, separated my family, and ultimately made me a single mom.

Although not registered patients my husband and I often times used cannabis medicinally, and spiritually and socially in place of

alcohol.

Early on in my activism, for second-time possession of cannabis (a single plant), I served two years of probation and my husband was sentenced to the NJ Drug Court program. Unfortunately for us, this proved to be a very dangerous situation as almost four years into the program my husband died in an accident fulfilling the intense program requirements.

My children and I are now without their father, we are on some public assistance programs, and we may become homeless due to this, despite me working two jobs. Today is actually five years since his death.

We grew cannabis because we couldn't afford it at prohibition prices, which sadly is about the same prices as those at state licensed Alternative Treatment Centers (ATCs) now.

This punishment did not fit the crime. My family did not deserve that and cannabis has no place in Drug Court where judges dangerously play doctors.

I'm very sad to see that the cannabis legalization legislation did not allow for adults or even patients to grow their own personal cannabis. To me and many others, home grow provisions are the most important and basic measure of equity and that it's being cautioned against by industry lobbyists is concerning.

See: For medical cannabis patients the situation is dire

<https://www.insidernj.com/medical-cannabis-patients-situation-dire/>

In 2020, the people of New Jersey voted to end prohibition and legalize cannabis, yet growing even one plant at home is still a felony criminal offense, which I feel goes against the intent of the voters and the social justice intent of the law.

While I understand that the Cannabis Regulatory Commission (CRC) does not have authority to implement a home growing program at this time, given the reporting provisions in the CREAMM Act, I believe it's possible for you to make recommendations to the legislature and governor for establishing and maintaining regulatory guidelines for legal personal home growing.

Absent that provision and as a person harmed by prohibition like this, my biggest concern is for people like me who've been financially incapacitated by cannabis prohibition and may have a hard time affording adult-use or medicinal cannabis. I can't afford medical cannabis now let alone afford to start a business, so I'm very much concerned with what the price of legal cannabis will be.

Given this situation, I also advocate for those harmed by prohibition to be prioritized in the legal industry. When it comes to equitable licensing strategies, I agree with guidelines put forth by the ACLU of NJ and am thankful to see their adoption for the most part in your regulations set forth today.

Another legislative issue with the CREAMM Act that I hope you can advise the legislature on and take into considerations in regulating, is the residency requirement for micro-business licensees which makes municipality acceptance crucial to the success

of micro-business licensing and fulfilling the social equity purpose of the law. Many municipalities have already opted out leaving many prospective applicants concerned they'll have to move as there's no guarantee the municipality will opt back in.

Many patients registered in the state's medical cannabis program now have years of experience turning their flower into usable products and they're eager to use these skills to be a part of the industry they helped build, so I believe there should be a place for them in it, especially when it comes to consumption lounges. Many patients not only feel isolated by their conditions, but also often times by use of their medicine which is still greatly stigmatized, and like many other provisions in the compassionate use law, they've been waiting a very long time to have a safe place to meet and support others in the community.

Like in many other states, it's typically patients who initially build the industry and have extended experience with the plant and while many of them are minorities, women, disabled veterans, and those with records for previous cannabis crimes who should be considered, it may be helpful for long-standing and/or disabled registered patients to have an added level of value as applicants.

Local woman helping others through Missouri's medical marijuana licensing process <https://fox4kc.com/news/local-attorney-teams-up-with-missouri-woman-helping-people-understand-how-to-get-medical-marijuana-licenses/>

Regulations should see that micro-business licensing especially with consumption lounges is viable for equity applicants and patients seeking licenses. Also, the commission should advise municipalities on the importance of accepting these establishments to better support patients in the medical program and also allow renters and residents of public housing to legally and safely consume cannabis. I hope this provision also finally allows for sampling by consumers.

In other concerns about access to medical cannabis, I'm still hearing from some patients that they're having trouble accessing their medical cannabis in hospitals, even during extended stays and with protocols.

I'm also concerned with the acceptance and use of medical cannabis in Medical Assisted Treatment programs and participants having continued access through affordability and availability.

Further, in your position as regulators I hope you discourage the use of Drug Courts as a more compassionate way to punish cannabis felons. Forced rehabilitation of cannabis, which has been proven to be many times safer than alcohol, can have dangerous, devastating effects.

Medical cannabis patient, Jeff Oakes, who before his death met with Executive Director Brown and who had a recommendation for an unlimited supply of cannabis for his late stage cancer, argued for patient home grow since he could not reasonably or affordably supply it. He also advocated for medical cannabis to be covered by insurance.

Although there are provisions in Jake Honig's law to supply medicinal cannabis at a reasonable or reduced price and even at no charge to those who've demonstrated financial hardship, given the number of patients and amount of cannabis this may include and funding available, it could take some before you could enact that, but I hope it is something you will be implementing ASAP.

I've also been requested by some patients to inquire about you addressing quality issues at the state's largest medical cannabis provider. Some patients are concerned about products they've previously consumed and their health conditions. Please make sure that bad product repeat offenders are more closely monitored and reprimanded.

Many provisions to expand access have yet to be implemented, and while it's been reported that there's no shortages of cannabis, there have been ATC imposed limits on what patients can purchase and what they offer. While I'm thankful for the double verification adopted for ATCs serving the adult-use market, patients are concerned about continuity and availability of medical cannabis in the race to adult-use sales.

Regarding regulatory sales limits, THC limits, and packaging, I'll refer to testimony given by Ken Wolski of the Coalition for Medical Marijuana of New Jersey.

\* Any edible, inhaled or topical product of any strength should be allowed as long as it is properly produced, tested, labelled and packaged.

\* CMMNJ endorses the labeling recommendations of Doctors for Cannabis Regulation (DFCR). These recommendations can be found at "Setting the Standard for Cannabis Labeling" <https://dfcr.org/labeling/>

\* Anything that patients need should be available to them, including a wide variety of edible products and full extract oils which are important for a number of reasons

I also encourage use of sustainable packaging if and when possible.

Other provisions and considerations for licenses and use

Vince Laird of Monmouth County Cares proposes using micro-business licenses as co-ops and collectives made up of homeless veterans who can provide medical cannabis for themselves and as a way to support housing for said veterans.

Ken Wolski of the Coalition for Medical Marijuana of New Jersey proposes that prisoners currently serving time in New Jersey correctional facilities be allowed to access and produce their own medicinal cannabis for use within the facility.

Adam Umansky proposes churches and congregations that use cannabis for religious purpose be legally protected for possession, manufacture, and use along with having lenient limits on THC.

Lastly, I'd like the commission to consider how native tribes in the state may get involved as they have in many other states. Unlike NY and CT, tribes in NJ have not come out for cannabis industry in the state. This may be due to the fact that they've only regained their tribal status as of 2019 after multiple lawsuits and they may be inexperienced or leery of joining the industry.

See: <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/ramapough-lenape-and-powhatan-renape-nations-of-new-jersey-have-state-recognition-reaffirmed>

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jo Anne Zito  
Coalition for Medical Marijuana of New Jersey, Inc.

Jerry Segovia  
(Paterson, NJ)

8/19/2021

Greetings Commissioners,  
I'm writing to you today because I'm very thankful for the equity & regulations rules you have set in place for the state of New Jersey. You guys have worked very hard to put together what our population deserves. My name is Jerry Segovia, I live in Paterson NJ for the past 25 years, I'm Ecuadorian immigrant minority who arrived in the United States at 9 years old. I've attended the Paterson city Council meetings for the cannabis opting and licensing. I have provided the City of Paterson and presentations/letters to the mayor and entire council for this opportunity and business proposal. I've worked in the medical cannabis industry for TerrAscend.  
I have cultivated and manufactured medical Cannabis products for NJ. I have 11 years of chemical industry quality control, compliance, regulations and R&D experience. We can work with high quality suppliers to start a cultivation or manufacturing operation as soon as possible. I'm the only owner or applicant for this license and consideration request. I've got an "angel investor" who is willing to allocate \$500k in start-up investment. I'm also working with my family to convince the financial institutions to match our current investment. Hopefully, totaling almost \$1 million initial investment.  
I've been incarcerated twice for cannabis in the past, for less than a gram of cannabis.  
I spent 3 days in jail, lost my job and was hit with almost \$2000 worth of fines.  
  
We can work together with Paterson so that we can move forward with this business proposal. The city of Paterson never replies to any email or letter.  
  
Please help us. My team consist of an ex co-worker who has been doing Human resource for the chemical industry for over 2 decades.  
  
She will help me hire the necessary team that will be more than 70% Patersonians of minority groups.  
  
I hope to hear from you soon, I hope you can help Paterson shine too.

Lauren Klatsky

8/19/2021

I am flabbergasted by the social equity business guidelines which give priority to ownership by people with prior marijuana convictions. I believe in giving people a second chance and helping them get back on their feet after release from prison, but all I can say to the commission is "Really?" People with convictions are already eligible to get their records cleared. Why do you find it necessary to have a quid pro quo policy that encourages people most vulnerable to lawlessness and addiction to own & operate a business selling the controlled substance on their record? Not to mention that many may be unaware that they even have an addiction. The legalization movement has normalized marijuana to such an extent that many uninformed citizens have no idea how potent it can be. I know because my ex-husband was an addict in denial.  
  
If the state government feels so strongly about social equity then legislation to help people with prior convictions get jobs or start businesses should fall on the Department of Business and Economic Development and Office that support small businesses. There are so many other ways to give people a leg up than to give them a license to sell drugs.

		<p>I really hope you will consider the fact that the best way to help the most vulnerable and economically disadvantaged individuals in New Jersey may be by passing the buck to someone else.</p> <p>I appreciate your time and consideration.</p> <p>Lauren Klatsky</p>
<p>Mark Dingelstedt</p>	<p>8/19/2021</p>	<p>Dear Members of the CRC Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. Over the past few years I have talked with dozens of doctors and other health care professionals about the benefits of Medical Marijuana. It is clear to me that most doctors are uninformed or just not interested and hesitant to talk about it. This is understandable because most of today’s doctors learned nothing about cannabis in Med School.</p> <p>A Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis published a report in September of 2017. It revealed the following “Curriculum deans at 101 medical schools completed surveys about marijuana education. Just over two-thirds said their graduates weren't prepared to use medical marijuana as a treatment. One-quarter said their graduates weren't even able to answer questions about medical marijuana.”</p> <p>It also added that “A look at the Association of Medical Colleges database revealed that only 9 percent of medical schools taught their students about medical marijuana.”</p> <p>With over 110,00 Medical Marijuana patients in the state and a Rec market that is about to take off, it is imperative that doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other health care professionals learn about Cannabis and the Endocannabinoid system. It is time for New Jersey to lead and set the benchmark for the rest of the country and include Cannabis Curriculum in all of our medical and pharmacy colleges</p> <p>Evaluation of medical marijuana topics in the PharmD curriculum: A national survey of schools and colleges of pharmacy <a href="https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30527869/">https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30527869/</a></p> <p>Physicians-in-training are not prepared to prescribe medical marijuana <a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5648595/">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5648595/</a></p> <p>Thank You Mark Dingelstedt</p>
<p>Shelree Stevenson</p>	<p>8/20/2021</p>	<p>How do we get information about the equity program that assists micro businesses in obtaining the capital to cover the fees for applying for the growers license? How do we get information regarding the parameters for the micro business ?</p>
<p>Lincoln Adam Gratton</p>	<p>8/20/2021</p>	<p>Hello again, I want to thank you for listening to me the last time on Identification at the A.T.C's. I have not gone back to rise for fear of being turned away because D.M.V is a mess. Today I will be focusing on social equity and the research I have seen these past few months. Netflix had on of my favorite shows on it, Patriot Act with Hasan Minaj. In this show various topics were</p>

	<p>brought up, cannabis equity was one of the topics. The cannabis market is rigged he stated. As some may know African Americans make up 13% of the United States population, as well as 40% of all incarceration. If we shift our focus to the legal market today, leading MSO's have at least stake in 19 or so other states. The leaders of these groups are all white. As a matter of fact nationwide survey states 81% of legal cannabis license are held by whites. Most African Americans cannot compete with these MSO's. Latinos and African Americans only have a 5.7% and 4.3% respective ownership in the New industry. The laws around cannabis are changing but who they allow to participate and access the market is not. Also on YouTube the Dentons page had an indept video on the impact social equity programs have for African-Americans. Wanda Jones a African-American woman in the Colorado cannabis market states in great detail who these programs are helping. As I am learning about social equity the more rhe muddied the water seems. As a cannabis entrepreneur hopeful I would only ask that you please take a look into what I have sited in this letter. I want to thank you for the unbelievable burden you have all undertaken to set up a comprehensive cannabis business program. This isn't easy and I have been a part of FBLA, I understand what it takes to set policy and guidelines. Thank you all for everything you do and I would love to speak to someone personally about all of these findings.</p>
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