

New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission
Public In-Writing Comments
SEEF Hearings: January 2023

Name: Isaiah Friday

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email address: itf1988@gmail.com

Comment: Tax revenues from cannabis should be reinvested into communities that have a high number of individuals with criminal records. Those with criminal records for cannabis and other eligible related charges that are eligible for expungement should reap the benefits the most from cannabis revenue. Since those charges or records often prevented them from obtaining gainful employment, I think we should offer them a free opportunity to receive an expungement of their entire eligible record. They are those who were the victims of the failed drug war. Since those charges are preventing them from moving forward and also preventing them from accessing the resources to pay for their own attorney for record expungement, I think this is the perfect time to offer them that opportunity with cannabis tax revenue. This would be a one time eligibility. It would be beneficial to them, their families and our communities. We would most likely never have to worry about them re offending or committing more crimes. After they receive this free one time expungement, they would gain access to the jobs and careers that they prefer rather than just those that they only qualified for based upon their existing record. This would help heal our families and communities one step at a time.

Name: Michelle Geisler

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: The shift to a recreational market for cannabis is a time when unspoken messages are being deciphered by our community, and youth. It is within our collective responsibilities to make every effort to support the paradigm-shift of recreational cannabis use in our state. Cannabis tax revenue should first develop programs and tools to assist our communities in learning how to recognize cannabis dependencies and abuse, and to create programs that help to support recovery as well as to educate our community (including youth) of the effects of cannabis use. Let's think of our New Jersey 20 years ahead; like cigarette and alcohol use, or even sugar consumption - there is a responsibility to teach people about the benefits (and why we accept cannabis in our culture) and, more importantly, the drawbacks and risks to misuse, unregulated markets, and overconsumption. Our children ARE watching and we must demonstrate responsibility and set the understanding of good examples. I am not making an argument against cannabis, I am currently developing a career in the NJ Cannabis market, but I hope to have the support from my state to keep it healthy and well, and to consciously "roll-out" tools, programs, or services to support the rapidly changing culture we are, in-part, creating together.

Name: Linda Milano

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: lindamilano@comcast.net

Comment: Legalizing cannabis was a huge mistake and will lead to more traffic accidents and more substance abuse disorders. Cannabis tax revenue should be used for medical care and help for those struggling with substance abuse and their families that often need counseling. It should also be used for programs to prevent driving under the influence of cannabis.

Name: Angelique McKenzie

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: angelique.mckenzie@ymail.com

Comment: As a long time resident of New Jersey, a recreational user for pleasure and aiding in my treatment of mental & physical health issues but not deemed severely disabled by the state and living in chronic poverty, these are my recommendations for what can be done moving forward on the matter.

1. Legalize home growing for personal use.
2. Additional affordability options, the current rate for goods is too high for those who use cannabis for maintaining or managing our health and live in poverty.
3. Cover costs of the application and licenses for medical cannabis purchasing by health insurances including Medicaid & Medicare, or minimally for product discounts for recipients of Medicaid & Medicare at 20% off or more for those not deemed by the state as disabled but have chronic health conditions.
4. Provide dispensaries in Northern Ocean County for recreational use and medical use cannabis.
5. Use funds for a basic income/UBI program for NJ residents: Help lift people out of poverty. Prevent homelessness. Improve mental health. Reduce crime. Reduce abusive relationships. Help people with climate emergencies. Restore hope. Etc. Show that every human is valued. Providing monthly or quarterly income payments to all NJ residents but most importantly to residents in need.

These suggestions are based on my personal issues and usage of cannabis. Thank you for the opportunity to provide me with a way to share this statement and for your consideration of my suggestions.

Sincerely

Angelique McKenzie

PS I had submitted this same comment to the upcoming 1/12/23 CRC meeting, in error. Not realizing it wasn't the correct one. My apologies.

Name: Judith Shaw

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: She_luvs_da_blues@yahoo.com

Subject Matter: Fed up tax payers

Comment: If the money is used for anything it should be used to cut property taxes in the state of New Jersey. Our taxes are some of the worst in the nation and we don't get a whole lot back for it. They need to take a good portion of this money and use it to cut property taxes by at least 40%. Every time there's an election, that's the biggest thing that they try to sell to us voters. They're going to lower property taxes. They're going to cut the property taxes well you know what it hasn't happened now it's time to take some of this money and give the taxpayers. The people living in New Jersey a break on their property taxes.

<p>Name: Blake Allen Feder Affiliated Organization: n/a Email: Bawesomer123@gmail.com Comment: Please continue to have state parks be free for the Summer. But state parks should only be free for NJ residents with a valid NJ license. Island Beach State Park would get packed by out-of-staters taking advantage of the rule and NJ residents would lose out.</p>
<p>Name: Desiree Walkowicz Affiliated Organization: n/a Email: n/a Comment: Homeless, Water protection for Barnegat Bay, Silver Bay, The Toms River, More animal rights protection, mental health, land acquisition to prevent over development gun control, reduce taxes since this is gravy money for NJ... List can go on...</p>
<p>Name: Brian Bagdan Affiliated Organization: n/a Email: bbagdan43@gmail.com Comment: Lower our ridiculously high property taxes.</p>
<p>Name: Michael Lefkovitz Affiliated Organization: n/a Email: mlefkovitz82@yahoo.com Comment: A NJ resident 58 years. Pot smoker 45 years. Forget the nonsense!!! Murphy campaigns legal weed money goes to pay back public workers pension fund. Politicians suck. Changing to independent and will spread the word faster than COVID. EXPUNGE MY RECORD !!!!! MORONS. WEED IS CHEAPER AT MY NEIGHBORS HOUSE. THE BLACK MARKET FLOURISHES. I PAY \$150 OZ. DISPENSARY IS \$560 DO THE MATH MURPH !!!WE THE PEOPLE 🍌🍌🍌</p>
<p>Name: Mark Heiart Affiliated Organization: n/a Email: Markoffshore56@yahoo.com Comment: The tax revenue from pot sales should be given to home owners for PROPERTY TAX RELIEF!!</p>
<p>Name: Alice Maragliano Affiliated Organization: n/a Email: Almmaggie @comcast.net Comment: Reduce Property Taxes-for Property Owners Only!!!</p>
<p>Name: Leslie Farr Affiliated Organization: n/a Email: lfarr829@gmail.com Comment: Lowering our property taxes</p>
<p>Name: Mike Anderson Affiliated Organization: n/a Email: j.loughton@yahoo.com Comment: Procure more open spaces and park lands as well as saving indigenous animals, trees, and plants.</p>
<p>Name: David chong Affiliated Organization: n/a</p>

Email: n/a

Subject Matter: Property taxes

Comment: Lower property taxes I am a senior person living on social security please or I will have to leave the state thank you

Name: Paul Belkin

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: info@bestaudioguy.com

Comment: Money should be invested in the town that sells it. Those towns that refuse to sell get zero funds. Funding should be use for town improvements like parks and outdoor space.

Name: Lori McTamney

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: lablueeyes62@yahoo.com

Comment: For more options in the addiction crisis. Scholarship more people without insurance into any treatment center and provide mental health support.

Name: Herlando Yuen

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: herlandoyuen@gmail.com

Comment: Infrastructure. My town have a 5 year wait-list to fix potholes and replace roads. My street is full of pot holes where it is dangerous to drive and very uncomfortable to walkthrough (no sidewalk). This will improve many people's lives and cause less damage to personal property.

Name: Kevin P Slattery Sr.

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: jajb@optonline.com

Comment: All proceeds should go to States debt.

Name: Deborah Ulrich

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: debiulrich@gmail.com

Comment: Use weed money to give tax relief and enhanced low-cost or free medical services for seniors. There are many in my 55+ community who need to use food banks in order to survive because the cost of living and NJ taxes are unmanageable on their social security benefits. Relief from taxes and other free or reduced fee services would greatly help them. Ocean and Burlington counties have large populations of seniors who are struggling.

Name: Nicholas Latham

Affiliated Organization: PAAD

Email: Nicholas67novas@gmail.com

Comment: It's impossible to get quality Dental care from a Specialist. It's very expensive and being disabled with Medicare advantage plans doesn't help at all, they only want to pull your teeth and not perform root canal procedures and get crowns. I worked my entire life. Now I'm treated as a 2nd class citizen. I currently have PAAD which helps with prescription medication.

Name: Linda Capelli

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: lindakcapelli@hotmail.com

Comment: Use the money for upgrading school buildings, food offerings and other educational needs. Our elementary school (over 100 years old) and middle school do not have air conditioning. Many of the bathrooms are dreadfully outdated (you have to hold the faucet handle for the water to run) and do not even have enough soap. If all schools have these improved updates, ALL children can learn and flourish in a comfortable environment and feel like they are cared about, not like they are insignificant and neglected attending a prison-like institution because they are not in affluent areas.

Name: Brian Anthony DiVincenzo

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: briandivincenzo8@gmail.com

Comment: I am writing to suggest that a price gouging law be set into place. These dispensaries may be booming in a sense. But I and many others do not use the dispensaries because of they're ridiculously high prices for cannabis products that are not worth the prices they charge. Also Russian Oligarchs have about an 80% stake in Curaleaf. That should not be allowed in this country, especially with the invasion of Ukraine. I am writing pleading that there are some way to lower prices. I will continue to boycott the dispensaries in NJ. I will continue to advise all cannabis users I know(and I know A LOT) to boycott all dispensaries in the state until something is done about the price gouging. The state would double their revenue if the consumer weren't forced to pay obscene prices. They would spend more if they got more for their money. There's no justification to charge what they do. I can get all the products they sell at literally half the price. So I plead with the state to intervention on the consumers behalf. Do a survey on how many customers are satisfied with the quantity they get for they're money. I'm willing to bet no one is. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Brian A. DiVincenzo

Name: Daniel Lewis row ing

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: danbrowning99@gmail.com

Comment: If the revenues from sales of marijuana were earmarked for education, it could provide some property tax relief for NJ homeowners.

Name: Chris Scoles

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: cscoles@gmail.com

Comment: Lower my property taxes with your weed money

Name: Katherine Linda Goerke

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: dana226@optonline.net

Comment: Reduce property tax. I am on a fixed income and do not qualify for a senior tax freeze for my property tax. My property taxes are approximately \$17,000 per year. I do not receive COLA from my pension and it is becoming increasingly difficult to meet the rising cost of my property taxes. I may be forced to leave NJ even though I have given the state 49 quality years of teaching in the public school system. Since the government does not see its way clear to give state employees a cola raise each year then our property taxes should be reduced. I no longer have children in the public school system so I feel that my tax rate should be less than those families that do have children of school age. NJ is driving all seniors to leave the state because they can no longer afford to live here.

<p>Name: Danielle F. Affiliated Organization: n/a Email: ddferroni@yahoo.com Comment: Use it for drug rehabilitation, mental health, schools, animal conservation.</p>
<p>Name: Thomas Rebele Affiliated Organization: n/a Email: reb1957@verizon.net Comment: Utilize the revenue generated from the sales to lower property taxes throughout the state</p>
<p>Name: Anthony Squires Affiliated Organization: n/a Email: Trucking06@gmail.com Comment: Lower our state taxes on goods , fuel , parkway and turnpike.</p>
<p>Email: Greg Pantos Affiliated Organization: n/a Email: Calio656565@gmail.com Comment: To stop hard drugs and crime</p>
<p>Name: Janet Jackson Affiliated Organization: n/a Email: n/a Comment: Research, rehabilitation and charity.</p>
<p>Name: James Tomie Affiliated Organization: n/a Email: n/a Comment: It should be used to lower property taxes</p>
<p>Name: Ida Marie Nagy Affiliated Organization: n/a Email: imnagy52@gmail.com Comment: Put back the cost of living increases for state pensions. Christie took this away. As a result I only received 1 cost of living increase in the 15 years since I retired from the State Health Department.</p>
<p>Name: Todd Borstein Affiliated Organization: n/a Email: n/a Comment: How lowering our</p>
<p>Name: Mark Gaglioti Affiliated Organization: New Jersey resident Email: Markgaglioti@aol.com Comment: This so called marijuana windfall of tax amounts to pennies in our state budget. This money should be used to fund a new mental health initiative and a think tank to end homelessness if you haven't put two and two together they are the same issue.</p>

Name: Stan Greenberg

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: sgreen2887@verizon.net

Comment: I would like revenue from Canabis sales to go toward Property taxes in New Jersey

Name: Michael P Iacono

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: mri5661@yahoo.com

Comment: Put the money towards helping homeowners reduce their property taxes ESPECIALLY for Senior Citizens. NJ has highest property taxes in country..

Name: Adam Mitnick

Affiliated Organization: None. Simple tax paying New Jersey resident

Email: franticsportsfan@gmail.com

Comment: What to do with marijuana tax? How about give all New Jersey residents, who have lived and worked in NJ for at LEAST 10yrs Free or Major Discounts on Health Insurance. Why do all of the minorities and asylum seekers get free health care, when hard working NJ residents can't even afford the lowest good health care plan?? Health care for USA residents should be free of charge for everything, simply use the marijuana tax money earned from each state. Stop being greedy money grubbing politicians and start being human beings.

Name: Nichelle Pace

Affiliated Organization: Camden Business Association

Email: npace@camdenbusiness.com

Comment: I think reinvestment of the Social Equity excise fee should be prioritized and allocated to:

- Specifically Black-owned small businesses and start-up grants and programs (both Cannabis and non-cannabis related / ancillary businesses) including supporting EDOs/BDOs that service Black and minority small businesses and entrepreneurs
- Programs SMWVBEs in underserved neighborhoods and impact zones
- Financial literacy programming in Black and minority neighborhoods
- Grants/funding to organizations that focus on social justice issues
- College Scholarships to children of incarcerated parents
- Programs that create local community commercial and residential land banks and community economic development

Name: Mike Venezia

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Bergwest@gmail.com

Comment: Please fix the roads. They are horrible

Name: Benjamin Kappler

Affiliated Organization: NJEA

Email: n/a

Comment: Many schools have been devastated in recent years by annual state aid reduction. The school funding formula should be adjusted so that no school loses state aid. The cost of this adjustment would be best funded by recreational marijuana tax revenue.

Name: John viteritto

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Jviteritto44@comcast.net

Comment: Please, please, please! Use the money to fund our schools which would in turn, lower our property taxes.

Thank you

Name: Somattie Guman

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: With the increased squeeze on the middle class, living paycheck to paycheck has become the norm. The tax revenue coming in from cannabis sales should be used to decrease property tax burdens. While we have the NJ Anchor program, we still have some of the highest property taxes in the country. Anything to lower property tax in addition to the benefits from the NJ Anchor should seriously be considered. What significant, permanent dent has been made to decrease property tax? Nothing. We have the opportunity to do it now.

Name: Cailyn Bruno

Affiliated Organization: NJIT Center for Community Systems

Email: cailyn.bruno@njit.edu

Comment: Money should be used to set up grants and low-interest loans as well as technical assistance programs for black and minority developers to invest in brownfields redevelopment in distressed and disinvested communities historically targeted by the drug war. Brownfields are contaminated or suspected contaminated sites that are abandoned and underutilized. These properties can be cleaned up and turned into community needed assets. Projects driven by the community, as opposed to outside developers, reduce displacement and gentrification that widens the wealth gap and has cascading negative impacts. Minority developers need capital for these projects to enter the playing field. The proposed program would improve the health outcomes, make communities more sustainable and climate resilient, provide economic opportunity, and facilitate social equity in the areas hit hardest by the drug war.

Name: Brian Molinari

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Brian.a.molinari@gmail.com

Comment: I hope that we would look to states like Colorado who have experience in just this area. Three uses for the revenue come to mind. Education, with public schools needing funding much more than private or magnet schools. It appears that about 38 cents of our tax dollars go to education and that could be drastically reduced. Infrastructure, roads and bridges which are used by anyone in the state. Health and Human Services, would also be a great use for the revenue with an aging population and mental health issues in the forefront recently. Combined, I believe those two sectors accounted for about 19 cents of every taxpayer's dollar.

Name: Michele C

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: Taxes should be used to lower property taxes as well as raises for educators and teacher aides in the state. It should be used to help the stressors of the middle class in any and all ways possible.

<p>Name: Kathryn A Thomas Affiliated Organization: n/a Email: glasskatRN@hotmail.com Comment: Proceeds from the sale of cannabis should be used to pay restitution to the victims of motor vehicle accidents caused by drivers impaired by the use of cannabis.</p>
<p>Name: Marilyn Jensen Affiliated Organization: n/a Email: mjensen1043@gmail.com Comment: Senior resources</p>
<p>Name: Deborah L. Simpson Affiliated Organization: n/a Email: dsimpson1313@gmail.com Comment: The tax should be used to start legislation to stop senior citizens from having to pay taxes on social security and their pensions.</p>
<p>Name: Pete Ciambone Affiliated Organization: n/a Email: peteciambone@gmail.com Comment: Cannabis revenue should be used to lower NJ property taxes.</p>
<p>Name: Lorraine Tooley Affiliated Organization: n/a Email: lorrainemtooley@gmail.com Comment: Property tax relief for seniors.</p>
<p>Name: Caroline Hurley Affiliated Organization: n/a Email: carolinemhurley@gmail.com Comment: Use the funds to help feed the starving, sick & poor. Donate it ALL to food banks.</p>
<p>Name: Winifred Smith-Jenkins Affiliated Organization: Zadie's of the Oranges Email: dirwinismith@gmail.com Comment: I believe cannabis revenue should be used to fund childcare as a public good for all New Jersey families.</p>
<p>Name: Karen Mayer Affiliated Organization: n/a Email: Kmayer220@comcast.net Comment: The cannabis tax revenue should go to public schools. Thank you!</p>
<p>Name: Jessica Ferry Affiliated Organization: n/a Email: jmr0808@gmail.com Comment: I think money from cannabis should be used in a public education fund to revamp our schools. Things like: infrastructure, books, supplies, lead & asbestos abatement. Many public schools even in wealthy areas are falling apart physically. We need to focus on healthy environments in school and basic elements of education like</p>

books. (No money should go towards technology in schools however, we already allocate too much money here in my opinion). In 2023, it's completely outrageous we still have lead & asbestos around our kids, leaking roofs and crumbling walls.

Name: Sheri Gildersleeve

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: gild2@msn.com

Comment: These monies should be considered for retired police/ fireman pension COLA. With inflation, these retirees are losing the value of their pension due to high cost of living increases. This will directly benefit the economy overall and help to curb the exodus of retirees to tax friendlier states.

Name: Denise Cole

Affiliated Organization: Community of Newark New Jersey

Email: coledenise807@gmail.com

Comment: I believe the money should be use to move charters Schools out the same budget that the Public Schools are funded out. Because Charters are not constitutionally based and they are legislatively created. Both the cannabis money coming into New Jersey and the gambling pot money that comes into New Jersey can find the charter school proportion and fully fun the traditional Public School the title one programs and resources for special education children in New Jersey.

Name: LouAnn Rounseville

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Lrouns@gmail.com

Comment: I think the money raised through taxes on legal cannabis should go toward mental health. Specifically, I think a hot line staffed by certified therapists where people can call and speak to a counselor for free. I realize we have National suicide hotlines, but we NEED phone contacts where people can talk through their problems when they're NOT suicidal, not just get referrals to therapists. Many people with insurance cannot afford the copay to seek counseling. Monies also need to go to helping addicts who've done rehab go into a halfway house where they have some freedom but still have a support net and this support helps them get jobs.

Name: James Wilson

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: jim@wilsonrx.com

Comment: Cannabis in NJ is mostly unregulated unlike PA where each package has contents clearly labeled and patients name, NJ needs a better quality control of what is being sold

Name: Xhafer Lita

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Xlita28@hotmail.com

Comment: The money raised by Cannabis should go towards the Education of Special Needs and Children with Disabilities. With the rise in ASD diagnosis in NJ a fair and equal education is getting more and more not attainable. Also good luck being a parent looking for after care for your child. The constant statement that is given is "Sorry not for your children ". My wife and I have 2 ASD children and it's about time the State and Federal see the disparity in education and after care for all these children. But I am sure the money will wind up going to the sports teams to fund a renovation or a dome. Like the NFL Giants and Jets need State Welfare.

Name: sarah renninger

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: sarah.renninger@verizon.net

Comment: Use the money for homeless shelters and, or affordable housing for the working poor.

Name: Kristin Azer

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: azerkristin@gmail.com

Comment: Caninas tax money should be utilized to reduce local taxes collected for school boards to help alleviate the drastic increase in 2022 in Jersey City. It should also be utilized for expanding school budgets to assist in transforming high need school systems toward equity.

Name: Martin Placenti

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: rudyp@verizon.net

Comment: Money from cannabis tax should be used for property tax relief

Name: Nancy Visocki

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: I think that the revenue from cannabis sales should be spent on drug rehabilitation programs for all socioeconomic groups.

Name: Lorraine Blomquist

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: cyndall2002@yahoo.com

Comment: HELP THE HOMELESS

Name: Alisha Hart

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: alishahart51@yahoo.com

Comment: I think a portion of the money should go to a education grant for those making 65k or less a year. It should also go towards fertility treatment for those who desire children but need some assistance. Lastly, some of the money should go homeless prevention programs. It's not fair people have to live in unsafe shelters for two years before being housed. The Rescue mission of Trenton is receiving about \$400 a night for a shelter bed. One shelter bed is costing the county almost \$2800 a week. That money can go towards assisting an individual with a home of their own. People shouldn't have to live in abandoned buildings because they can't find safe affordable housing due to their credit. Lastly some of the money should go to on the job training programs. These programs are vital because it allows people to earn while they earn giving them an opportunity to support themselves while pursuing career goals.

Name: Susan Wilkos

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: swilkos11@gmail.com

Comment: I think the revenue from marijuana should be used to lower property taxes as New Jersey propytxes are so high.

Name: William Tirri

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: acmwtirri@yahoo.com

Comment: The Cannabis revenue should be used for property tax relief only!

Name: Gabriele Steriti

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: sevnty6@gmail.com

Comment: All cannabis tax revenue should go to eliminating homelessness in the state of NJ. At the very least, there should not be any veterans who reside in our state without a place to live.

Name: Einar Gunnar Einarsson

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: einarg.home@gmail.com

Comment: Make it affordable, or even FREE, for people in need to avail themselves of mental health services.

Name: Michael J Nobil

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: michaeljmobile@verizon.net

Comment: Make living in NJ affordable. Provide property tax relief. The Anchor Rebate program was a good start. Perhaps expand upon it. Or, lower the gasoline tax.

Name: JoAnn White

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: bobbyjow@hotmail.com

Comment: Should be used to pay down property taxes in every county

Name: Jennifer Hand

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: jennifer.l.hand@me.com

Comment: I would like to see the money go back into the community, either as added funds for schools or to build community centers that benefit all members of the community.

Name: Kevin Daly

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Krdaly@optonline.net

Comment: Property tax relief!

Name: Rhonda Johnson

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Cam6302@yahoo.com

Comment: Use the cannabis \$\$ to bring down property tax.

Name: Nancy Shortway

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: nshortway@ramsey.k12.nj.us

Comment: Pay back the teachers pension fund that the government borrowed money from many years ago and never paid back.

Name: Aimee Biggs

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: aimleighbiggs@gmail.com

Comment: Cannabis revenue should be directed in part to cancer research (preventive measures, treatment, and finding cures). It should also be utilized to fund education about/resources for healthy lifestyle choices (diet, exercise, sleep, and social connection) and mental/emotional health/relationship counseling. (couples, family, and parenting). Most counselors still do not accept insurance; This is a major problem in the United States, and stigma still exists surrounding emotional and mental health. More resources need to be in place as PREVENTIVE measures that are easily and readily available to everyone of every age.

Name: Antonio Caruso

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: ac31782@yahoo.com

Comment: The massive revenue that has and will be generated from cannabis sales in the state of New Jersey should go towards lowering property tax. They have gotten out of hand and this is the most obvious and popular ways to divert funds for this.

Name: Paola Martinez-Naranjo

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: Marihuana revenue should be divided among a general fund, programs that support criminal justice reform efforts, substance abuse programs, and public health and safety programs.

Name: Adam Zalewski

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Zalewski2000@yahoo.com

Comment: Reduce our taxes in nj. Property tax relief, sales tax relief, lower the gas tax. Use the money to give back to your people to make life more affordable for everyone in this high tax state. Same with the gambling money revenue also.

Name: Yalitza Pons

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Ypons2021@gmail.com

Comment: I have a 8 year old son. Now he is being raised with his surroundings as to where they smoke weed freely. I can't even avoid the smell bc it's everywhere. What happen to having conditions and rules that need to be followed if weed is legal. Why am I walking into my building and all you smell is weed? Why can't I go to the store bc they are openly sitting or standing outside the store smoking weed? Now we are letting the kids know this is okay to do? My beliefs and teachings at home is going out the window bc the outside world over powers my beliefs and teachings at home. This is super sad. It all comes down to money. Politics.

Name: Michael Kelleher
Affiliated Organization: n/a
Email: shoremike2006@yahop.com
Comment: Revenue should be used to fund teacher pensions.

Name: James Morlock
Affiliated Organization: n/a
Email: JAMorlock@outlook.com
Comment: I suggest Cannabis tax revenue fees be used to eliminate NJ Motor Vehicle department convenience fee surcharges for renewing drivers licenses an motor vehicle registrations online. The state should be trying to reduce the cost of processing motor vehicle documents via surface mail by encouraging people to renew their DMV documents online. The state is discouraging online renewals by charging extra fees for it.

Name: Judith Worgess
Affiliated Organization: In His Image Justice Coalition
Email: ihjusticenow@gmail.com
Comment: Human trafficking is an exceedingly egregious crime that continues to grow in all our communities. Police departments need training and funding to be effective in stopping this blight on our communities. I suggest funds from the sale of cannabis be used to develop county human trafficking task forces that can assist local police departments to keep our children and vulnerable in our communities safe.

Name: Marshall Kitchell
Affiliated Organization: n/a
Email: marshall.kitchell@gmail.com
Comment: I would like to see some of this money go towards Drug Abuse Prevention/Education Programs and Drug Rehabilitation Programs. Also think about using this money for Education in general

Name: Walter Luzak
Affiliated Organization: n/a
Email: wluzak@verizon.net
Comment: Reduce Senior taxes so that they can live a normal retired life in New Jersey

Name: Barbara Garcia
Affiliated Organization: n/a
Email: bargar12513@gmail.com
Comment: Let's use to help our homeless and mentally impaired population.

Name: Donald Rubino
Affiliated Organization: n/a
Email: trubino@ymail.com
Comment: Use any or all tax revenue to lower Board of Education taxes.

Name: Robert Tobin
Affiliated Organization: n/a
Email: ffemt12001@yahoo.com
Comment: To better fund Emergency Medical Services on a BLS level. To increase salaries and offer a pension program for the EMS professionals of NJ. State already offers it for Police and Fire career path.

Name: Kenneth Chojnacki

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: kenchojnacki@gmail.com

Comment: The funds collected should go to support low income housing initiatives.

Name: James Mancuso

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: jimimancuso@icloud.com

Comment: I think we get green with the Green \$. As we move forward New Jersey would be ahead of the curve. If we were to use the money to install free electric charging stations. Whether they be in parks parking lots. Even in people's homes. We can do so much with this money to take the burden off the shoulders of our residents. Thank you

Name: Matthew Peter Bartlett

Affiliated Organization: Democrat National Party

Email: Matthewpetebart@gmail.com

Comment: I Matthew P Bartlett believe that setting up a task force to eliminate the black market sale of marijuana would benefit the state. It would benefit the people of New Jersey too. Also setting up laboratories to develop new strains for medical and recreational use is key to the progress and development of the species.

Name: Roberto Morigi

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: robmorigi@hotmail.com

Comment: I believe the revenue generated from the tax on cannabis sales should be used to fund New Jersey's public school system.

Name: Vincent Commander

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: tcommander2005@yahoo.com

Comment: I suggest that some of the cannabis tax revenue be used to assist veterans with transportation. There are transportation agencies that provide free transportation to veteran to VA facilities. The problem is those agencies have restrictions such as time and days when transportation is provided. Which limits the veteran's usage of the free transportation. NJ Transit provides transportation daily without time limits. This would greatly help veterans that have hardships.

Name: Andrew Sidebottom

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: It should be used on training programs for people re-entering the workforce.

Name: Tracy Morigi

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: tracy110278@yahoo.com

Comment: I would like to see the revenue from the cannabis sales used toward NJ public schools

Name: Lisa Pascarello

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: lisa.pascarello@gmail.com

Comment: Please use the tax dollars to fight Opioid addiction in New Jersey. Help those people who have pain from injuries and became addicted. Very Sad! Our communities need help for the opioid addicted.

Name: Robert Lo Bue

Affiliated Organization: Visions Recovery Inc

Email: rlobue4@verizon.net

Comment: We are a not for profit organization, dedicated to recovery education and prevention from substance abuse. We represent Visions, a theatrical play on addiction and recovery that has reached more than 40,000 people with the message of Hope and Recovery from substance abuse. Over 500 volunteers have joined us, few actors here. Recovering addicts and alcoholics using the medium of theatre to convey recovery. We are recipients of the State of New Jersey Governor's Volunteer Award in the Arts and Humanities. Some of the profits from the sale of marijuana should go to treatment and recovery.

Name: Susan Cucciniello

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: scucci2@optonline.net

Comment: The Cannabis Regulatory Commission should use the social equity excise fees raised from the sale of Cannabis to pay the state's share of the Public employee's and Teacher's pensions that have been underfunded for over 20 years. These accounts need to be properly reimbursed for the funds that weren't paid for so many years.

Name: Thomas V. Fox

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: tvf40@optonline.net

Comment: I think the proceeds should be split and go to ALL New Jersey communities as each and everyone of them have been negatively affected by drugs. Giving 80% of all monies brought it to just a few large cities is just wrong! It's really that simple.

Name: Patricia Iron

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: irons@comcast.net

Comment: Please consider using at least some of the money to further shore up the pension system. Since I retired 15 years ago, I have had one small COLA increase. Inflation has been rampant the past few years, and our purchasing power has dwindled. I worked 37 years and retired with the promise of annual COLA increases, and I feel like it is past time to reinstate the same. Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Stephanie Rossi

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Rossikolby@gmail.com

Comment: I think the funds raised from cannabis tax should be used to update and repair the local government buildings that we work in. Cleaning up the mold and other mycotoxins, and updating the schools, will have a great impact on increasing the health and morale of staff and students.

Name: Carole Hirsch
Affiliated Organization: n/a
Email: cshredtee@verizon.net
Comment: Road and bridge repair

Name: Ruthann Gaspari
Affiliated Organization: n/a
Email: Ruthann2117@gmail.com
Comment: I firmly believe that the money should be used for treatment for all the people that need help from a drug addiction. I personally lost my son in 2013 to a drug overdose and I am now certified recovery coach for drugs and alcohol I firmly believe that the money would be very well spent to others in need. The amount of people dying daily from drugs is out of control.

Name: Carol Galatioto
Affiliated Organization: n/a Personal comment
Email: Carolgala@optonline.net
Comment: "The foundation of every State is the education of its youth." Diogenes Our youth need the best education possible. Math, English, science and trades should be the focus of our schools. In order to keep NJ 's education a leader the tax money should be used to educate every child the basics, the first steps of a foundation. As a 1962 Clifton HS graduate I can do math in my head because my first grade teacher made us repeat the $1 + 1 = 2$, $2 + 1 = 3$ and so forth until everyone knew addition. Everything was repeated until the foundation was set. Education from a teacher is important. See what you can do. My husband is a retired teacher. He has spent the last five months teaching the foundations of technology to high school students. They didn't know how to read a ruler! It is our belief students need to know how to do these tasks by hand before the computer does it for them. Thank you for considering my appeal for education.

Name: Linda S. Reincke-Wppds
Affiliated Organization: n/a
Email: tkt2ride@optonline.net
Comment: I would like to see some of this money to help teachers. I'm not a teacher nor was I ever one but I was a mentor to HS kids when I lived in NYC. Teachers do so much for their children and I feel they should be paid on a much higher pay scale.

Name: Al Kreitner
Affiliated Organization: n/a
Email: alkreitnernow@gmail.com
Comment: I believe the funds from cannabis sales should go to our woefully underfunded state parks from which everyone would benefit.

Name: Maureen Thurston
Affiliated Organization: n/a
Email: Mthurston06@yahoo.com
Comment: I would like to see property taxes lowered or a check given to each homeowner each year and the amount should be calculated by their annual income to make it fair across the board.

Name: Davis nugent

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Davidjnugent@gmail.com

Comment: I see four major priorities. Put 20 percent of the money toward roads and mass transit expansion. Put 35 percent toward clean energy 25 percent toward education 20 percent toward property tax relief.

Name: Cathy Kaiser

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Cathkaiser@aol.com

Comment: The cannabis tax should be used for NJs inner city schools.

Name: Chris Nastasi

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Cnastasi33@verizon.net

Comment: All monies from cannabis tax should be devoted to children services only.

Name: Beth J Birzer

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: bbirzer@comcast.net

Comment: I would like to have this money used for educational programs in the arts and physical education.

Name: Jeffrey Grayzel

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: grayzel@verizon.net

Comment: Revenue should be used to build brand new school buildings. Our education infrastructure is far too old. We need brand new state of the art school buildings to provide our kids with a proper 21st century education.

Name: Kristen Rivera

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Klynn1228@hotmail.com

Comment: Actual, real housing utilizing an authentic housing-first initiative for the homeless. not just some housing...enough housing. It must be staffed with compassionate, non judgmental, trauma-informed staff who actually model this behavior, not just completion of simple online training. Pay them well, and they will com... and they will stay

Name: Grace Bordonaro

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: grave8145@optonline.net

Comment: For addiction rehabilitation

Name: n/a

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Jrchsn6@gmail.com

Subject Matter: I think the money should go to Spanish as a Second Language classes, for adults and children alike.

Comment: The money should go to community centers and SSL classes (Spanish as a Second Language), because we are so behind the rest of the world in acknowledging that we need Spanish, because of the Spanish population in America and world wide. Secondly, it should go to the repairing of dilapidated infrastructures. Thirdly, flood control. And lastly, reduce our property taxes and pay off all student college loans, so that our children can soar without college debt.

Name: Lou rotolo

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Lour2010@live.com

Comment: Pay down the state's debt

Name: Stephen Kunen

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Skunen@gmail.com

Comment: New Jersey should use surplus tax revenue to offset residential property tax obligations by a proportionate amount; or alternatively use the funds to pay down the state debt.

Name: Quinn McDonald

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: I believe that Cannabis social equity excise fees should be used to rebuild and improve cities and neighborhoods that were destroyed by the construction of freeways. I believe that part of social equity is ensuring that people living in all areas of New Jersey have quality of life, and I believe that improving / encouraging walkability of cities by reducing car traffic and car dependency will offer more opportunity for community building, as well as more viable and efficient options for commuting to work or school. Communities of color have suffered disproportionately in the aftermath of highway construction, as evidenced by the recent initiative by NYC mayor Eric Adams to mitigate damages done by the Cross Bronx Expressway. We are in a great geographic position to expand on the great walkability and public transportation system of New York, and make our state a more equitable and accessible place for all residents.

Name: Keith Evan Harrington

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: kevanharrington@yahoo.com

Comment: Use social equity excise fee on cannabis to fund schools and remove the school tax from property taxes.

Name: Cindy Epstein

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: swimsun3@icloud.com

Comment: Since NJ has almost the highest taxes in the country...why not lower taxes. So we don't lose citizens to other states.

Name: Deborah Andersen

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: debandersen4@yahoo.com

Comment: Property tax relief. The property taxes are driving everyone out of our state

Name: Sandra Jean- Romain

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: sjeanromain@gmail.com

Comment: Support our schools! Funding so that EVERY district can afford the resources to keep their students and teachers safe! Funding for teachers to get paid appropriately for time spent working outside of their contractual obligation, including meeting, extra curriculums, completing documents ... our teachers are NOT compensated fairly for helping raise and teach our future!

Name: Michael R Strothers

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: MikeS81485@yahoo.com

Comment: I believe recreational cannabis should not be legal. You are making a profit off of a substance that is potentially still addictive and harmful no matter how much the media tries to downplay the effects of regular use. I realize my views are unpopular, however I wanted you to read it.

Name: Cathy Boon

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Cjboon@ptd.net

Comment: Use the money to help the addicted and mentally challenged.

Name: Dr. Steven Gillon

Affiliated Organization: Cliffside Medical

Email: docimgi@aol.com

Comment: "The money should be spent on addiction and recovery. The opiate epidemic in NJ is rampant. However, I don't believe that marijuana is a gateway drug.

There could be funding for independent offices offering counseling and medication for outpatients. We need help funding treatment!!!!

Call me to discuss. "

Name: Michele Ventura

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: michelecvventura@gmail.com

Comment: Helping people formerly incarcerated due to marijuana, and their families and communities. Perhaps in job training, career opportunities, etc. Also, school and climate resiliency programs

Name: Kathleen Dallara Pennell

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Kathartist@gmail.com

Comment: "NJ has had a housing crisis for many years that is growing worse. Camden County has little affordable housing for people in need. Folks are making the sad choice to pay rent and life necessities.

If the public realized the money was coming from the sale cannabis. It help the public see the benefit of supporting the Cannabis Industry.

Renewal of low income dwellings: suck as safe apartments via NJ home construction industry.

Win - Win - Win"

Name: Judith Mona Krupnick

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: judithmkrupnick@gmail.com

Comment: "I hope the committee might consider property tax reduction and relief with neither income caps nor any income parameters.

THANK YOU"

Name: Timothy Taras

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: tim_taras@yahoo.com

Comment: Lower property taxes.

Name: Sandra

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Sandeehoffman@gmail.com

Comment: Off-set the extremely high burden of property taxes! We have priced ourselves out of retirees staying in state as property taxes are too high throughout state!

Name: Michele Wagner

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: mantids.pours.0j@icloud.com

Comment: It should be used to help FEED, HOUSE and provide HEALTHCARE for the Homeless, Veterans, the Children who have aged out of the so called Foster 'Care' system who never were adopted were dumped on the street and those living below poverty in NJ. If we cannot take care of our most desolate and poor, we are doomed as a society.

Name: Hillary Beveridge

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: dehun1ji@duck.com

Comment: Invest the funds on researching & patenting an odor free cannabis.

Name: Jo Ann Quigley

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Joquig104@gmail.com

Comment: Definitely for mental health to try to reduce the need for treatment for any and all addicts. We also need to seriously increase availability of ALL LEVELS of Mental Healthcare practitioners. There is a massive shortage in nj. Esp of face to face counselors for all age groups!! All these virtual appointments does NOT GIVE THE FULL THERAPEUTIC EXPERIENCE.

Name: Teresa Morrison

Affiliated Organization: Realtor/Manager/Relocation Director

Email: teresam38@aol.com

Comment: "I think it should be used in a way that would do the most good. Offset School Expenses Highway and infrastructure repairs Offset property taxes"

Name: Amy Cichocki

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: amycichocki@msn.com

Comment: I think that the social equity excise fee of \$1.52 per ounce should be paid to the township where the company is selling cannabis. This additional money could be set aside to assist in lowering the school taxes and to help the schools in the community where they are doing business. This money should NOT go to salaries that are already high enough but to the other expenses needed to run a school.

Name: Joseph Padden

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Madcap2819@aol.com

Comment: The money should be used to restore the Cost of living to the NJ pension. The state has cheated thousands of retired employees out of a secure retirement. The former workers are paying the price for the states politicians irresponsible budgeting in prior years. I do not understand why the state feels that citizens of other countries that are here illegally deserve stimulus checks but retirees do not deserve to be able to keep up with inflation after retirement.

Name: Monica Appah

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: grand7604@msn.com

Comment: The cannabis money should be used to lower homeowners taxes and build affordable housing. Taxes and rents are outrageous.

Name: Angelica Koneh-Rosario

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: arosario826@gmail.com

Subject Matter: "In response to your question, on how the tax revenue dollars from the sale of Cannabis should be used.

Comment: All of tax money collected for the social equity excise fee should be injected directly into the communities where the people were racially marginalized, racially profiled, unjustifiably jailed for years for the petty crimes of having marijuana in their pocket. The money should go to the poorer communities where the people are currently suffering with drug abuse and addiction. The money should go directly to the poorer communities where there can be after-school programs for the poor kids so that the gangs who run the poorer communities are unable to recruit them. The kids in the poor communities can resort to the after-school programs so that their parents don't have to worry about if their kid is running the streets. The same people who were arrested, convicted, and jailed for too long should be the recipients of that money. Not the rich towns and certainly not the big corporations who can afford the license to sell and will be profiting. The money should go to people who are currently homeless and begging for money or something to eat from everyone who drives by. The money should go to every person convicted and fined for just having marijuana in their pocket. Pay them all back for the money New Jersey took."

Name: Susan

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: Clean up run down areas and/or create spaces to recreate, create, plant, etc. Get rid of blight and beautify with the help of the community so there is ownership of beautiful spaces; partners in pride. Use the \$ to facilitate these changes and improvements in quality of life.

Name: Ellen Heck

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: elleif@optonline.net

Comment: Cannabis funds should be used for drug rehabilitation and education.

Name: Anthony Kristovich

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: tony.kristovich@pm.me

Comment: "Throughout the pandemic, the federal government expanded the free school lunch meals program to be available to all students. Up until funding for the program expired, all students received take home breakfast and lunch meals for everyday of the week. On weekends, students would receive extra meals to provide food for the weekend. Despite funding for the program expiring, the states of California and Maine have taken the initiative to create a universal school meals program.

Studies have shown that universal free meals result in improved academic performance and higher school attendance. A universal program would also directly tackle food insecurity among children. The state of New Jersey should use the cannabis tax revenue to follow in their steps in expanding free school meal programs to all students regardless of income or any other factors. No child should ever be in left circumstances where they may not be able to eat nutritious meals everyday. It is time for the state of New Jersey to directly tackle this issue with a universal school meals program."

Name: Linda M. Rogers

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: I feel that taxes from the sale of Cannabis should be used to find a cures for schizophrenia and depression. Thank you.

Name: Ashley Cosden

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Housecosden@gmail.com

Comment: Infrastructure. We're the most densely populated state in the nation. We're able to travel to many states through public transit. We work in both Philadelphia and NYC. We need to be the countries example when it comes to transit and infrastructure. Our buses, roads, and trains are all dated and breaking down. We're number 1 in education and we can be number 1 in infrastructure.

Name: Catherine Keim

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: ckeim@optimum.net

Comment: "1.) Treatment and prevention of, and research in, addiction for this drug
2.) Research in safe pain alleviation from this drug
3.) If the above aren't enacted, tax this drug so it's too expensive to use"

Name: Mary Ann Duus

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: duus31@comcast.net

Comment: Use to help fix county/town roads.

Name: Nina Allen

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: ninaallen707@gmail.com

Comment: I've always thought we should use the cannabis tax for our still much-needed property tax relief!
Thank you

Name: Anthony Rosati

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: Use cannabis tax revenue to Lower property taxes in NJ

Name: Joseph Sujkowski

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: jsuj1089@gmail.com

Comment: Split between education and helping the poor; food banks, housing and medical expenses.

Name: Janice Mackanic

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: janice1029us@msn.com

Comment: Any tax applied to the manufacturing or selling in the State of New Jersey should, in my opinion, be applied to relieve the burden of high property taxes on citizens. Property taxes are so exorbitant that many New Jerseyans have decided to move to states where their burden is significantly lower.

Name: Deborah Sujkowski

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: Assisting the under privileged; housing, food insecurity etc.

Name: Mary Ann Imbriacco

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: maryanni2@verizon.net

Comment: New Jersey State retirees have not seen a COLA in many years! The revenue should be used at the very least a one time COLA for ALL state retirees.

Name: Leslie Walker

Affiliated Organization: Kids Against Friends Dying

Email: L3slieali@gmail.com

Comment: I'd like the tax money to go to sponsored after school pizza parties (held at local popular pizza places close to schools) run by a volunteer corps of adult coaches trained to teach teens how to keep their friends safe from the harm (overdose, death, amputation) of street sold cannabis and cannabis infused items (edibles.) Teens get a free slice of pizza for every signature on a digital petition adult coaches have them sign stating they 'refuse to enable drug dealing predators harm or kill their friends by selling them illicitly produced cannabis products.'

Name: Valerie Baldwin

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: valeriem929@gmail.com

Comment: Property tax relief would be a great thing.

Name: steven miller

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: Use Cannabis tax revenues too directly relieve the state tax portion of outrageous NJ state property taxes.

Name: Susan Klaslo

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: suek103@hotmail.com

Comment: The money should be used to help seniors and to help feed the hungry.

Name: Barbara Leonard N/A

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: dent.leonard@verizon.net

Comment: The cannabis tax revenue dollars should be used to reduce the property taxes of senior citizens with an income less than \$40,000 if single, and \$80,000 if married (or filing jointly).

Name: Gian Lombardi

Affiliated Organization: Molly Ann Farms

Email: gian@mollyannfarms.com

Comment: If you are going to call it a social equity excise fee, it should go to social equity. The hands down single most important thing the money should go to if it is indeed for social equity is getting every person convicted of a non-violent cannabis offense out of jail and back on their feet, so prisoner release, expungement and reentry. All of it. Until every last cannabis prisoner has had some semblance of justice restored. If that ever gets accomplished, the next thing to spend it on is assisting social equity businesses succeed in NJ cannabis. Not sure why there's a big debate about this. Seems obvious to me this is where social equity money should go.

Name: Despina DeMarco

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: edebbie1977@aol.com

Comment: Please allocate these funds to offset property taxes.

Name: Debra Grant

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Nj.grants@comcast.net

Comment: Lower taxes. New Jersey makes it so hard to live in with house expensive taxes are.

Name: Sue Williams

Affiliated Organization: Non profit Monica Buckley foundation

Email: Suew.dixi@comcast.net

Comment: Research for Autism is still needed. Too many children suffer with this debilitating disease, and it affects everyone in their family.

Name: DARIA CHASSE

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Rydzaj5d@aol.com

Comment: Any money that pot sales brings in should first and foremost be used to pay off/down any existing debt the state of NJ has. This is an obligation that anyone making a salary from tax dollars has to keep future taxpayers out of debt. After that, relief for property owners by a REAL lowering of property taxes

Name: Brian E. Dunleavy

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: barrdun@comcast.net

Comment: "Revenue gained should be used for 3 purposes:

1. Mental Health programs aimed at addiction treatment
2. Programs aimed at aid for end of life assistance to those needy suffering from fatal illnesses
3. Senior citizen Real Estate tax rebates."

Name: Paola Moreano

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: paog1402@hotmail.com

Comment: It should be taxed and it should also be prohibited to smoke anywhere outside other than assigned places- also not prohibit to smoke while driving. Everyone else who doesn't smoke are getting affected due to the legalization without regulations

Name: Gigi Dimino-Ebert

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: gigide@icloud.com

Comment: The revenue from cannabis sales should be dedicated to the health care system for seniors. It should be used to provide more, better paid nurses , therapists and specialists to LTACH units, better regulated nursing homes and to provide more assisted living units near senior communities, and more assistance in homes for aging ailing seniors....

Name: Elayne Edmonds

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Elaynemarinosedmonds@gmail.com

Comment: "I believe the revenue should be used for drug education in all NJ schools - 5th grade and up- to let students understand the short and long term effects of using Marijuana and other drugs, and encourage them to make smart choices about themselves and what they put in their bodies.

In addition, in urban areas where addiction is more prevalent and where drug use starts at younger ages revenue should be used to create or support safe and fun after school programs / sports programs to provide positive influence to kids at-risk.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide input. My cousin died of a drug overdose at 33 years old so this is important to me and I am concerned about this being a gateway to stronger and more dangerous drugs. Please do what you can to prevent that.

Thank you"

Name: Marilyn D. Fedele

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: mdfedele@yahoo.com

Comment: I would like to see the tax revenue go to homelessness in New Jersey We should be leaders in solving this critical dilemma.

Name: David W Dey

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: dwdey2003@yahoo.com

Comment: How about it all goes to schools? And not another billion to Rutgers! \$15000 in property taxes!!

Name: Ron Rodino

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: ron.rodino@gmail.com

Comment: Lower the damn property taxes. Why does NJ have the highest property taxes in the country?? Don't tell me we are more densely populated. Gov is too big, wasteful spending, corruption (don't deny it). The fact that you have to ask for ways to spend newfound money is a perfect example of what I'm saying. NJ leaders are too entrenched in the status quo of spend, spend, spend instead of cut, cut, cut. Shameful.

Name: Nicholas Herrick

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: Just like the use of alcohol this needs to be controlled when operating motor vehicles for safety. testing and penalties and compensations to victims for damages must be enforced due to the improper use of this product.

Name: A C

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: The funds should go towards back rent relief for individuals who "did not qualify" for relief and are still facing eviction. There are people who received more relief than needed (i.e. two or more checks sent to their landlords) but others who didn't receive any and are now faced with the challenge of getting their balance current.

Name: Teresa Cullen

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Tcul56len@gmail.com

Subject Matter: Free or discounted public transportation.

Comment: I would like to see the marijuana tax money used for the Senior Citizens 65+. For example: Stop taxing social security and pensions. Free access to all state parks. Free education at public colleges. Free or discounted transportation. Discounted public utilities. This should help keep Senior Citizens in the state instead of relocating to Florida or South Carolina.

Name: Jose R. Mirabal, Jr.

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: JRMirabal@aim.com

Comment: Subsidies for low income housing, targeted funding for schools in low income neighborhoods.

Name: Roger G Long

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: rlongpharmd@gmail.com

Comment: Cannabis tax revenue dollars should fund drug rehabilitation for indigent drug addicts.

Name: Dan tee

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: You should use this money to fund the PERS and TPAF pension funds since you underfunded. We are the backbone to society with what we do and it isn't fair.

Name: Catherine Winterfield

Affiliated Organization: US citizen and lifelong NJ resident

Email: catherinewinterfield@icloud.com

Comment: Use the money to build free rehabilitation centers for NJ residents for drug addiction and for more than a 30 day stay. Makes perfect sense since marijuana is a gateway drug.

Name: Rosa Biancone

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: I believe the revenue of cannabis sales should directly benefit population sectors affected by the long overdue stigma of it. Open landscapes, city gardens or wellness programs in low-income communities. Maybe programs to support individuals who have been criminalized for it in recent past. Wherever the need is highest, any available new funding could help.

Name: Jodi Landis

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: Revenues from cannabis tax should be used for teenage drug prevention and education programs.

Name: Linda Cochran

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: lmcochran@verizon.net

Comment: I think that some of the money that's collected, should have senior citizens with at least their property taxes or their supplemental insurance payments. Thank you for your consideration of my opinion.

Name: Mary Chapkowski

Affiliated Organization: Kell's CT., Tom's River

Email: n/a

Comment: I think extra money should go to rehabs or to reduce existing taxes, gas, income, property, etc. Of course, rehabs may need assistance. But why are you collecting a high tax on something without having a good idea why? Perhaps NJ should stop always being the most expensive place to live!

Name: Cristina Nappi

Affiliated Organization: Monmouth Regional HS

Email: cnappi@monmouthregional.net

Comment: Cannabis revenue should be used to create better systems and services of mental health for those without access to insurance

Name: Roxanne Pozzuoli

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: roxanne63@msn.com

Comment: Let the public schools get their funding from marijuana sales and lift the burden off the shoulders of taxpayers, particularly in urban towns.

Name: Carol M. Bernard

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Beachniks@hotmail.com

Comment: Money should go towards property tax relief. Possibly funding the school budget instead of putting it in our property taxes

Name: Sally Hagarty

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: sallyhagarty@comcast.net

Comment: The taxes should be used to reduce property taxes in the communities where the dispensaries are located.

Name: Steven Maricic

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: smaricic@hotmail.com

Comment: They should use some of the money to pay for the funerals of people who died from drug overdoses. 107,000 Americans died from drug overdoses in the latest year for which we have statistics. Quite a bit of the money should go to advertisements that de-glamorize drug use.

Name: Robert W. Staudenmayer

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: bobstaudenmayer@gmail.com

Comment: All the revenue should be used for education, and to reduce the reliance on property taxes and help seniors stay in their homes.

Name: Gregory J. Cappello, Esq.

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: gcappello@yahoo.com

Comment: My name is Greg Cappello. I recently retired as a Superintendent of Schools at a medium sized school district in South Jersey. I support the decision to make marijuana more available for medical uses; however, the extension to recreational use has cause an absolute epidemic for kids, parents, and schools. As an educator for the last 20+ years, I've seen many culture/society/political changes that affected the schools. From cell phones to standardized testing, the landscape has change. Unfortunately, it has not changed for the better. My issue right now is that schools are being suffocated by the use of marijuana by students in the forms of vaping and edibles. We have been told up to 50% of our students are using marijuana at any given time. While marijuana can be beneficial in may ways, there is nobody who will argue that use by teenagers is acceptable. There are many complex layers to this problem in schools and in homes. Parents and schools are not prepared for this issue. If we do not address it, this generation is in danger. I urge your to allocate a LARGE amount of the revenue toward education, treatment programs, and helping kids understand that use of marijuana before the legal age is harmful. I believe that allowing corporate profits to mount at the expense of our children's future is a major mistake. I am available to discuss this more. I urge you to make the right choice.

Name: Phil Rosenberg

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: oxfordassociates@comcast.net

Comment: For goodness sake! LOWER OUR PROPERTY TAXES. It's not fair that a \$315000 house in Oxford pays thousands more than an \$800,000 house in Warren. The ENTIRE TAX STRUCTURE OF NJ needs to be overhauled by politicians with guts to take it on. Not the same old, same old.

Name: n/a

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Dwfluh501@comcast.net

Subject Matter: Use it to lower N.J. homeowner property taxes.

Comment: Our property taxes are too high. Being on a fixed income. Let the state keep it as credit towards property taxes. Hey, if my taxes are lowered by \$1000. A year. I would be a very happy person.

Name: John Keeley

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: jkeeley@lmc.net

Comment: Use the funds to lower homeowner's real estate taxes. JK

Name: John Pitchford

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: jbpitchford@comcast.net

Comment: Drug and alcohol counseling and rehabilitation

Name: Patricia Trainor

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Train29@earthlink.net

Comment: "Using these tax dollars to help pay property taxes for lower income & senior citizens, could help keep people in lower paying jobs and help seniors stay in NJ.
Another possible use would be for preschool education."

Name: Faith Brancato

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: faithbrancato@gmail.com

Comment: I think the revenue should be used for improving public transportation.

Name: Nadia Lemp-Nguyen

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: I would like to see cannabis tax revenue used for drug abuse treatment services in the state. It should help make substance abuse treatment more accessible to those in need of it.

Name: Jim McGrogan

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: jmac072@outlook.com

Comment: Use the money to restore the cuts in aid to the school districts. The cuts have required layoffs and with the ridiculous 2% cap on school budget increases will never be made up or have a more realistic cap maybe related to actual inflation.

Name: Heeda Jafarishahvarlu

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: hjs1351@msn.com

Comment: It should be use for education to teach kids, free after school activity center, building a government free rehab center and free hospital.

Name: robert genneken

Affiliated Organization: n/a

email: robert_genneken@hotmail.com

Comment: All funds should be used for widening the Route 17 bottleneck south of Route 4.

Name: Susan Seuling

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Srss7578@aol.com

Comment: Cannabis tax funds should be used for universal public school breakfasts and lunches and effective classes in health, anger management and other self-control issues, addiction avoidance, and how to get help in the event of bullying, abuse, and gang coercion.

Name: Joseph Paliotta

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: jpaliottajr@yahoo.com

Comment: Use it to lower any of the many taxes we pay. i.e. State tax, gas tax, sales tax, on and on. Don't just spend more money as state control of money often does not work efficiently. State should focus on reducing waste to reduce and or control budgets.

Name: Lydia Zimmer

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: zlydster@yahoo.com

Comment: Based on the county where the social excise fee is collected, I'd like to see monies go toward defraying the local residents' property taxes. In particular, people who have illnesses preventing them from returning to work (and have also been denied unemployment and disability benefits), or have to retire, or are retired, this demographic can no longer afford to reside in NJ.

Name: Holly Kempner

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: hkempner@yahoo.com

Comment: The proceeds should fund local education with a goal to lower town resident taxes. Unlike the lottery proceeds, cannabis proceeds should be transparent to the public.

Name: BEVERLY TYLER

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: seasure224@yahoo.com

Comment: Should be used to educate our children about the outcome of drug abuse. Also increase drug treatment centers and decrease their cost.

Name: Edward L. Paul

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: edpaul715@gmail.com

Comment: NJ has promised property tax relief for years without any real progress. People on fixed incomes are getting forced out of the state. Use the money for property tax relief. However, you also need to add spending caps so the counties and towns don't just spend the additional money which would eliminate any real relief.

Name: Gilbert Hidalgo

Affiliated Organization: GM3

Email: Gilmax3@gmail.com

Comment: Use the money for roads and rid the tolls away.

Name: FERDINAND M GENTILE

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: femgentile@hotmail.com

Comment: Lower property taxes damn it!

Name: Dawn Sullivan-Baliko

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Dbaliko102@gmail.com

Comment: Should be used to bring cost down for medical users and work with insurance companies to help pay for it and have it covered by insurance.

Name: Vincent E. Cahill

Affiliated Organization: NJSPBA Local 23 New Brunswick retired

Email: vcahill@comcast.net

Comment: Since the enforcement of the laws for this again falls on the law enforcement officers of New Jersey, some of the profits should be spent on their behalf. So I submit that a majority of the profit be given to the restoring of the cost of living increase that was removed from members of the New Jersey Police and Fire Retirement System.

Name: Chirag Taylor

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: chiragstaylor@gmail.com

Comment: Fix the roads and improve mass transit. More police.

Name: Sarah Major

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: swmajor@gmail.com

Comment: Property tax relief, roadside litter cleanup and anti-litter campaigns would be an appropriate use of marijuana income.

Name: Beatrice D Pyle

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Writetoobea@yahoo.com

Comment: Take the money off of taxpaying residents before we all leave the State and you have no one paying property and income taxes!

Name: Matthew Brady Klitsch

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: mbklitsch@gmail.com

Comment: Please consider using this new source of revenue to pay down State debt. We do not need new programs. We need to get the State's existing debt under control and healthy for the long-term stability of our community.

Name: Jill Ottignon

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: jillott@verizon.net

Comment: Cannabis profit should be used to pay back the money taken from the pension system for the past 20+ years. Public workers like myself always pay our portion without any choice not to, the obligation of the state to pay theirs still exists. This is a perfect place to spend the profit of cannabis sales

Name: William Shreeves

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Shreeves@gmail.com

Comment: Offset our absurdly high property taxes! They're so high, I can't consider retiring in the state that I've lived my entire life

Name: Carol Perozzi

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: wagsnwhiskers3@aol.com

Comment: "Ideas for our states Cannabis Revenue

NJ SRAP & Section 8 Voucher program improvements

- 1) Increase by investing in building more housing units near or close to mass transportation stops for these programs.
- 2) Increase the number of applicants waiting for these programs by a minimum of double.
- 3) Reduce the waiting period window of time to much less than the present 2 - 3 year wait time.
- 4) Increase the application window of time to apply for these programs.
- 5) Open the application window multiple times a year.
- 6) A transition program for those who continue to improve their current financial situation.
- 7) Increase access to mental health care.
- 8) Increased job fairs throughout state and heavily advertised
- 9) Ensuring that areas with such programs in place, or built in the future, are not food deserts and healthy foods are available or built within reach.
- 10) Increased availability of youth programs in these areas.

Currently, there are no immediate answers or resolve for people who do the right thing and apply for these programs. Many are forced into increasingly dangerous situations while waiting. ""Desperation breeds chaos. ""

If NJ wants to address the low income and homeless population and help to reduce the disorder in their lives we must start by giving them a safe place to call home, a method of transportation to find employment, healthy food choices available and access to mental health care.

If Section 8 cannot be revised as it is a Federal program doled out to our state, then at least our NJ SRAP should be enhanced to address & accelerate this growing crisis many are experiencing throughout our state.

Make NJ a successful model for other states and perhaps our country to follow."

Name: Kathleen Taylor

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: htaylor15@optonline.net

Comment: The money should be used for programs that deter people, especially children from experimenting with drugs, rehabilitation of drug addicts, and most of all for compensation to those who have been victims of a crime or mishap such as an automobile accident by anyone under the influence of drugs, including cannabis.

Name: C R Vadala

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: cvadala@juno.com

Comment: "I suggest taxes on Cannabis be used for providing free rehabilitation services for those addicted to drugs and for drug awareness programs, including marijuana, on brain damage from drugs to junior and high schools.

We've a huge drug problem in our society. Such a travesty.

Carolyn

"

Name: Jane Ochs

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Rudiochs@optonline.net

Comment: To lower property texts

Name: Stephen Ravner

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: steverino111@gmail.com

Comment: All of the cannabis tax revenue should be used to reduce our monster school taxes. As a senior, my real-estate taxes are eating me up alive, and hopefully this could significantly reduce them.

Name: Joseph A. Hoff

Affiliated Organization: Arbor Day

Email: hoffj4575@gmail.com

Comment: The Money should be used fix social security and education.

Name: Kerry Paone

Affiliated Organization: Home Owner

Email: paone@cranfordschools.org

Comment: I feel that the money should be distributed to every town in New Jersey to lower property taxes for homeowners starting with those over 60. Its impossible to save money when our taxes are so high.

Name: James Kennedy

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Kennedy1955@verizon.net

Comment: I'd like to see the money go towards Property Tax relief. Maybe put it towards our public schools because school taxes are about half of our property tax. As a senior, it's getting really hard to stay in our homes due to high property taxes.

Name: Kenneth Buck

Affiliated Organization: NJ PFRS COLA FORUM

Email: kbglock@comcast.net

Comment: "In 2011, Governor Christie signed Chapter 78 into law, suspending all NJ retirees cost-of-living-adjustments, also known as COLA. This went against his campaign platform, not to touch public employees pensions. Prior New Jersey Governors have raided our funds and they never replenished the billions of dollars they "borrowed" from our pension system. As you will learn, this really has no bearing on restoring our COLA!

Now with a 40 year record high inflation rate and 12 years of not receiving a COLA, New Jersey retirees are suffering mightily. We are desperately in need of the reinstatement of COLA. Retirees have lost, approximately 30% in terms of buying power over the past 12 years. Elderly and disabled retirees are now forced to work another job, as they are receiving pensions near poverty levels. When we retired, we are all led to believe COLA would be there for us.

Unfortunately, the Courts ruled COLA wasn't a contractual or proprietary right, However, what came out of the Berg Case, unbeknownst to the majority, was the Pension Adjustment Act! The PAA is a law, from the late 1950s, which placed the obligation of COLA to be paid for by the employers; municipal, counties, and State. COLA does not come from our pension funds, nor does it affect our funding levels. We were falsely led the believe that COLA had a negative impact on funding levels. Nothing could be further from the truth!

Please consider using the tax revenue to help NJ retirees who rightfully deserve a cost of living increase after 12 years. Furthermore, police and fire are affected by the Social Security Windfall Elimination Provision. We don't get full social security! The police are a vital component to the Marijuana program in NJ. Let's do the right thing and help those who are helping NJ thrive with the sales a marijuana. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kenneth L Buck
Founder of the PFRS COLA Forum
Retired Disabled Detective Galloway, NJ "

Name: Peter Ricciardi

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: pvratapple@gmail.com

Comment: Find ways to prevent drug abuse. I suggest education, advertising, and support organizations.

Name: Ryan Blazon

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: bjlstorm@gmail.com

Comment: "It is disgusting how long cannabis prohibition lasted. Those who perpetuated making it illegal helped perpetuate the same racist reasons it was outlawed in the first place, which was to punish minorities.

New Jersey is rapidly becoming an unaffordable state to live in. We need to lower the cost of living or else more people will leave the state, further putting the state tax burden on those left living here.

1. The tax money can be used for development of more affordable housing for minority group disproportionately affected by cannabis prohibition.

2. More broadly, the money generated from the sale of cannabis should be returned to the taxpayers in order to offset historically and unprecedented property taxes."

Name: Jeanne Caruso

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Sealwatcher@protonmail.com

Comment: Pay back money owed to PERS retirement funds. Cost of living increases yearly as was promised to public employees. It's been over 10 years since Christie decimated our COLA. The cost of living was part of our agreements when we worked for NJ. Eggs went up 60%- my pension is the same as it was 8 years ago. We kept our end of the bargain-time for the state to keep up theirs

Name: Anthony Pemberton

Affiliated Organization: Montclair State University BFA FILM PROGRAM HEAD

Email: pemberton@montclair.edu

Comment: "I agree with many others that 30-40% of funds should go towards Addiction centers that deal with troubled people that struggle with drugs, these and other opiate issues seen in the state.

But 12-20 percent of the money I would argue should support New Jersey Specific promotion, and monetary support for Independent Filmmaking, content creation (writer's rooms), and other Arts should be the most innovative expansion with this money. This could be like the UK's Lottery fund that gives funds to support all of their filmmaking in their country. The money could be set up to be competitive grants given to individuals and to non-profits that could develop content to be created in New Jersey. Many of the filmmakers that I talk to working in New Jersey are struggling to do this now, but feel that our state is being treated as a background, or stand in for other places, whereas there are many opportunities that create stories, lore, and wonderful legends and films that have specific NJ content. I will be at the meeting to suggest this. This should also focus on more under served communities... such as Camden, Newark, and Trenton. "

Name: Carolyn Walsh

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: carolynew155@gmail.com

Comment: Hello, Please consider using money from the cannabis tax revenue towards improving county shelters, expanding veterinary care and enacting trap, neuter and return programs for feral cats. There are too many animals that desperately need help in New Jersey and are needlessly being euthanized. These funds would provide relief for local animal welfare groups who are run by volunteers that care passionately about the lives of homeless animals. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you. Thank you.

Name: Ray Mac

Affiliated Organization: NJPFRS COLA FORUM

Email: Rmack302@gmail.com

Comment: "Proceeds could be used to help fund annual cost of living adjustments for retired public employees.

Retired public employees including Police and firefighters have not received an adjustment for inflation in 12 years. Most police and firefighters do not receive Social Security (or get a greatly reduced pension) and are struggling after all these years. The last two years of high inflation are causing serious economic hardships on those who dedicated their lives to public safety.

A small increase in their pensions should be a priority. "

Name; John Ninni

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: johnninnimpa@gmail.com

Comment: Tax revenue received from NJ Mariguana sales should be used for NJ Senior citizens programs.

Name: Debra Murphy

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: nontechie@verizon.net

Comment: When I moved to NJ 30 years ago, I was shocked that people were charged a fee to use the highways (meaning the Parkway). Back then it was a 25 cent toll and I was told by everyone that the tolls would go away once the roadway had been paid for. Fast forward 30 years and we're STILL paying tolls and the fees just keep going up and up and up. I was born and raised in PA and my family is still there. There aren't fees to drive on the highways in PA, other than the Turnpike and that's a state that's directly connected to us, not a state in the middle of no where. It would make NJ more affordable and potentially keep people from leaving the state in masses (like they're now doing because the cost of living in the state is ridiculous), if the money from the cannabis industry were used to pay for the Parkway and ALL tolls could be removed /eliminated, even those to cross the Driscoll bridge.

Name: Gina M. Braconi

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: g586b@aol.com

Comment: A majority of the profit should be spent on restoring COLA for all the NJ Police & Fire Retired Officers Systems.

Name: Barbara Povlick

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: bpovlic@gmail.com

Comment: A good portion of the monies should go to property tax relief.

Name: Anthony Cilenti

Affiliated Organization: Livingston Police Department

Email: Acilenti@aol.com

Comment: "Sales from marijuana should be used to reinstate cola. Cost of living as gone up so much and us retired guys rely on our pensions to make ends meet. With health care increases and everything else we need cola to survive. Please use the sale money to do that. Thank you.

Anthony Cilenti"

Name: William J Pych

Affiliated Organization: n/a Retired Police Officer

Email: Billy119@msn.com

Comment: State profits from the sale of marijuana and related items should go first to the restoration of COLA.

Name: Peter Metcalf

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: Any extra tax revenue should be used to reestablish Cost of living increases for public employee retirees.

Name: JoAnn Lopez

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Joannl13@yahoo.com

Comment: Send it to fund cola foe the retired officers pensions

Name: Risa Wallach

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: cantor.wallach@hushmail.com

Comment: Revenue form marijuana sales should go to communities impacted by mass incarceration by funding job-training, mental health services, childcare, etc.

Name: Kathleen Pietras Innella

Affiliated Organization Montgomery EMS

Email: kathinnella@gmail.com

Comment: The use of cannabis while driving has increased and causing more vehicle accidents. The EMS system is already woefully understaffed and underfunded. Use the funds to support EMS , we need equipment, ambulances and funding to serve our communities.

Name: Jodie Frish

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: "I think the social equity excise fee of \$1.52 on each ounce of cannabis sold should be used to create a fund to help those affected by drug abuse, i.e., babies born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, or other victims of drug abuse.

This would be a similar concept to the Traumatic Brain Injury Fund of NJ, which receives its revenue from a \$0.50 surcharge on motor vehicle registrations. Many TBI's are associated with motor vehicle accidents."

Name: p. davis

Affiliated Organization

Email: p.davis@princetoncyber.com

Comment: Use the revenue to offset some of the costs of living in NJ: property taxes, utilities, etc. It doesn't matter whether you own or rent, living in this state is still exceedingly expensive.

Name: Andrew Galaydick

Affiliated Organization: NJPFRS forum, Pba local 600

Email: Drewnnj@aol.com

Comment: We need a cost of living increase. The cost of everything has gone up. Our pension should too.

Name: Vincent Cappetta

Affiliated Organization: NJ PFRS COLA

Email: LTVCAP@aol.com

Comment: Use funds to restore COLA to PFRS.

Name: Deanne Woodruff

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: deannewoodruff@hotmail.com

Comment: Any proceeds from the sale of cannabis should be used to fund additional substance treatment programs.

Name: JOSEPH DUART 908 619 6803

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Joefire611@gmail.com

Comment: "COLA... POLICE AND FIRE SHOULD GET COLA. COLA...."

Name: Salvatore LoCascio

Affiliated Organization: Retired from Bergen County Prosecutor's Office

Email: LoCascio282@yahoo.com

Comment: Please use the cannabis money for retirees — we need it!!! And not at age 76; please have COLA begin IMMEDIATELY! We are struggling. We paid our dues, paid our sacrifices and did things that no one else in their right minds would, we are not asking for much, just to survive. 9% increase for COLA to catch us back up and keep with inflation. The education system gets enough as do these other programs ... we NEED it PLEASE.

Name: Andrea G Napier

Affiliated Organization: NJ PFRS COLA FORUM

Email: Andy1182ogu@gmail.com

Comment: "Please use the cannabis money for retirees — we need it!!! And not at age 76; please have COLA begin IMMEDIATELY! We are struggling. We paid our dues, paid our sacrifices and did things that no one else in their right minds would. We are not asking for much ... just to survive. 10% increase for COLA to catch us back up after years of not receiving it and also keep with inflation. The other programs are more than well funded ... we NEED it PLEASE."

Name: Edwin O Wiley

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: dredwiley@gmail.com

Comment: Do not increase spending. Cut other taxes.

Name: Eric Kroepfl

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: epkroepfl@gmail.com

Comment: All new tax revenues should be used to pay down debt until our credit rating improves.

Name: Linda Ann DeLucia

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: leaflovers77@yahoo.com

Comment: Revenue should be used for cancer treatments, caused by smoking pot. Also, for relatives who lost their loved ones to cancer. Research on marijuana should also be funded with this money.

Name: Mike O'Neill

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: I think any proceeds from the sale of cannabis should go to lowering property taxes.

Name: Robert S Hencken Sr.

Affiliated Organization: NJ PFRS COLA Forum

Email: bobhencken@gmail.com

Comment: Use the money to restore COLA to all state pension retirees. No increase in 10 years as cost of living has gone up, and other state programs have received increases. Many of our retirees need an increase badly.

Name: Joseph P Titanski

Affiliated Organization: NJ. DOC

Email: JPTITANS@AOL.COM

Comment: All profits should be used to reinstate COLA for our retired employees

Name: Cynthia Newman

Affiliated Organization: Scotch plains neighborhood alliance

Email: Cnewmanmswlcsw@gmail.com

Comment: Funds should be used to educate youth about drugs, etoh and safe driving.

Name: Jeanne Patterson

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: It is time we catch up on back payments to all the pension plans. Employees of these state funds worked their years of service and deserve the benefit of a stable retirement.

Name: Marlene Waldorf

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: handmade@verizon.net

Comment: I think that the revenue should be used to lower or eliminate the gas tax. The revenue could be used for projects that the gas tax was put in place to fund.

Name: Perzon Felfeli

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: nadiaperzan@gmail.com

Comment: They should be taxed and residents should get the \$1.50 per sale. Thanks

Name: Julie Martellini

Affiliated Organization: Highgrade Labs

Email: Julie.martellini@gmail.com

Comment: "Regulating the cannabis industry in New Jersey is still in its developmental stages, even though product is already being sold.

Putting money into the commission so they can hire an analytical scientist or food scientist to advise the industry as a subject matter expert, and ensure that the food/ chemistry/medical science knowledge and regulation in New Jersey cannabis testing is a leading example in the national market. "

Name: Katarzyna Ambrosino

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Katambrosino@gmail.com

Comment: The cannabis revenue should be used to fund and expand after-school programs such as interest-based clubs and sports in elementary, middle and high school. Participation in such school-sponsored activities keeps kids out of trouble, increases confidence and academic performance and builds strong ties to the community.

Name: Victoria Pedulla

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: vpedulla137@gmail.com

Comment: I believe the Revenue should go to the thousands of New Jerseyans who can't afford to buy food for themselves and their children.

Name: Roseanne Clapp

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Roseanneclapp@msn.community

Comment: Drug Addiction Rehabilitation Programs for free

Name: Pat Lanza

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: Elimination of State Income Tax

Name: Jeffrey Thomas

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Yojeffrey@aol.com

Comment: The prices for products at the dispensaries are much higher than I would normally pay. I like the idea of buying from a dispensary, but I'm literally paying double for the same amount with the quality pretty much the same. This is the same for many others I know. Dispensaries are just too much. Lower prices would be the way to pull in those buying in the black market. Dispensaries are literally just attracting those without a good source to buy otherwise.

Name: John Scipione

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Jsip1@comcast.net

Comment: Find a path to home ownership for renting families. Renovate vacant homes without the gouging most state agencies add to everything. Path to home ownership for families who are paying as much or more than a home would cost cap the property tax on these properties indefinitely so they will be viable into the future. Provide some or all of down payments to get qualified families into homes. Create a homeless to healthy to home program. Again without all the red tape and elaborate paperwork that stops most of these people from getting the help they need. First it would be individual rooms with meals. Mental health, wellness care and a progression to a small space they can call their own to phase back into being productive. Job training as they get better maybe they help the people behind them. Eventually moving to life on their own. Again this must be stripped of all the red tape and needless mountains of paperwork that many of these people checked out from in the first place hopefully it will not be overwhelming so it can gain traction. It will most certainly start with outreach.

Name: Elise Tikijian-Pearce

Affiliated Organization: Bergen Community College

Email: emtpearce@optonline.net

Comment: "Apply the cannabis funding to the NJ employees pension fund to account for the 20+ years of shortfall payments.

Another option is to use it to reduce the ridiculously high tolls in New Jersey and the bridge and tunnel crossings into New York. "

Name: William G. Kelly

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: kmwg5@optonline.net

Comment: Tax revenue should be distributed to Senior Citizens as a State supplement to Social Security .

Name: John Natisin

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: john.natisin@gmail.com

Comment: I'd like to see the revenue put to use on infrastructure projects within the community. I live in a development in the rural part of the county that hasn't had its street repaired in over 25 years.

Name: Kathleen Russo

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: I would suggest that NJ Cannabis revenue be used towards: infrastructure- roads, bridges, upgrades to technology in our government offices; technology and safety in our public schools; law enforcement and first responder training

Name: Michele Miller

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Michelemiller1020@gmail.com

Comment: I would like to see the revenue generated from cannabis sales used toward helping those with mental illness. New Jersey, like most other states, is seriously lacking in assistance for individuals with severe mental illness, and support/education for their families.

Anyone involved with homeless programs can tell you that the cycle cannot be broken unless the underlying causes are dealt with. Many homeless individuals are mentally ill. Many times, they have financial means but are incapable of caring for themselves. We're not doing enough. I believe there's a link between substance abuse and mental illness that isn't addressed enough. Those with mental illness use drugs and alcohol to self medicate, often with catastrophic results. Other ideas may be to study why autism rates are so high in New Jersey. If this issue isn't addressed, the state will not be able to handle the burden of educating and providing much needed therapies for these individuals. One more idea would be to use the funds to bail out the public pension system. It's not the fault of the public servants, including police and firefighters, that the system is broken. They paid their share into the system. The governors who failed to make the required payments into the system to balance their budgets are to blame, not to mention those that took funds from the system to use elsewhere. It's unconstitutional, an unconscionable, not to provide the necessary cost of living raises to these individuals. Something needs to be done. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Name: Denise McGuire

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Mrstm McGuire@yahoo.com

Comment: "Country Offices on Aging need more funds. These offices are understaffed and the salaries are not competitive. Many elderly people are physically, financially and mentally are risk in all ethnicity and are least able to help themselves "

Name: Eric P Carlson

Affiliated Organization: Chatham Twp. Police Dept

Email: Rickpcarlson@yahoo.com

Comment: Some should help retired public workers, like the Cost of Living Adjustment that was taken away from us.

Name: Peter Moran

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: Please use any tax money to reinstate cost of living increase for public employee retirees, especially police and firemen.

Name: Jennifer Luscombe

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: jluscombe627@gmail.com

Comment: Regarding "The Cannabis Regulatory Commission has invited New Jersey residents and organizations to share their ideas for how cannabis tax revenue dollars should be used.": I would like to see that excise fee go towards the medical marijuana patients. Discounting MMP cards as well as renewal of cards would be nice. I, personally, get the reduced fee of \$20 because I am on disability, but others pay \$100 which is a large amount of money on top of what medical marijuana costs. I imagine dispensaries get to set their own prices on their marijuana, but I feel for medical patients that a price cap should be enforced if possible. It's a lot safer for patients to medicate using marijuana than to use the cheaper alternative of opiates. Doctor appointments, MMP cards, and marijuana get very expensive quickly for those who really need it to control pain.

Name: Michael Jefferys

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: grantor_cloches_0v@icloud.com

Comment: NJ property taxes are some of the highest in the nation. I have lived in NJ since I was a kid and my family is here too. I think these funds should be used to help lower the other tax burdens on NJ residents buy lower property taxes or providing a rebate for residents of NJ ever year weed is sold here.

Name: Stephen Muller

Affiliated Organization: PFRS COLA Forum

Email: Stephenmuller24@yahoo.com

Comment: Since our contracts were violated and we haven't had a cola increase in over 12 years, especially needed now in the economic disaster, the money should go to restore COLA for the police and fire retirement.

Name: Scott Miller

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: srmnjlaw@optonline.net

Comment: All revenues should be used to address funding shortages for New Jersey pension obligations. New expenditures should not be contemplated, until prior committed obligations are properly funded.

Name: Andrew Barcello

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: ABarcello@verizon.net

Comment: "Teachers were promised in retirement: Cost of Living Adjustments. I would request money be put into the pension fund so teachers can have the COLA adjustment back. Purchasing power has really been decreased, although we are told 10 percent I realize it to be more like 25% .

Thank you for reading this and thank you for any consideration you might give to my request."

Name: Marybeth Rosati

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: mda08057@gmail.com

Comment: I think cannabis revenue should be used to subsidize insurance for NJ residents, who can not afford insurance, or who are under-insured. Patients can not always afford to pay their very high insurance deductibles, especially after paying high insurance premiums.

Name: Karen Sue

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: The social equity excise fee should go to fund drug recovery programs, to low income health care programs (like Planned Parenthood healthcare programs), post-foster care college fund, and/or homeless shelter/homeless aid programs.

Name: Bilal Domac

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: qadomac@hotmail.com

Comment: "Middle class people are struggling to support Education in NJ through property taxes and all money would support Schools. "

Name: Patricia Maxwell

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: It is grievous to know that New Jersey politicians are more concerned about revenue than about the lives and quality of lives of their constituents. Cannabis destroys lives, period. And you are asking ow to use the revenue from its sale? How about you build more mental hospitals or more burial grounds because we're going to need it.

Name: Steven Alonso

Affiliated Organization: Marine Electric Systems

Email: salonso@marineelectricsystems.com

Comment: Part of the Cannabis tax revenue should be set aside to help victims where cannabis use caused an accident (motor vehicle, industrial, et al.). This would offset the eventual bevy of lawsuits against the Cannabis industry (stores, growers, processors).

Name: Allan Reed

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: "In an effort to compensate one or more groups for prior discrimination, various forms of reparations have been proposed. Blacks, Jews, Muslims, Irish, Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, and other groups suffered throughout United States history. All victims in the 18th and 19th centuries have passed away. Reparations to them is impossible. Mostly, their progeny cannot be confirmed, so compensation cannot reliably be assigned to them. Even if lineage could be confirmed, how many generations could reasonably be eligible? Would wealthy progeny be eligible? If so, how wealthy? Would each individual descendant receive a fixed amount or would all offspring divide a particular dollar value amongst themselves?

A small percentage of Americans benefit from generational wealth handed down to family. Most of us are born to middle financial class or lower financial class families. Consequently, almost all of us lack the benefit of financially privileged upbringing and inheritance. Since most of us lack generational wealth, should most Americans receive payouts? Because the cost of living differs in various locations, a particular net worth represents differing degrees of wealth. Should eligibility depend on where people live?

Those who suffered discrimination centuries ago, no longer live, so they cannot receive payments. Decedents of those victims lack the benefit of generational wealth, but the United States does not guarantee inheritance. Our laws and courts seek to provide opportunity for rich and poor in all groups. No matter how well intentioned, to artificially benefit some people discriminates against others. Is modern day discrimination the remedy to historical discrimination? I think not.

Equity strives to improve the lot of some people, by providing goods and services – a laudable endeavor. Nevertheless, to treat some people differently than others is contrary to the concept of equality. In order to prevent discrimination, the value of goods and services provided to some Americans must be distributed to all Americans.

Equity is a social concept in which all people receive the same standard of living. Equality is a legal concept in which all people share opportunities to achieve. Communism, which seeks to provide equity, has either failed or generally provides a lower standard of living than enjoyed by most Americans. World wide experience with equity has not shown significant benefits or longevity.

Consequently, I support using the NJ cannabis Social Equity Excise Fee for the good of all New Jersey tax payers. Whatever the value of goods and services that are involved should be distributed to all of us. For example, if educational, nutritional, or medical goods and services are provided to some people for the purpose of equity, the legal principle of equality must be satisfied as well. The value of those goods and services should be distributed to all other New Jersey tax payers.

"

Name: Kerry Breen-Thomsen

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: info@isdistillery.com

Comment: Hello and thank you for taking comments. I would like to suggest that the revenues raised be earmarked for first and foremost property tax relief. Make NJ an attractive place to raise a family and retire in. Support families across the spectrum with funds for affordable housing, food programs, schools, libraries, quality childcare and etc . Secondly, funding for much-needed mental health and addiction services. So much work needs to be done in this area and the need is constantly growing. NJ should become an example of how to prepare for and handle this very real crisis. Third, life-changing small business start-up funds, tax relief and growth grants. NJ needs to encourage the growth of the small, often family businesses that create such a great energy for their communities. Nj also needs to support the small businesses we already have, many of whom are still reeling from the pandemic and are currently struggling under the rising Federal Interest rates. (SBA loans are variable rate!) Finally, perhaps a percentage could be used to reorient the offenders released from prison due to the new, enlightened laws.

Name: Laura L. Clemons-Skerrett

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: msbodatious@gmail.com

Comment: The funds should be used to fight the Homeless epidemic & Fentanyl epidemic equally!

Name: Denine miller

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: miller.denine@yahoo.com

Comment: I would love to see more affordable housing. I've always worked full time and struggled raising my son because "I made too much" for any type of government assistance. He is grown and now we both struggle to pay \$1700 a month in rent.

Name: Cheryl Berky

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: caberky@icloud.com

Comment: On the first day of legalized cannabis, sales reached \$2,000,000 dollars. This will bring millions of revenue to New Jersey. The Anchor Program should be dispersed quarterly, it's not like you can't afford it. This would still leave millions in the fund afterwards.

Name: Sheila Riley

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: sheila5185@aol.com

Comment: "By county where it is sold. The revenue should lower property tax used towards schools so education costs are supported and lowered by money from cannabis sales. Offer food subsidies to lower food insecurity again whatever county sales are in. Money should be returned to that county not the full state. Offer seniors more support in form of local programs or food on wheels or transport them to doctors. Offer help & programs for job placement of training to those struggling to find job or offer new skills to those who need to change careers "

Name: Jessica Verdiglione

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: jverdiglione@gmail.com

Comment: Some of the revenue needs to be out into the schools for drug education and drug testing. The increase in student use has drastically increased with the easier availability due to the legalization of sales.

Name: Rhonda Collazo

Affiliated Organization: Board of Education

Email: n/a

Comment: Pay back all the short payments they made to the NJ employees' pensions over the past 20+ years

Name: Heather Auerbach

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: h.auerbach925@gmail.com

Comment: Please use the revenue from cannabis sales to pay back the NJ pension for teachers or reduce our health care costs. It could also be used for all kids to get free lunch at school, for all kids!

Name: Barbara Wegorek

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: warmuzba1@yahoo.com

Comment: Should use the revenue from cannabis sales to pay back all the short payments they made to the NJ employees' pensions over the past 20+ years

Name: Karen Barrett

Affiliated Organization: Barrett consulting

Email: bckajb@msn.com

Comment: Cannabis monies must go back to the community in ways to eliminate hunger and all poverty: feed, clothe, and house people. There is nothing more important than supporting the dignity of every human being on the planet. I am happy to assist in providing connections to organizations that address these issues and support human dignity.

Name: Karen Senario

Affiliated Organization: School System

Email: KScenario@njsbjc.org

Comment: "I thought it was expected, to use the profit from the Marijuana to lower the taxpayers school system taxes that are higher than the town taxes themselves, also to catch up to the pension shortage for state workers, not to mention the 18 million just three years ago to 35 plus dollar school busing increase in NJ that will affect every school district come September of 2023.

Another, NJ Class Loan interest, lower it, it won't stop the biggest crash in United States history that's coming due to the increase in home purchases and bidding wars, with mortgages people really can't afford, at the highest prices ever, car prices, gas prices, food prices, taxes, the list goes on for the crash coming, how can a college student with 120,000 in college debt afford a home and the loan, plus a car to work. They can't, how do they pay rent now at

2,000-2,500 in north jersey and pay their student loan, eat, pay for the essentials, they can't, part of the crash coming in real estate, no buyers, no sales.

"

Name: catherine guinard

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: celterlein@gmail.com

Comment: Revenue from cannabis should be reducing property taxes for all residents of NJ

Name: Heather Fischer

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: Tax relief. 100% money back to the residents. Your middle class needs a break. Income tax and property tax are crushing us. No money for new programs, no money for give aways, return our money to us. We need to bring people back to the state. Then you'll increase your tax revenue while keeping it appealing to residents.

Name: Jane Cora

Affiliated Organization: Public School

Email: jgcora@yahoo.com

Comment: I think the extra money should go to the National School Meals program to provide every student with nutritious free meals while in school.

Name: Crystal DiGiacomo

Affiliated Organization: Public School

Email: n/a

Comment: I feel it would be great use of the excise tax to be used toward funding universal free meals for all students in New Jersey. More students ate and were benefited during the waivers that were issued during Covid and now we are seeing a decrease in those that have applied for meal benefits and children eating who would benefit from the meals. In addition this would also help districts and families who are seeing much larger and cumbersome negative balance charges due to the new regulations. Thank you for your considerations!

Name: Gloria Nelson

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: Use revenue from cannabis sales to eliminate tolls on road ways.

Name: Shaniqua Gamble

Affiliated Organization: The Greatest Love Foundation

Email: Sngamble722@gmail.com

Comment: I believe the communities that should reap the most reward from cannabis sells should be the community's purposely destroyed during the crack flood. Black communities were specifically targeted and has yet to receive the reparations to succeed. I also feel a new social service program should be installed for specifically help the working class family. These funds should be allocated to decrease the burden of utilities and food for those who do not currently qualify at the designated income level. Incentives should be based on and award to the working family's striving to decrease debt, educational advancement, and savings towards becoming home owners. Programs focusing on mental health specifically PTSD and trauma! Finally, I believe the budget should also be allocated to flooding high crime areas after school programs exposing children to a world outside of the trauma they experience on a daily basis by seen violence, harassment by police and even hunger

Wayne Myer

Affiliated Organization: Retired CCDOC

Email: godsaves1962@gmail.com

Comment: Please give us the money from the sales of cannabis we need our Cola back we are all struggling to live and support our family

Name: Mary Ann Bieksza, RN

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: mbieksza@earthlink.net

Comment: I think that it would be equitable to provide a discount or delivery to seniors purchasing this product.

Name: Robert Frey

Affiliated Organization: Newark fire officers

Email: Rfreyss@aol.com

Comment: With no cola in 12 years the public employees are falling way behind. I retired 23 years ago and I'm finding it hard to continue paying my bills. The money should go to pay cola. Thank you.

Name: Jens Dahl

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: jdahl@verizon.net

Comment: I strongly believe that the proceeds should go to treatment programs for substance abuse.

Name: Stephany Vesey

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Stephvesey@gmail.com

Comment: Pay down debts & state pension responsibilities.

Name: LaTascha Foster

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: lataschaf@yahoo.com

Comment: The money should go to fund public school maintenance.

Name: Ebony D. Grace,

Affiliated Organization: Chief Executive Officer, NJSACC (New Jersey School-Age Child Care Coalition): The Statewide Network for NJ's Afterschool Communities

Email: egrace@njsacc.org

Comment: "The NJ School-Age Child Care Coalition (NJSACC) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony to the NJ Cannabis Regulatory Commission. NJSACC envisions a NJ where every child has access to high-quality, inclusive out-of-school time (OST) programs that provide equitable and diverse experiences that maximize the full potential for all youth, families and communities. Using tax revenue from adult-use cannabis to support afterschool, OST and other youth development programs are a critical strategy for promoting equity and reinvesting in our underserved communities.

For every child in an OST program in NJ, three (3) more would participate if a program were accessible; consequently, 32% of NJ's youth would be enrolled in an OST program if one were available to them. To meet the needs of our youth and communities, these investments must be prioritized and sustained long-term. NJ has an opportunity to address the state's growing wait list as well as program gaps in rural areas by leveraging existing federal dollars and directing recreational cannabis revenue to support afterschool and OST programs.

NJSACC recommends that NJ dedicate at least 25% of revenue from the taxation of adult-use cannabis to expand access to afterschool statewide, particularly reinvesting funds in those communities hardest hit by the war on drugs. With a proven track record for preventing drug use and misuse, increasing resilience, and supporting positive youth development, investment in OST programs is a compelling use of state social equity tax dollars.

For teens and older youth, the hours between 3pm and 6pm are the riskiest hours as they are when juvenile crime, victimization, and drug use peak. Older youth who do not participate in structured activities after school are three times more likely to participate in risky behavior. OST is a safe space for students to participate in enrichment activities and help students build character traits like self-control and confidence. If NJ is considering the use of tax revenue to repair harm done to historically marginalized communities hit hardest by the war on drugs, OST programs provide protective factors for youth development and success. Six other states have already linked

revenue from legalized marijuana sales to afterschool and out-of-school programming; NJ is well positioned to follow suit.

Illinois: In 2019, Illinois passed the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act, which legalized adult-use cannabis and created the Restore, Reinvest, and Renew grant program.

Colorado: Denver is using a portion of the city's 3.5 percent special sales tax on marijuana products to help fund Healthy Lifestyles course.

California: Prop. 64 campaigns to legalize recreational marijuana, advocates are working to develop laws to establish afterschool programs as a prime beneficiary of the revenue.

NJSACC submits the following recommendations for consideration:

-Establish the NJ OST Advisory Commission Fund to support the goal of universal afterschool and OST. The Commission would expand access to quality afterschool and out-of-school time programs for youth across the state of NJ.

-The fund would award grants to all eligible afterschool and out-of-school time programs, including licensed and subsidized, school district operated, and city/town/municipally funded programs to build capacity and increase quality through professional development.

-The fund would award grants to youth prevention organizations that offer college and career readiness, apprenticeships and credentials to opportunity youth. This can include developing knowledge, skills, and character traits that are important for opportunity youth's career pathway development.

NJ's youth need and deserve safe, enriching afterschool and OST programs to aid in their development. Using tax revenue from adult-use cannabis to fund youth development programs, including afterschool and OST, is a good first step in social equity and community reinvestment. Thank you.

"

Name: Catherine Galioto-Galesky

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: catherine.galioto@yahoo.com

Comment: The excise fee should be used to fund mental health supports and affordable housing projects, and help provide re-entry services to those incarcerated.

Name: Eileen holcombe

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Ecrehs@gmail.com

Comment: For school tax relief. Our school taxes are killing us, especially seniors

Name: Angelo Lovisa

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: angelo_lovisa@yahoo.com

Comment: "I believe the revenue should be used to pay down the state debt and provide seniors tax relief. 67% of the revenue toward the state debt and 33% for senior tax relief. NJ has one of the highest state debts in the nation while being one of the smallest states as well as one of the highest combined tax rates in the nation. These are forcing people to leave the state."

Name: Venus Smith

Affiliated Organization: Reclaim Black Wealth

Email: reclaimblackwealth@gmail.com

Comment: Dear Commission. Thank you for taking comments on what to do with the proceeds from the Cannabis Industry. In my opinion the funds need to be allocated to the severely underserved Black Communities of NJ, especially those in 07304 & 07305 as well as those convicted and jailed due to the war on drugs targeted at Black people. Two avenues to give back directly to Black Communities that can put the recipients on a path to wealth would be 1) Instead of the \$1,000 baby bond program that Gov. Murphy has proposed invest \$6,000 for every Black child that falls under the median income in NJ into an index ETF adding \$50 a month until they turn 21 years old. At the age of 21 years the recipient shall be required to complete a financial course to access a portion of the funds.

Funds should be allocated over time in logical increments allowing recipients the opportunity to withdraw portions of the funds at any time to purchase assets (ie: real estate) or for unforeseen emergencies. Funds should be completely dispersed to recipients by retirement age. This fund shall be restricted from any and all debt collectors including but not limited to the local, county, state or federal government. This fund shall not stand in the way of a recipient's ability to obtain scholarships for school nor grants in any way. 2) Any non-violent, victimless cannabis conviction that results in expungement should be accompanied with a program that provides a path to homeownership which includes a 20% down payment grant ensuring no PMI and some kind of payment assistance for the duration of the loan. Let's be clear. I am not asking for any of those affordable housing scams inflicted on Black people through HUD/CBGB Grants, Jersey City or the State of NJ, etc. NONE of those 95/5 rip-off schemes where Black wealth is stolen when the recipients want to retire. This program should be completely separate and devoid of any funds being paid back, ever. Recipients should be allowed to purchase a home wherever they want in NJ and not be beholden to the racist banking low, moderate, middle and upper income tracts on which mortgage loans are based. When possible, the Commission should find Black Owned & Black Run Banks and Organizations to assist recipients on their journey. Organizations like the African American Chamber of Commerce NJ, Earn Your Leisure (EYL) and Red Panda (Ian Dunlap) should be considered prior to selecting traditional non-Black run organizations. It would be great to see the State of NJ use the cannabis funds to close the astronomical wealth gap and be the first state to truly achieve economic equality.

Name: JEFFRY ABRAMS

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: jeff.abrams@comcast.net

Comment: REDUCE PROPERTY TAXES

Name: Shelby Wardlaw

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: sw963@scarletmail.rutgers.edu

Comment: Please use the revenue to support public education! This is what Colorado did, and their public school systems received enormous benefits. We need better distribution of resources, better teacher salaries to attract the brightest minds, and updated facilities.

Name: Joseph Peterson

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: jpeterston823@gmail.com

Comment: The tax revenue should go to infrastructure as a means to curb the excessive increase in tolls. NJ residence, particularly those of us in the NYC adjacent sector, are paying through the nose to drive on the roads up here. Just because the median income is in well into six figures, it does not justify the increases as they greatly impact the lower income half of the population. Our roads have been in great need of attention and they do take significant resources, so I believe this revenue would be best utilized in maintenance of them.

Name: Brendan Degnan

Affiliated Organization: Ethos Cannabis

Email: brendan.degnan@ethoscannabis.com

Comment: "To Whom It May Concern,

I believe that the social equity tax funds should be used on the state's medical marijuana program. In Pennsylvania, funds collected yearly from patients in the program were rolled over to create a benefit program for patients on state-assistance programs (like food stamps). This would be a great initiative that could be implement in New Jersey as well. Either as funds set aside to use for medication with a monthly allowance, or reducing the cost of staying in the program. This will also incentivize people to stay in or enter the medical program.

Due to the lack of licenses and available dispensaries earlier in the New Jersey' medical program, patients forced to wait in long lines, and ultimately were priced gouged as well as forced to accept whatever products were available.

The lack of growers processors/dispensaries and medical professionals in the program has created a program in which big cannabis companies take advantage of an undereducated cannabis community.

The New Jersey adult use market has helped some of these difficulties, but medical patients had to stomach the conditions in our program for years before we got to this point. We need to honor them.

Thank you for your time and effort in creating the cannabis industry of tomorrow. "

Name: Andrea Lawrence-Hyatt

Affiliated Organization: Council Woman | Business Owner | Founder & ED of a Non Profit

Email: andreaHyatt.07@gmail.com

Comment: "Money should be used to invest in teaching, training and undergirding black entrepreneurs in the business side of operations. That includes connecting their passion to making money, maintaining money, understanding working capital & when, where and how to reinvest in their operations to continue to grow and scale their business.

We need to also teach and train founders of non profits on all of the operational and reporting aspects necessary to successfully render services, run impactful programs and to insure their organization meet all of the necessary criteria to receive maximum grant funding opportunities in order to adequately service our people who desperately need the money and services.

Training & Technical Assistance is used in Federal programs like HeadStart and others. We need to incorporate that concept and fully find it to equip and empower our businesses and business owners with the educational acumen and support to succeed.

Andrea L Hyatt of Hyatt Financial LLC- an Accounting and Management Consulting organization"

Name: Ingrid Minacapelli

Affiliated Organization: Green Zone Wellness, a 501c3 nonprofit org

Email: Greenzonewellnessnj@gmail.com

Comment: "Dear members of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission, As a Latina who grew up and currently resides in Perth Amboy, I am writing to propose that a portion of the cannabis tax revenue in New Jersey be allocated to support Green Zone Wellness (GZW), a 501c3 nonprofit organization that helps veterans struggling with mental health heal with alternative and holistic treatment options, including medicinal cannabis.

First and foremost, it is important to recognize the sacrifices that our veterans have made for our country. They have put their lives on the line to protect our freedom and security, and it is our duty as a society to ensure that they receive the support and care they need. Many veterans suffer from physical and mental health conditions that can be treated with cannabis, such as PTSD and chronic pain. GZW provides veterans with access to education and cannabis-based treatments, which can have a significant impact on their quality of life.

In addition, GZW's mission aligns with the state's objective of promoting social justice, as it is known that the criminalization of cannabis has disproportionately affected communities of color and low-income individuals. GZW is working to address this by providing veterans with access to cannabis-based treatments, regardless of their race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status. By supporting GZW, we can help to promote social justice and equity in our state.

We believe that the cannabis tax revenue in NJ has the potential to make a significant impact on the lives of struggling veterans and their families. By allocating a portion of this revenue to support GZW and our mission, the state of NJ can honor and support the sacrifices made by our veterans and help them not only heal but thrive.

Thank you for considering this proposal. We look forward to discussing this further and working with the NJCRC to support social equity for our veterans and their mental health.

Sincerely,

Ingrid Veronica Minacapelli
Combat Veteran
Founder, Green Zone Wellness

Name: Angie Hildebrandt

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: sixxchick@comcast.net

Comment: Would love to see property tax relief.

Name: Kathleen Hoey

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Kathleenh0331@gmail.com

Comment: Use the money to fund universal free breakfast and lunch for all school children. Too many go without meals due to parents inability or unwillingness to pay.

Name: Lawrence Graves

Affiliated Organization: Salvation & Social Justice

Email: 220lcg@gmail.com

Comment: NJ Cannabis Regulatory Commission needs to give revenue from the sale of Cannabis to the Black community for the violence, harm, disenfranchisement, and destruction of the War on Drugs by law enforcement on the Black Community.

Name: MICHAEL C. MURRAY

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: njvolsfan@aol.com

Comment: Provide permanent housing, food, job training, employment assistance for all NJ Veterans and their immediate family who are in need.

Name: Mary Ann Cokos

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: mcokos@aol.com

Comment: I am a senior citizen homeowner in New Jersey surviving on a fixed income paying an exorbitant amount of money for school taxes. Please consider the seniors who are struggling to remain in this state and reduce the amount of school taxes we are forced to pay even though our children are grown and long gone on their own path. Thank you

Name: Tim Squyres

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: It should be mixed with general tax revenues. directing specific revenue to specific causes needlessly complicates and constrains budgeting. It's the legislature's job to decide how to allocate funds based on all relevant information.

Name: Ann DeGennaro

Affiliated Organization: Lawrence High School, Student Assistance Counselor

Email: adegennaro@ltps.org

Comment: "After reading the NJCRC, I am disappointed to find the true lack of funding allocated towards education of substance use. \$33,750 is a disgrace. To allocate such a limited amount of funding for underage deterrence and prevention is an insult to all the substance abuse counselors working diligently to help reduce the onset of substance use and abuse particularly in our schools. The legalization of marijuana and lack of police involvement has put our schools at great risk for new addicts. We obviously, haven't learned from our past mistakes with alcohol and tobacco. These students are engaging in behavior that will inevitably put them at high risk for many mental health related issues as they continue to imbibe in this illegal activity. The lack of motivation associated with the use of marijuana has caused an onslaught of students failing classes, getting suspended and in having to attend summer school among other things.

If schools had the opportunity to provide effective and consistent education to young children, perhaps we would have much more of an impact on their future endeavors. This goes along equity lines.

Has any of the conversation been with our prevention specialists, addiction counselors? We have a much different perspective on this issue, our organization would be happy to engage in a fruitful conversation about it."

Name: Melissa A. Rivera-Serna

Affiliated Organization: CJFHC

Email: missyann616@yahoo.com

Comment: Revenue from cannabis sales should go to funds for Before/After School Care and Early Child Care. The first five years really DO MATTER!

Name: Melissa A. Rivera-Serna

Affiliated Organization: Coalition of Infant Toddler Educators 973-580-7786

Email: mriveraserna@cite.org

Comment: "Use Cannabis Tax Revenue towards Early Care & Education Teacher's Salaries. The First Five Years DO MATTER!"

Name: Ken Wolski, RN, MPA

Affiliated Organization: Coalition for Medical Marijuana--New Jersey, Inc.

Email: kenwolski@gmail.com

Subject matter: Social Equity Excise Tax Public Comment

Comment: Re: Tax revenue to fund institutional access to medical cannabis

I propose using a portion of the Social Equity Excise taxes to implement a program where the State of New Jersey produces, manufactures, and distributes medical cannabis for all qualified patients in state institutions.

In November 2015, Gov. Chris Christie signed into law A4587, a bill requiring facilities for the developmentally disabled to allow the administration of medical cannabis to qualifying patients.

As I said in a Trenton Times Op Ed in 2016 entitled, "It's time for N.J. to fully embrace medical marijuana:"

""The State of New Jersey must recognize its status as caregiver of last resort to the many patients who are under its care -- this applies not only to residents of facilities for the developmentally disabled, but also to residents in psychiatric hospitals, nursing homes, group homes, and hospices, as well as to inmates in correctional facilities.

I know these facilities. I worked for four years at Trenton Psychiatric Hospital and for 22 years at the New Jersey Department of Corrections (DOC). Some of the residents and inmates at these facilities suffer from cancer,

HIV/AIDS, seizures, multiple sclerosis, and other conditions that qualify for medical marijuana. There is no reason to withhold oral doses of medical marijuana from these patients.

The staff in these facilities is already trained to administer and account for controlled substances. They are trained to observe for side effects and adverse reactions. The State simply needs to develop policies and procedures to administer oral forms of marijuana to the patients in its care who qualify, under state rules, for this therapy.

The medical cannabis could be grown and processed in secure greenhouses at the Rutgers University Agricultural School. The cannabis would then be manufactured into various edible products with specific doses of varying cannabinoid contents, ideally under the supervision of the New Jersey Board of Pharmacy. These products would then be distributed to institutions.""

The 2019 Jake Honig law has already called for guidelines for the dosage and administration of medical cannabis. As soon as these guidelines are adopted, they can be distributed to the medical staff at all state institutional facilities.

This program can result in tremendous savings of health care dollars. With the broad range of therapeutic effects of cannabis, it is not surprising to see that one or more additional problems are managed when the patient's qualifying condition is adequately treated. This represents significant savings on expensive pharmaceuticals. Additionally, with better managed and more stable chronic conditions in the institutions, savings are also realized in the reduced need for emergency transport, hospitalizations, and surgical procedures. Health care costs for inmates in the NJ DOC were \$142 million in 2011, according to nj.com. A 10% savings (\$14.2 million) is a very conservative estimate of reduced annual costs in just one department in state government when this program is fully implemented.

Additionally, public health will be improved, and New Jersey can be a model for institutional health care throughout the country.

I conceived, designed, and implemented a telemedicine program for the NJ DOC when I worked there. For this, I was awarded the Governor's Certificate of Appreciation for "improving government in New Jersey" on July 19, 2005. The 2014 Annual Report from the DOC notes that:

"Telemedicine continues to produce cost savings, as some 150 telemedicine sessions take place each month...telemedicine has saved hundreds of thousands of dollars in manpower and transportation costs."

Institutional access to medical cannabis, like the DOC telemedicine program, will result in considerable cost savings while improving patient care. Thank you."

Name: Sasha A. Jackson

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Sashajackson53@gmail.com

Comment: "I believe cannabis revenues, should be invested in affordable living. The economy is only getting worse, and NJ is expensive. I think if we could invest that into more affordable, NOT section 8, homes.. we could help a number of New Jerseyans get out of the constant struggle mode.

"

Name: Keith Swaby

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Keith.swaby@gmail.com

Comment: "This money should be used to reduce property taxes our taxes are too high in NJ"

Name: Velia Jackson

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: vicki632@optonline.net

Comment: "The revenue should go towards the state's school districts, veterans, and the homeless. With that being said, it is a hardship for those of us who rely on medical marijuana for our health conditions and illnesses. Although the state has alleviated state taxes; we are still obligated to pay municipalities' taxes. Marijuana is not a recreational drug for those of us who need it for medicinal purposes. It is expensive enough as it is. And for us to still have to pay township's taxes, serves as an added burden and hardship."

Name: Nicole Williams

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: nicole@nicolew.org

Comment: Please make sure that the tax revenue from NJ cannabis sales go to the communities of color harmed by the racist "War on Drugs" and ridiculous federal drug schedule. This will go a long way to restoring justice to the lives of those most affected by these targeted policies.

Name: Janel Stedtler

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: jstedtler@gmail.com

Comment: Tax revenue from legal cannabis should be used to support communities impacted by the war on drugs. For years, NJians have been imprisoned, fined, and had their lives drastically (negatively) impacted due to minor cannabis-related offenses. Now that it is legal in NJ, those people whose lives were ruined by something our state is now (rightly) promoting should be the first to benefit from the tax revenue.

Name: Heather Lipari

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: Liparihe@hotmail.com

Comment: Give back to the school districts in the town where the cannabis stores are located. To be used for special needs kids.

Name: Michael Merolla

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: michael.s.merolla@gmail.com

Comment: Please use tax revenues from cannabis revenues to decrease the costs of toll roads.

Name: Ami Kachalia

Affiliated Organization: ACLU of New Jersey

Email: akachalia@aclu-nj.org

Comment: "The American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey (ACLU-NJ) submits this written testimony regarding the allocation of revenue raised from the social equity excise fee (SEEF) in the FY 2024 budget.

The ACLU-NJ is committed to ensuring that New Jersey achieves the promises of legalization – ending marijuana-related arrests, building an equitable industry, and ensuring that revenue from legalization is reinvested into the communities most harmed by marijuana criminalization.

New Jersey's cannabis legalization law committed a significant portion of cannabis-related revenue – one hundred percent of the social equity excise fee and almost sixty percent of all cannabis sales tax revenue – to community reinvestment. While this was an important step towards beginning to repair the harms of marijuana prohibition, now is the time to ensure that this promise comes to fruition.

As the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission (CRC) make recommendations on how these funds should be allocated within the FY24 budget, ACLU-NJ's urges you to follow the lead of community members calling for

investment in resources that build access to opportunity and allow communities to recover from decades of criminalization and thrive. Community reinvestment funds can be used to support essential programs, like social services, housing and food assistance, educational support, harm reduction, and other services. These resources have been disinvested in for decades, and community members and advocates have emphasized over the course of both the FY23 and FY24 budget cycles that this is how cannabis funds can be used to best support their municipalities.

It is also vital that none of the cannabis revenue promised for community reinvestment is used to provide funding to law enforcement, criminal legal system stakeholders, or other related programs. New Jersey has spent over \$1 billion to enforce marijuana prohibition, and it is long past time for change. ACLU-NJ appreciates that this principle was highlighted in the CRC's recommendations to the Legislature and Governor in FY23, and urges the CRC to include this as a cornerstone of any recommendations going forward.

In addition to these substantive recommendations on how cannabis community reinvestment funds should be allocated, ACLU-NJ also calls on the CRC to work with partners within state government to create more transparency and accountability in this process:

- Create a public tool that tracks the funding set aside for community reinvestment and how it is being used to support new resources and opportunities, as well as an annual report on cannabis community reinvestment that tracks how reinvestment dollars are used over time.
- Institute a more participatory and community-driven process to determine how all community reinvestment from the cannabis sales tax revenue and SEEF should be used, including additional regional CRC SEEF hearings, annual legislative hearings on community reinvestment, and meetings with community-based organizations.
- Establish a Cannabis Community Reinvestment Advisory Board to inform the allocation of community reinvestment funds. The board should be made up of New Jerseyans directly impacted by criminalization, through the criminal legal system, child welfare, housing, immigration, education, and employment.

This moment calls for action and leadership. As New Jersey's cannabis industry grows and licensees and other businesses continue to financially benefit from changes in marijuana law, it is crucial that the communities most targeted by marijuana criminalization are not left behind. We, along with our partners, urge you to prioritize community voices in this process and to ensure transparency and accountability. "

Name: Jessica Sautter, PhD with Jelsia Cottone, BS

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: jess.sautter@gmail.com

Comment: "The social equity excise fee (SEEF) revenue should support full-time social services employees in economically disadvantaged impact zones. The people in these positions would work toward social equity outcomes in New Jersey:

Equitable cannabis markets for consumers and businesses

Justice systems that ameliorate wrongs and support individual growth

Social services in the communities that need them

Social equity is a long-term goal that requires investments in social services and reforms to policies and practices. Public recommendations on Wednesday night proposed funding for public libraries, youth development programs, and Black owned businesses. These are worthy programs with demonstrated benefits. But these plans to invest SEEF revenue do not meet another goal of the CRC - to create an innovative blueprint for states to approach social justice.

Current SEEF revenue should cover three full-time positions to start, then increase exponentially with the market. Three people can make a difference - people skilled in case management, organization, communication, and change. These people should serve Impact Zones that are also Economically Disadvantaged - Atlantic City, Camden, Jersey City, Newark, Paterson, and Trenton. Dedicated employees in dedicated positions can connect members of these communities to the government. They can also improve the government.

Example 1: Legal support

The CRC is clearly separate from the court system, which has quickly and efficiently expunged records meeting specific criteria. A state employee could provide individual counseling for people whose cases were not automatically expunged. This employee could also create networks of NJ lawyers who can contribute their time and talents to this cause. Beyond individual counseling, they can recommend proactive reform of remaining racist policies. This will show that social equity in NJ does not end with cannabis.

Example 2: Economic reform

The CRC is doing all the right things to support individuals and small businesses from communities that have been historically excluded from profitable industries. A state employee could continue and expand this work. But even with this support, entrepreneurs cannot succeed in a market flooded with multi state operators (MSOs). Drawing support from local experts, a state employee can research best practices and recommend reforms that will prioritize entrepreneurs at all levels - licensing, banking, operation, taxation. For the cannabis market to be equitable, an individual with a record and limited capital has to have a chance against a large corporation headquartered out of state. This will only happen if policies guide the market.

Example 3: Social services

Social equity extends far beyond cannabis. Remaining SEEF revenue should be invested into existing social services in Atlantic City, Camden, Jersey City, Newark, Paterson, and Trenton. The social services most directly related to the failed war on drugs include education, childcare, substance use disorder treatment, and mental health treatment. As revenue increases, additional state employees can provide individual counseling and suggest reform in all of these areas as suggested above.

Many states allocate their excise fees to schools, mental health, substance use prevention and disorder treatment, and business investments. Not all states disburse those funds. It has been reported that New York State "is sitting on" over one million dollars in tax revenue collected since 2014. It does not look good for Pennsylvania that half of their sugar-sweetened beverage tax revenue went to the General Fund instead of early education. To avoid these problems, New Jersey needs people to initiate programs and keep them running. This is not an investment in bureaucracy with a bloated payroll. This is an investment in people to implement the state's commitment to social equity and resources to support communities who deserve it most.

"

Name: Nathan Wong Link

Affiliated Organization: Rutgers University

Email: nathan.link@rutgers.edu

Subject matter: "How Should Money from Cannabis Legalization Be Spent? A Statewide Survey of New Jersey Residents Suggests Public Health and Education"

Comment: We are researchers from Rutgers University and Drexel University who study crime and justice. Here we share a brief summary of our recent findings about New Jersey residents' views of the impacts of cannabis legalization and decriminalization.

We collected and analyzed data in summer of 2022 to address this topic (from 1,006 respondents across all 21 counties). The data were weighted to be representative of the residential adult population of New Jersey; in other words, our findings present an accurate depiction of the views of all NJ residents.

For the Commission's purposes, we share here some of the findings relevant to social equity and the distribution of revenue stemming from sales taxes on cannabis. Specifically, people were asked "In your opinion, what should be the state government's top priority when it comes to using the sales tax revenue generated from legal cannabis purchases?" They were then instructed to choose the top choice among a series of response categories.

The results show the percentage of people ranking each option and the most important priority for spending:

- 23% -- Public and community health initiatives
- 22% -- Education
- 13% -- Transportation and infrastructure
- 13% -- Affordable housing development
- 10% -- Funding for police, courts, and prisons*
- 4% -- Campaigns on the dangers of substance use
- 15% -- Other/don't know

When this question was asked a second time, and people were instructed to pick a different option, the results were similar, with education and public health responses still coming in first and second, but switching places as the most important. Overall, public health and education priorities were the top concerns among residents. Between the two questions, about half of all respondents indicated that the revenue should be spent on public health initiatives and education.

These numbers, keep in mind, reflect the views of NJ residents overall. How these findings may differ if we analyzed the subsample of residents who live in the identified impact zones is an open question. This is important as residents of these areas are likely much more attuned to the specific needs of their communities and most impacted by this legislation and the problems it seeks to address. If the Commission is interested this question we would be glad to explore it further and can provide a more detailed report.

Thanks, and let us know if you have any questions.

Nathan Link, Ph.D., Rutgers University

Jordan Hyatt, J.D., Ph.D., Drexel University

Kathleen Powell, Ph.D., Drexel University

*In line with the reform efforts, we understand the funding in the impact zones cannot be spent on law enforcement, but we include this response category in order to address the question of how NJ residents, from a general and sociological perspective, feel about spending tax revenue expenditures on these activities.

"

Name: Diane Litterer

Affiliated Organization: New Jersey Prevention Network

Email: dianelitterer@njpn.org

Comment: "Build resilient NJ communities by supporting and expanding the state's investment in the Prevention Hubs: a statewide network of 21 county prevention agencies that provide effective and evidence-based substance use prevention programming and resources to individuals, families and communities.

The Cannabis Regulatory Commission has invited comments regarding the distribution of cannabis-related revenues, specifically those accrued via the Social Equity Excise Fee (SEEF). We applaud the Governor, Legislature and CRC for their commitment to the goal of building social equity through the distribution of these resources.

In order to ensure that these new funds are maximized, we urge these funds be used to support and expand upon critical infrastructure that exists rather than creating a new system that may duplicate current efforts. There is currently a well-established system of substance use prevention agencies that are providing prevention services and connecting communities to treatment and recovery services, including connections to services related to social, health and other needs. The New Jersey Prevention Hubs – supported by the Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) – are housed in prevention agencies in each of NJ's 21 counties and provide essential local resources to individuals, families and communities. These agencies have been engaging youth, parents and community leaders and delivering universal prevention interventions in schools and communities for the last 10 years. The agencies are long-standing and trusted non-profit organizations in their communities and have deep ties and cultural knowledge to best serve their localities.

With DMHAS support, this statewide network of Prevention Hub agencies provides resources to schools and communities, particularly for vulnerable groups such as children and older adults. The Prevention Hub agencies regularly work with multiple sectors in the community such as local law enforcement, local prosecutor's offices, veterans' groups, senior centers and others. They provide evidence-based programs like Strengthening Families, WISE (Wellness Initiative for Senior Education), Over the Counter Medication Safety Training, and tailored, culturally appropriate programming for specific community groups in multiple languages. They build capacity among local schools by providing training and delivering evidence-based prevention programs such as Don't Get Vaped In, PreVenture, LifeSkills, and others, to reduce substance use risk among youth, educate them on alcohol, marijuana, tobacco, and other drugs, and build resiliency by providing healthy coping skills for stress and mental health. These agencies also provide schools with training and capacity building on universal prevention techniques such as screening with evidence-based tools such as SBIRT (Screening to Brief Intervention and Treatment), providing resources and training to school personnel. These hubs provide a one-stop-shop for local communities and regularly make referrals and connections to resources and providers, address social determinants of health, and addiction and mental health needs. To find out more about these agencies and the resources they provide, visit njpreventionhub.org.

Rather than creating new infrastructure that may duplicate efforts and cause confusion, we urge the Governor, Legislature, and the CRC to wisely spend the limited resources provided by the CREAMM Fund on strengthening and expanding the existing and effective Prevention Hub Agencies, to continue to provide evidence-based and appropriate prevention resources to our youth, families and communities.

"

Name: Malissa Arnold

Affiliated Organization: Prevention Coalition of Mercer County/ Mercer Council on Alcoholism and Drug Addiction

Email: Marnold@mercercouncil.org

Comment: "Dear Commissioners Barker and Nash, and Chairperson Brown,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today about the proposed uses of Cannabis's tax revenue. I am Malissa Arnold, from the Prevention Coalition of Mercer County, and the Mercer Council on Alcoholism and Drug Addiction. The Coalition represents all sectors of the community and is proud of their efforts to keep Mercer County healthy safe and responsible by making environmental changes to increase protective factors and reduce risk factors, especially for are most vulnerable populations while always respecting cultural proficiency.

We are particularly concerned with the vulnerable, developing minds of our young people. Funding and priorities should be placed on education efforts for safety. We need campaigns for parental education on the differing impacts that this substance has on young adults, as opposed to the effects on adult brains, safety campaigns about safe storage and use around children, and emphasize these issues as we have in the past with alcohol.

In the CRC's recommendations to the governor, released in the fall od 2022, many suggestions for services in mental health, schooling, workforce preparation, early intervention services, out of school programs and business preparation services were very well received. We feel that these are very needed and many compassionate, involved groups and organizations are working very hard to offer them. An investment in these organizations so that they can build their capacity, serve longer hours, hire and train more staff, more clinicians, and serve more age ranges would be an efficient and mindful use of these public funds.

One of these programs that has made an impact on the community are the School Based Youth Support System programs (SBYSSP). These valuable programs are already in our schools, many in impact zones, and with increased capacity could spread to all impact zones. Save the school based youth support system's programs. Give them steady funding and allow them to expand their reach through increased capacity.

Another area that needs to be funded and supported is technologies for testing and screening for cannabis use for highway safety, job safety, and for schools. Being under the influence of cannabis has lead to safety issues, and accurate and fast technology needs to exist to keep our communities safe. Retailers, schools, parents, and enforcement need reliable, non-biased data to help keep our roads and workers functioning and lower risk. In addition, cannabis retailers should have responsible serving and selling criteria and training.

Please increase protective factors of positive activities for our youth by increasing the ability of recreation centers, libraries, youth support organizations, community groups, summer camps, out of school programs, the arts, and substance free activities to reach our young people. These programs help youth and families learn better communication, gives positive interactions with adults, tutors, mentors and trainings that have a overall positive effect on our communities as a whole.

Uniform labeling standards for all products, and true penalties for those selling imitation products to youth, or in an unlicensed place of business need to be enforced to protect the health screening practices for these products and stop the accessibility to unlicensed products to our residents- especially youth.

Incentives to increase students and careers in the mental health, addiction, and social services areas, especially for minority students are needed so that more can serve the greater needs of our community. Increasing the capacity of these safety nets lead to less law enforcement interventions, and result in stronger, healthier communities.

Early Intervention Services need to be expanded to include younger ages, accommodate longer hours for accessibility, and accessibility and access to public transportation. We have seen a great benefit to these programs but"

Name: Lisa Congiu

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: Cannabis tax revenue can be used for: Universal full day pre-K, state level child tax incentives, expanding paid family leave to compete with other industrialized nations, site remediation funding, improving food insecurity in the state, expediting transition to renewable energy sources.

Name: Brian Congiu

Affiliated Organization: n/a

Email: n/a

Comment: Cannabis tax revenue can be used for reserving more green space and maintaining existing parks.