

## North

Name: Brian Burchell  
Affiliated Organization: n/a  
County: Bergen:  
Email: [burchell.brian@gmail.com](mailto:burchell.brian@gmail.com)

***Subject Matter: Policing and enforcement against illicit market***

Comment: Initially, I think the bulk of the tax revenues collected from the sale of both medicinal and adult use sales should go towards the policing and enforcement of cracking down on the illicit market. I'm not saying throw people in jail, that would be counterproductive. I'm saying focus on the quasi-"legal"/gray market sellers who are not legally licensed to sell/cultivate cannabis. The goal here would be to drive consumers away from the illicit market towards the legal channels. This then becomes a flywheel to drive increased sales tax revenues, employment (jobs, employment tax revenues, etc.) and ultimately those revenues should be allocated towards education, social justice, or any other benevolent cause I'm sure most people will be focused on. Respectfully, Brian Burchell

Name: Justin Escher Alpert  
Affiliated Organization: n/a  
County: Essex  
Email: [justinalpertesq@escheralpert.com](mailto:justinalpertesq@escheralpert.com)

Subject Matter: Property Value and appreciation and local bank accountability

Comments: If the CRC is looking to promote equitable positions in the #ImpactZones, there must be a restructuring of locally-accountable fiduciary banking. Implement a Rule Against Perpetuities and account for to whom the appreciated value of real property will flow. This is a really complex issue, beyond the limited scope of the CRC. Welcome a team effort from Gov. Phil Murphy, Sen. Pres. Nicholas P. Scutari, New Jersey Senate Republicans, Speaker Craig J. Coughlin, and NJ Assembly GOP to address the many underlying socioeconomic issues that have persisted for decades under single-party New Jersey Democratic State Committee governance. We could do so much better. 🇺🇸 #LibertyAndProsperity

Name: Michael Cardona  
Affiliated Organization: n/a  
County: Passaic  
Email: [michaelcardona0917@gmail.com](mailto:michaelcardona0917@gmail.com)

***Subject Matter: Fund programs that provide medical marijuana to disadvantaged communities, grants and start up capital for social equity applicants.***

Comments: The tax revenue can be used to fund programs that make high quality cannabis products available to underprivileged and disadvantaged people that desperately need medicine. Create a third party department or organization that oversees the disbursement of funds and enforces accountability. Also remainder of funds can be redistributed to create grants for social equity applicants in form of grants for start-up capital. Thank You

Name: Dana Mondadori Patton  
Affiliated Organization:  
County: Hudson  
Email: [Danampatton@gmail.com](mailto:Danampatton@gmail.com)  
Subject Matter:

Comments: I would like to see cannabis taxes go toward public schools and grants to people formerly incarcerated for selling drugs to start their own legal businesses.

Name: John-Henry Barr  
Affiliated Organization: n/a  
County: Union  
Email: [Jhb2c@aol.com](mailto:Jhb2c@aol.com)  
*Subject Matter: Marijuana disuse campaigns, especially for youth*

Comments: I am a 51 year old attorney, a husband and father of four, a former eleven-year volunteer EMT, a life member of my local first aid squad, and a Board of Education member. Since 2014, I have been a proud steering committee member of New Jersey United for Marijuana Reform (NJUMR), a group representing various interests that very visibly assisted in the effort to make marijuana legal in New Jersey. My participation in NJUMR stemmed from my service since 2001 as a municipal prosecutor and being a past-president of the NJ State Municipal Prosecutors Association from 2007 to 2015. I have a unique perspective on how cannabis community reinvestment dollars should be spent in New Jersey, and I hope that the CRC will consider voices such as mine. Succinctly stated, as passionately as I favored the legalization of cannabis, I equally passionately believe that people (and especially youths), should be actively discouraged from consuming it. The CRC should dedicate at least some small portion of reinvestment dollars toward messaging which conveys that for most people, marijuana is unhealthy, is NOT cool, is NOT good for you, and will do NOTHING to advance the long-term interests of New Jerseyans, especially in our more urban and minority communities. If we now appear to be subtly encouraging marijuana use, the legalization of cannabis in New Jersey will ultimately constitute one step forward and two steps back, particularly among black and brown residents. We actively discourage the abuse of alcohol and tobacco. We should do the same with marijuana, and the CRC should be unafraid to say so.

Name: Thomas Frain  
Affiliated Organization: n/a  
County: Hudson  
Email: [tfrain34689@icloud.com](mailto:tfrain34689@icloud.com)  
Subject Matter: Affordable Housing

Comments: Hello – I believe that funds should be directed to the communities that have been most affected by marijuana prohibition. We should invest in truly affordable housing (and social housing), as well as a portion to help support education.

Name: Victoria A. Tahhan

Affiliated Organization:

County: Bergen

Email: [vtahhan@gmail.com](mailto:vtahhan@gmail.com)

Subject Matter: *School Funding, Better food and supplies for students and teachers*

Comments: A percentage of the cannabis tax revenue should go directly to underprivileged families of students in the school system. That money should not go towards administrative costs or salaries. It should also help teachers/schools afford Better food and better supplies for the students. We need to end the days were kids have to pay for their lunch and teachers have to pay for their own supplies.

Comments: (Submitted additional Comments) The approval for social equity candidates (Minority owned women businesses) cannabis license applications should be expedited and approved before any other candidates. Expeditiously approved!

Name: Ron Bautista

Affiliated Organization: Progressive Democrats of Hudson County

County: Hudson

Email: [Ronbautistanj@gmail.com](mailto:Ronbautistanj@gmail.com)

Subject Matter:

Comments: We push for taxes from cannabis sales go toward public schools and grants for people formerly incarcerated for drugs to start their own businesses.

Name: Justine Cook

Affiliated Organization: n/a

County: Monmouth

Email: [jccook15@gmail.com](mailto:jccook15@gmail.com)

Subject Matter: Closing of the racial wealth gap

Comments: I would like the collected fees on the sale of cannabis products to be used largely to close the racial wealth gap in NJ. Communities of color have be disproportionally impacted by the flawed war on drugs, including marijuana arrests and criminal charges, and this needs to be redressed now that marijuana will be sold recreationally. I recommend consulting with the NJ Institute for Social Justice and their recommendations for closing the wealth gap (housing and homeownership programs, student loan forgiveness, reparations, etc.). Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter. I would be happy to discuss my position further. Reference:

[https://assets.nationbuilder.com/njisj/pages/689/attachments/original/1645217098/Making\\_the\\_Two\\_New\\_Jerseys\\_One\\_2.15.22-compressed.pdf?1645217098](https://assets.nationbuilder.com/njisj/pages/689/attachments/original/1645217098/Making_the_Two_New_Jerseys_One_2.15.22-compressed.pdf?1645217098)

Name: Robert Fromtling Jr.  
Affiliated Organization: n/a  
County: Monmouth  
Email: [framptonbmx@hotmail.com](mailto:framptonbmx@hotmail.com)  
Subject Matter:

Comments: I want recreational sales income to go to racial justice programs (like reparations, housing/homeownership assistance, student loan forgiveness, etc.) for communities of color, since they were disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs.

Name: Kristin Nelson  
Affiliated Organization: A Public Library in Bergen County  
County: Bergen  
Email: [kristinknelson@gmail.com](mailto:kristinknelson@gmail.com)  
Subject Matter: Public Library Funding for programs targeting formerly incarcerated, immigrants, and children

Comments: Tax revenue for public library use would be a move toward promoting and creating social equity. Libraries could purchase equipment, collections and develop classes and programs for immigrants, formerly incarcerated folks, children and the general public that would help them to achieve their goals (re: employment, literacy, personal enrichment) without any cost to them as library patrons. This is especially true in lower income areas.

Name: Francine DAnna  
Affiliated Organization: n/a  
County: Hudson  
Email: [Cesca628@aol.com](mailto:Cesca628@aol.com)  
Subject Matter: Disability Access

Comments: I love that 60% is going for social justice, but with all these buildings going up, some apartments should be allocated for people with disabilities.

Name: Stewart Resmer  
Affiliated Organization: Vietnam Veteran  
County: Passaic  
Email: [Stewartresmer@aol.com](mailto:Stewartresmer@aol.com)  
Subject Matter:

Comments: As a Vietnam Veteran I have waited 6 decades for permission to use marijuana legally. When is it ever going to happen?

Name: Michelle Lerner  
Affiliated Organization: n/a  
County: Morris  
Email: [lernermichelle@aol.com](mailto:lernermichelle@aol.com)  
Subject Matter: The War on Drugs

Comments: As a consumer of medical cannabis for several years now, I feel I am a direct player in this. I write to urge you to ensure that funds generated are directed primarily to low-income and minority-majority areas which have been devastated by the war on drugs. As a middle class white woman, I've been legally consuming a harmless plant for years that immeasurably helps with a chronic illness for which I receive disability benefits. Decades ago when I was in high school and college, my middle class friends in majority white towns smoked cannabis without fear or concern. One white college friend was arrested when, pulled over for a speeding ticket, a bag of cannabis was found in her car. She was basically given a warning and no criminal record. Meanwhile, poor brown and Black citizens have been arrested, incarcerated, and lost incomes, housing, and sometimes even children for using or distributing the same harmless medicinal plant. It is time to correct this egregious wrong. I want any funds generated by this process to be directed to the people who have been forced to suffer the consequences of the regressive state policies around this form of herbal medicine.

Name: Daisy Lorenzo  
Affiliated Organization: n/a  
County: Passaic  
Email: [dailor4@msn.com](mailto:dailor4@msn.com)  
Subject Matter: Those most impacted by incarceration, not law enforcement

Comments: I believe that the cannabis revenue investment should go to NJ residents that have been most impacted by the criminalization of cannabis. This could be in the form of aid to incarcerated individuals who had their lives changed for minor offenses, or whatever these communities see fit. I also firmly believe that the investment should NOT be put towards law enforcement.

Name: Sally Jane Gellert  
Affiliated Organization: n/a  
County: Bergen  
Email: [SageEdit@aol.com](mailto:SageEdit@aol.com)  
Subject Matter:

Comments: My first thought is to make improving schools and grounds, libraries, and parks the top priority. Street trees are also important, especially with community members willing to take responsibility for their nurture until they get established (see the film "A Tree Grows in Trenton"). Improved recycling/sanitation services, sidewalk and street repair, all sorts of quality-of-life issues. Support for existing community gardens and those creating new ones. In some cases, addiction counselling availability, needle exchanges, and overdose-recovery treatment may make sense—though mentioning that makes me feel like I am falling into the false criminalization/escalation trap of the mainstream establishment.

Name: Michele Reutty  
Affiliated Organization: n/a  
County: Bergen  
Email: [michelereutty@gmail.com](mailto:michelereutty@gmail.com)  
Subject Matter: Public Libraries

Comments: The money should be given to Pubic Libraries. No one institution benefits all residents of a town the way a library does. Libraries are the most democratic of all municipal facilities. All you need to enter is your interest. Libraries save their patrons money, lower the intellectual divide by providing public computers and have some thing for everyone from before birth (What to Expect When You're Expecting) to after death (Gravefinder.com) and every stage of life in between. Please consider Public Libraries when you are deciding what to do with these funds.

Name: Dr. Monique Hamilton  
Affiliated Organization: Dr. MoniHami Medical Center  
County: Essex  
Email: [monique@drmonihami.com](mailto:monique@drmonihami.com)  
Subject Matter:

Comments: Hello, I am Dr. Monique Hamilton, and I am Board Certified in Internal Medicine. I am the Co-founder and Lead Physician for the Dr. MoniHami Medical Center (DMMC) in South Orange, NJ. The use of prescription opioids for the management of pain has drastically contributed to America's opioid epidemic. Medical Cannabis is a safer alternative when used for pain control. There is no fatal overdose associated with cannabis use and there are not many negative side effects associated with it. However, many physicians may be reluctant to recommend Cannabis to their patients for pain management because of its negative stigma. Increasing NJ patient access to this treatment can be achieved through educating Healthcare practitioners on the benefits of cannabis for many common chronic conditions including chronic pain and anxiety. There is a general lack of knowledge about the Endocannabinoid System in the Medical Community because it is not traditionally taught in U.S. Medical Schools or Residency training programs. I am sure there are medical practitioners who are seeking alternatives to addictive and potentially fatal prescription Opioid and Benzodiazepine Medications but simply do not have knowledge about how Cannabis can effectively treat many common conditions. As a result, medical practitioners are less likely to offer Cannabis as a treatment alternative. It is important to not only educate patients about the benefits of Medical Cannabis but Physicians as well. Not only will educating Providers about Medical Cannabis enable them to provide this treatment to their patients, but it will also increase the number of Physicians registered with the NJ Medical Cannabis Program. Currently, there are over 100,000 patients registered in the NJ Medical Cannabis Program and only 968 Physicians registered in the program. The State of NJ can provide a solution to this problem by funding efforts to educate medical practitioners and patients about the benefits of Medical Cannabis. Thank you

Name: Lynn Rickert  
Affiliated Organization: n/a  
County: Bergen  
Email: n/a  
Subject Matter: Harm Reduction

Comments: I believe the Social Equity Excise Fee should be used to invest in a harm reduction approach to drug use, through educational support, economic development and legal and social services. Further funding of law enforcement is NOT the answer—invest these funds in the community instead.

Name: Susan Haspel  
Affiliated Organization: New Jersey Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs  
County: Passaic  
Email: [shaspel@bgcnj.org](mailto:shaspel@bgcnj.org)  
Subject Matter

Comments: March 16, 2022 Re: Funding for Youth Substance Abuse Prevention & Advancing Afterschool  
Dear Commissioners Krista Nash and Charles Barker: On behalf of the New Jersey Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs, we are writing in regard to the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission's Use of Tax Revenue for Social Equity Hearing. We would like to commend the commission for having these hearings and are hereby requesting the commission's support in designating a portion of cannabis tax revenues to fund New Jersey afterschool programs. Our 22 Boys & Girls Club sites serving over 33,000 youth across New Jersey support the premise that revenue from the regulation of adult use cannabis should be reinvested in those communities hardest hit by the war on drugs and/or substance misuse. The New Jersey Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs is requesting that funding from the cannabis tax revenue be directed towards serving New Jersey youth through afterschool programs, summer programs and youth substance abuse prevention programming. Afterschool programs provide an ideal environment for youth to build protective factors, avoid substance misuse, and ultimately reach their full potential. In the afterschool setting, youth are surrounded by caring adults and mentors that help create a safe space for youth to express themselves, develop a sense of belonging, and discover their passions, while fostering an environment that supports healthy development. In addition, afterschool programs promote educational and positive social behaviors, help in the prevention of violence as well as the use of illegal substances. We appreciate the opportunity to provide public input on social equity investments from revenue derived from the cannabis industry in New Jersey. We applaud the commission's work to implement programs that promote equitable inclusion and help improve the lives of people in New Jersey. To that end, we urge the Cannabis Regulatory Commission to strongly consider the far-reaching effects on youth in those communities most impacted by the war on drugs, and ensure they have the necessary support system in place to be successful later in life. Sincerely, Susan Haspel State Director, NJ Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs [shaspel@bgcnj.org](mailto:shaspel@bgcnj.org) 201-994-6895

Name: Henry Godette  
Affiliated Organization: NJCRI – North Jersey Community Research Initiative  
County: Essex  
Email: [h.godette@njcri.org](mailto:h.godette@njcri.org)  
Subject Matter:

Comments: I am an ex-con was arrested multiple time on Marijuana related offense. This force me out of work and led to committing other crime to pay lawyers, bail, etc. I was sent to prison in Oct. 1969 and released in 1971. The past 50 years I have struggled find employment. The last 30 years I have worked in Drug Treatment, Spectrum Health care, Lennard Clinic. NJCRI on grants from the CDC and NJ state. The Operation of NJ Dispensary is a disgrace! They try to make it a good experience, but too many rule. Can not see the item, cannot inspected your purchase, having 20+ employee 3 to check you card and order for a tablet, in the sales room another 8 employees. Then their is the 10 backroom employees who pick your order and give it to a runner who bring it out to sale room and you must pay cash. All this increase the sales price in NJ dispensary to be 25 to 50% other dispensaries not in NJ. The implementation of these programs and over regulation has made the experience of going to the programs make you feel CRIMINAL.

Name: Daamin Durden  
Affiliated Organization: Newark Community Street Team  
County: Essex  
Email: [daaminncst@gmail.com](mailto:daaminncst@gmail.com)  
Subject Matter: New Jersey Violence Intervention Program

Comments: The War on Drugs has devastated our community in the South Ward, as well as other communities like ours. Community Violence Intervention (CVI) Organizations are doing life-saving work on the ground. Cannabis tax dollars should be invested in the New Jersey Violence Intervention Program to provide up front grants to grassroots violence intervention programs.

Name: Daamin X Durden  
Affiliated Organization: Newark Community Street Team  
County: Essex  
Email: [daaminncst@gmail.com](mailto:daaminncst@gmail.com)  
Subject Matter:

Comments: Please reinvest money for cannabis in the communities most harmed by the war on drugs. The ghetto (urban hot spots) of Newark, N.J. and other cities.

Name: Kyra Gilbreath  
Affiliated Organization: n/a  
County: Bergen  
Email: [kyra.gilbreath@gmail.com](mailto:kyra.gilbreath@gmail.com)  
Subject Matter: Building and Healing Communities that comprise our Impact Zones

Comments: The legalization of cannabis in New Jersey was rooted in efforts to right the wrongs of the War on Drugs and invest in communities that have been disproportionately affected by the War on Drugs. In keeping with the spirit of the cannabis legalization law, the "Social Justice Excise Fee" should be used for building and healing communities that comprise our Impact Zones. This funding should not go to law enforcement, as this would be further investment in the War on Drugs. Instead, these funds should be used for community healing purposes, including reparations and investment in education, social services, and harm reduction. This is a critical moment for change. The Social Justice Excise Fee must be used as an investment in the healing and strengthening of our communities.

Name: Laura Occhipinti  
Affiliated Organization: n/a  
County: Bergen  
Email: [rulaura@gmail.com](mailto:rulaura@gmail.com)  
Subject Matter:

Comments: Please make sure NO money goes toward the police. They are already well funded, and it would be a SLAP in the face to Black and brown communities.

Name: Steve Kehayes  
Affiliated Organization: Paterson Habitat for Humanity  
County: Passaic  
Email: Steve@patersonhabitat.org  
Subject Matter:

Comments: Paterson Habitat for Humanity supports an equitable investment of capital that is gained from the legalization of cannabis in the state of New Jersey towards addressing the significant harm that has been visited upon the Paterson community by the enforcement of the laws that prohibited cannabis distribution and use. The cannabis prohibition has resulted in many of our Black and Brown community members being incarcerated and traumatized, often by violent crime, at a far greater rate than other NJ residents, who use cannabis at similar rates. We support the investment of cannabis related funding into these impacted communities through the funding of supportive services and housing, critical needs among those whose lives have been traumatized by the violence so long associated with the distribution of illegal cannabis in our communities. Revenue associated with the legal sale of cannabis should go towards expenses related to the building and rehabilitation of permanent homes for families and individuals impacted by violent crime in Paterson. Revenue associated with the legal sale of cannabis should go towards the creation of trauma recovery centers in Paterson for victims who have no safe place to go after hospitalization. Paterson Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit developer of quality affordable housing who has a long record of success and stands ready to partner with supportive service providers, such as the Paterson Healing Collective, to build these trauma recovery centers in Paterson, and, to build permanent housing for those impacted by the cannabis prohibition. This will allow the proceeds from cannabis legalization to be reinvested back into a community that has long suffered by the disproportionate enforcement of laws prohibiting cannabis distribution and use.

Name: Matt Olsson  
Affiliated Organization: n/a  
County: Bergen  
Email: [that.olsson@gmail.com](mailto:that.olsson@gmail.com)  
Subject Matter: Transparency under the direction of members of Impact Zones. Investments in education, after school programs, social services and not to fund law enforcement.

Comments: I'm writing today to urge the Cannabis Regulatory Commission to ensure that the Social Equity Excise Fee not be used to fund law enforcement. There must be guidelines for municipalities receiving these funds, making clear that the distribution of the Social Equity Excise Fee must be transparent and directed by members of Impact Zone communities. Investments in education, after school programs, social services, and reparations would help to heal some of the damage done by the War on Drugs. Should these funds be used for drug treatment or prevention programs, these programs should use the harm reduction model. The CRC must ensure that the Social Equity Excise Fee does not strengthen the War on Drugs but instead works to address its harmful impacts.

Name: Shannon Marcec  
Affiliated Organizations: n/a  
County: Bergen  
Email: [shannonmarcec@gmail.com](mailto:shannonmarcec@gmail.com)  
Subject Matter:

Comments: As a mother of three, I believe cannabis tax dollars should prioritize schools and daycare in Black and Brown communities. The second, although equally important priority for funding, should be mental health resources, particularly for parents and caregivers. Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Liza Chowdhury  
Affiliated Organization  
County: Passaic  
Email: [Lizac@patersonhc.org](mailto:Lizac@patersonhc.org)  
Subject Matter:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern, This letter is to advocate for justice reinvestment by using revenue from cannabis profits. Cannabis enforcement has disproportionately impacted Black and Brown communities. We feel that any profits gained should be reinvested into the communities that were disenfranchised from the harsh legal enforcement in the past. Here are some of our suggestions: 1. Profits should go to reparations for those who were incarcerated, fined or placed on court involved stipulations such as probation in the past. 2. Profits should go toward any legal fees people have to pay as a result of marijuana enforcement. 4. Profits should go to creation of trauma recovery centers in Paterson for victims who have no safe place to go after hospitalization. 5. Profits should go toward housing and home ownership funds for Black and Brown communities. 6. Profits should go towards robust wraparound Reentry services for those returning home. 7. Profits should go towards technology programs and investment programs in Black and Brown communities 8. Profits should go toward giving licenses and grants for cannabis businesses to those who were incarcerated for marijuana first. 9. Micro grants and technical assistance should be created for Black and Brown potential business owners who want to own a cannabis related business 10. Profits should go into educational programs for youth in communities most impacted by enforcement. 11. Profits should go into investing more in community-based violence intervention and prevention programs In conclusion, Reimagining Justice Inc. believe that there should be moral and equitable investment of capital that is gained from the legalization of cannabis in the state of New Jersey. The suggestions listed above can begin to repair the great deal of harm that has been caused by marijuana enforcement in Black and Brown communities for decades. Sincerely,

Name: Nadina Baskerville-Thomas

Affiliated Organization: n/a

County: Union

Email: [nadinay@aol.com](mailto:nadinay@aol.com)

Subject Matter:

Comments: NJ has had some of the most draconian drug laws in our county. It is high time for us to have the most reparative regulations when it comes to the legalization of cannabis, it's revenues. We should not only wipe the records clean but we should provide for the victims (and their families) of these racially enforced drug laws benefits by way of health care, if needed, ownership of cannabis dispensaries or manufacturing plants and business support, if they decide to enter this industry. If we need to use the revenue to pay for their higher education, then so be it. We can never repair the lives negatively changed or time lost due to the harassment of law enforcement or being jailed behind cannabis use or sell, but maybe by making a genuine effort to regulate the revenue based on equity and justice can right some of the wrong.

Name: Jo Ann Halberstadter

Affiliated Organization: n/a

County: Union

Email: [joannhalber@gmail.com](mailto:joannhalber@gmail.com)

Subject Matter: Community programs for children and teens. Equitable distribution of licenses to minority providers

Comments: I believe it is important that the licenses to sell to cannabis be equitably distributed to minority providers and not granted to a few major mainstream, non-minority, players. The licenses to sell should be granted to persons/businesses who have community and family ties to the highest impacted communities prior to legalization. Those persons should have the highest stakes in the statewide market and not limited just to their community. This will provide legitimate business opportunity to communities of highest impact. In addition to social justice initiatives, the tax dollar revenue should be invested in community programs for children and teens.

Name: Daniel Castro  
Affiliated Organization: n/a  
County: Middlesex  
Email: n/a  
Subject Matter:

Comments: Funds should NOT go anywhere near police departments. The money needs to go to schools, improving infrastructure, or parks/public places.

Name: Malissa Arnold  
Affiliated Organization: Prevention Coalition of Mercer Council  
County: Mercer  
Email: [Marnold@mercercouncil.org](mailto:Marnold@mercercouncil.org)  
Subject Matter: Youth Drug Prevention Programs

Comments: In other states where cannabis has been legalized, the states have funded prevention education for those under the legal age to clear up confusion about health risks for developing brains in youth. Enhancing and funding these prevention programs in Nj can create more responsible customers later on who balance health and recreation. Good prevention programs are culturally competent and culturally sensitive to greater understand the culture of health and the biases and racism of the past, and aim to correct it. Also, prevention programs can be used to help the businesses themselves to help establish uniform serving practices, certification program, and to become resource centers (information kiosks or posters and flyers of resource hotlines) for customers who may have substance use issues. In addition funding could be used to help strengthen very needed mental health and health care services to give people avenues to coping with stress, trauma, and promote general healthcare.

Name: Marleina Ubel

Affiliated Organization: New Jersey Policy Perspective

County: Mercer

Email: [ubel@njpp.org](mailto:ubel@njpp.org)

Subject Matter:

Comments: Good evening, Chairwoman Houenou, Vice-Chairman Delgado, and Commissioners of the Cannabis Regulatory Commission. Thank you for this opportunity to share my testimony. I'm Marleina Ubel from New Jersey Policy Perspective (NJPP), a nonpartisan think tank focused on advancing economic, social, and racial justice for New Jersey residents. The coming budget year will be the first year that cannabis revenue is available in the state budget, and the Cannabis Regulatory Commission has the responsibility to make thoughtful recommendations. The money from the Social Equity Excise Fee should be distributed back into communities harmed by the War on Drugs and should not be spent on law enforcement. Most importantly, the communities and the individuals who have been directly impacted by the drug war must have meaningful input on how the money is used. The language surrounding the use of this revenue is vague, allowing municipalities to exercise tremendous discretion in how it's spent. Therefore, policymakers should set clear parameters on what is acceptable and what is not, along with the expectation that a participatory budgeting process must be followed. This should not be a slush fund, nor should it be spent on law enforcement, school resource officers, or otherwise invested in the punitive arm of the criminal legal system, which is the very entity that caused the most harm enforcing cannabis prohibition. Law enforcement already receives the lion's share of public safety funding, according to NJPP's 2021 report, *To Protect and Serve: Investing in Public Safety Beyond Policing*, even though other social services, such as public and mental health, school counselors, and social workers are just as important to public safety. Revenue from the Social Equity Excise Fee should go directly toward promoting stronger, safer, and more resilient communities, as well as services that recognize substance use as a matter of public health. Examples of such investments include: recreation and community programming, harm reduction services, neighborhood restoration, after-school programming, and vouchers or direct payments for individual needs, such as utilities, rent, or medical costs. This would follow the example set by other states, like Colorado, where cannabis revenue was used to fund school construction projects, improve youth literacy, expand full-day kindergarten, and invest in mental health initiatives and homelessness prevention. One county also funded scholarships for hundreds of students. New Jersey's municipalities have an obligation to equitably invest this revenue, meaning they must center racial justice and reparations for people harmed by the War on Drugs. Anything less would fail the very communities and residents that the Social Equity Excise Fee is intended to support. Thank you.

Name: Alexis Thomason

Affiliated Organization: n/a

County: Middlesex

Email: [alexisthomason@gmail.com](mailto:alexisthomason@gmail.com)

Subject Matter: Helping African America owned Businesses, Student loans and grants with marijuana related felonies.

Comments: Out of an effort to heal past ills AND appease those who are nervous about marijuana sales in their neighborhoods, I think we should consider concentrating profits towards helping African American-owned businesses. In particular, we should help those that have been left out because of past unfair drug legislation. For example, there are folks who lost out on student grants and financial aid because of pot felonies. What can we do for them?

Name: Cara Murphy

Affiliated Organization: n/a

County: Burlington

Email: n/a

Subject Matter:

Comment: Revenue should go to schools. Property tax doesn't allow for equitable school budgets. This should make up the difference and/or supplement property taxes. All NJ schools should have the resources to be the best schools in the nation regardless of the local wealth.

Name: Mitchell Wolinsky

Affiliated Organization: The Lonely Entrepreneur

County: Burlington

Email: [mitch.wolinsky@lonelyentrepreneur.com](mailto:mitch.wolinsky@lonelyentrepreneur.com)

Subject Matter:

Comments: Our company, The Lonely Entrepreneur has spent 6 years studying, experiencing and creating a scalable learning community with the knowledge, tools and support for achieving success, given for free, to small business persons: Women, Black, Hispanic, Asian, LGBTQ and Disabled. With our Learning community these small businesspersons can achieve success as they have one place to go for all the resources, a "One-Stop Shop." How does the public policy address the need to provide assistance for the underserved small businessperson? Are there corporations willing to underwrite platforms like ours, or any others that deliver scalable solutions, LMS platforms for employees of these businesses? Thank you.

Name: Lisa A. Lewis

Affiliated Organization: n/a

County: Burlington

Email: [lewislisa82@yahoo.com](mailto:lewislisa82@yahoo.com)

*Subject Matter: Special Need programs and youth sports*

Comments: Use it for school to give the kids and kids if special needs the best chance at an education. With services needed and supply's that are needed . And invest in local recreation so kids can actually have events in there area to do things. Possibly use it for sports to wave fees for certain family's with addiction to certain types of sport equipment . Like bats   balls of others sports , bats , pads stuff that can be bought in bulk for better prices. The money would help out future generations have the best chance to go places and give them all they need and deserve to learn and give them great fun family activities to do and give back to local youth

Name: Amanda Lieber

Affiliated Organization: n/a

County: Burlington

Email: [alieber2288@gmail.com](mailto:alieber2288@gmail.com)

*Subject Matter: Community Centers, Libraries, Child Care, Community based physical and mental health services, job coaching, college application and financial aid assistance.*

Comments: Funded and fully staffed community centers and libraries in primarily Black and Brown communities that have been most impacted by the past criminalization of marijuana. Child care. Free after school and evening programs, especially for kids and teens, where kids can get help with homework, connect with mentors, and have supervised activities. Community based free physical and mental health services, job coaching, assistance with personal finance etc...Families can find assistance with things like college applications and financial aid.

Name: Cheryl Dunican-Hein

Affiliated Organization: n/a

County: Burlington

Email: [cdunhein@gmal.com](mailto:cdunhein@gmal.com)

Subject Matter:

Comments: I would suggest that heavy emphasis be placed on the feedback from members of communities disproportionately impacted by the criminalization of cannabis. I believe organizations that provide support to these communities such counseling and mental health agencies, mentoring and tutoring programs, health services, recreational programs and job training/citizen re-entry services are the types of organizations that should receive the excise fees. Thank you.

Name: Chris Goldstein

Affiliated Organization: NORML

County: Burlington:

Email: [activevoiceradio@gmail.com](mailto:activevoiceradio@gmail.com)

Subject Matter: Lower Product Pricing for low income and working class consumers.

Comments: Good evening Commissioners, Thank you for holding these important hearings for public input on cannabis taxes. My name is Chris Goldstein and I'm from Willingboro. Our town enjoys a unique history. Like all Levitt-towns, Willingboro was originally only open to White residents. In the 1970's Reverend Willie James sued for equal access to housing, and he won. By the 1980's, when I grew up here, this had become a community of immense diversity and a place where families could build some lasting equity. Like all towns, we have our problems; it's still a great place to live today. We also endured decades of impact from cannabis prohibition. Searches, stops, arrests, property seizures, raids and years of time for people in jails, prisons, and on probation. All the data clearly shows that cannabis prohibition enforcement always targeted Black residents more harshly...that's exactly what happened in Willingboro. Now comes the promise of some cannabis tax revenue for towns just like ours. When we talk about the impact of prohibition we're often talking about how police treated cannabis consumers. So, first and perhaps foremost, we don't want cannabis taxes going to the police after legalization. In order to see real success, we'll have to start the revenue flowing. That means attracting all of the cannabis consumers like me to purchase in a regulated dispensary. The products must be affordable. What do I mean? Think about base level ounces at \$150-\$250. Unless there are options at that level, I will be more inclined to avoid the tax and keep to my legacy operators. Those taxes should not be a hurdle either. A low initial tax will help spur consumer participation. They can also be gradually increased over time, as product prices decline. Ultimately, all the billions in taxes will come directly from cannabis consumers' pockets. Working class people just like me. We simply can't afford \$400 ounces with a 30 percent tax. So, the best formula will be affordable product prices and reasonable taxes for the initial launch of sales. How the taxes are distributed is also critical for consumer participation. I was one of nearly 2.8 million voters who approved legalization in 2020. Nonetheless, as a consumer I would avoid paying cannabis taxes if they seem misappropriated. When New Jersey starts issuing tax dividends to impact zone communities I hope the money won't be flushed away into general funds. Many states have directed cannabis taxes to fund education and schools, ending homelessness, and vital infrastructure projects. Again, the very last place we want to see cannabis taxes going is to the police. As we discuss local equity and cannabis revenues, it should be noted that cannabis consumers don't want our money going to massive corporations or frankly Russia either. In fact, I hope NJCRC can undertake a careful examination of any Russian connections to cannabis permits. In order to get consumers to generate tax revenue we want to buy from local small businesses. So, I hope some of the tax money will go back into that sector. Banks and predatory private equity firms won't sustain cannabis small businesses. If we want them to succeed we will have to invest directly. Finally, hundreds of thousands of New Jersey residents endured arrest and prosecution under prohibition. Our families suffered as well. Not all of us want to be in the cannabis industry, some of us just want to be legal consumers. Offering tax amnesty on the purchase of legal cannabis products to anyone who was arrested for any level of marijuana violation would serve multiple goals. It would give consumers impacted by prohibition an opportunity to participate in sales, help ease traumatized consumers into the market, and help regulated businesses serve the legacy market. Please consider holding regular public meetings to listen to registered medical marijuana patients and all cannabis consumers. We are still looking for your place and voice in this process. Thank you

Name: Yasmin Oree  
Affiliated Organization: House of Ester  
County: Burlington  
Email: [houseofester7@gmail.com](mailto:houseofester7@gmail.com)  
Subject Matter:

Comments: CRC Regional Hearings: Using Tax Revenue for Social Equity- Register to Speak Commissioner Charles Barker, Krista G. Nash Facilitator Ms. Toni Hello and thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak to you today. Regarding the use of Tax revenue for Social Equity. The Revenue can go to the following: 1. Nonprofit programs that are designed to impact children, women and men. Ex. Programs teaching education, fulfilling the gaps of social, medical and financial areas. 2. Households who have food insecurities. Those families who are denied food stamps because of their income and are still living paycheck to paycheck. We can start this by using the school system and start with the families who qualify for reduced lunches. 3. Scholarships for high school students who have PTSD. Who have struggled in school and feel they don't have a chance. This scholarship can be awarded to the most improved as opposed to the students with the highest GPA.

Name: Risa Walkach  
Affiliated Organization: Temple Beth-El Hillsborough  
County: Somerset  
Email: [cantor.wallach@hushmail.com](mailto:cantor.wallach@hushmail.com)  
Subject Matter:

Comments: Please invest in post incarceration support and educational access and arts programs for inmates.

Name: Teresa DeMaio  
Affiliated Organization: n/a  
County: Ocean  
Email: [tdemaio@comcast.net](mailto:tdemaio@comcast.net)  
*Subject Matter: Offset Property Taxes, more natural land set designations and road repair*

Comments: Money generated by the sale of cannabis should be used to offset our property taxes and to set aside more natural areas off limits to humans. Our roads are in disrepair (the few repairs are mediocre at best), flooding is more common now than even a couple of years ago, and they insist on building more and more houses. We are a coastal town and overbuilding is ruining the few wetlands left.

Name: Joann Hesse  
Affiliated Organization: n/a  
County: Cape May  
Email: [Joannofncm@gmail.com](mailto:Joannofncm@gmail.com)  
Subject Matter: Accessibility and Housing

Comments: I would like to see income-based housing for wheelchair/handicap members of the community. Not senior citizens, handicapped persons can be under 63/65 yo. As someone who benefits from medical cannabis, the recreational side could help in community wide housing programs. Thanks, Joann Hesse.

Name: Nicole Pace-Addedo, M.A.  
Affiliated Organization: n/a  
County: Ocean  
Email: [np1021@gmail.com](mailto:np1021@gmail.com)  
Subject Matter:

Comments: As a lifelong resident of Ocean County, I have enjoyed living at the beautiful Jersey Shore. However, one of the most prevalent issues ravaging families in our community in the last several years has become the opioid epidemic plaguing our residents, taking the lives of so many young people. After suffering the loss of a dear friend in 2019, I have worked alongside many organizations to try to promote resource-sharing for recovery, mental health, support, and overall wellbeing. Additionally, as a public outreach professional, I firmly believe that this is the best option for the money – community education. Therefore, a progressive educational outreach program for the responsible adult use of cannabis is how I would like to see the fees used to improve our community. Surely, we must work together to develop countless resources and educational tools for our NJ residents that is more comprehensive, in multiple languages, and tailored to different age groups. The CRC website (<https://www.nj.gov/cannabis/adult-personal/safe-responsible-consumption/>) barely scratches the surface. To begin, the educational outreach program should include: • A dedicated project website for all things NJ Cannabis • Printable pamphlets • Links for more information • Hotlines • Dispensary database • Educational resources regarding the types and methods of consumption Additional outreach measures should include: • A toolkit for towns/counties with dispensaries to make the links and info available on their website and social media • A community advisory group (CAG) in the towns where dispensaries are located to closely monitor the successes, failures, problems, or other logistics to be used in the educational outreach strategies. The CAG may also plan local events, webinars, activities in the schools by partnering with the DARE program, etc. Once cannabis is fully legalized for recreational adult use, we can not go back. Therefore, I believe we must act now to put these tools in place so that our communities throughout the Garden State can be properly educated about what I expect to be a thriving industry. This will also help reduce the negative stigma associated with marijuana and help prevent our young people from losing their lives to the addictive, dangerous, and deadly heroin and opioids. Thank you for your time and attention.

Name: Michael A. Hoffman, Esq.

Affiliated Organization: n/a

County: Cumberland

Email: [HoffmanlawMAH@gmail.com](mailto:HoffmanlawMAH@gmail.com)

*Subject Matter: Financial Support for Expungement Services and Investment in reduction of required insurance costs for social equity applicants*

Comments: I understand that these regional meetings are required under C.24:6I-50 - Section 41.d.(1)(b). I have two suggestions for the investment of these "Social Equity Excise Fees" in ways that actually & measurably would "create, expand, or promote educational & economic opportunities & activities, & the health & well-being of both communities & individuals. These ideas, outlined below are: 1) Financial support for expungement service programs, specifically targeted to assist those directly impacted by the failed war on drugs, & 2) Investment in reduction of required insurance costs (by subsidized private insurance or the creation of state-run insurance) for qualified social equity applicants, especially to potential Class 4 &/or Class 6 licensees. First, as to expungement services, I disclose that I am actively working to help our communities, industry, & courts to help those impacted by the war on drugs to get those criminal records expunged. To do so, through my "THCSponge" Expungement Program, I am working with partners & soliciting sponsorships to work with eligible victims directly & through public clinics. I am doing a clinical tour through April 2, to raise awareness of this program & demonstrate the direct assistance I can offer. More information about that tour can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/THCSpongeTour> & for more information about joining the program - inquiries can be made here: <https://tinyurl.com/JoinTHCSponge>. Ultimately, support for such a program can provide measurable metrics regarding actual outreach, consultations, petitions for expungement & Orders for expungement granted as a result. This program offers to its' participating partners & sponsors something that is usually evasive. I offer concrete, measurable effects for a social equity initiative. Funding through section d.(2)(d), offering legal services for expungements, would directly & measurably achieve the social equity goals of these fees. Second, with regard to directly assisting the industry & encouraging social equity applicant entry into the industry, I would recommend that the CRC, both under Section d(2)(b) & d(3), would reduce the most significant barrier to entry for potential Class 4 &/or Class 6 licensees, by subsidizing private insurance or self-funding public insurance for qualified social equity applicants & operators. While rules & regulations have not yet been promulgated for Distributor or Delivery licenses, both types will require transporting product in secured & insured vehicles. While the vehicle may secure itself, the insurance on the vehicle/business, required & onerous on all, forms a barrier to entry for applicants without capital. These businesses could be incubators for generational wealth & equity, as they have been in other jurisdictions. This is not without precedent. The State of New Jersey required all motor vehicle operators to be insured under N.J.S. 39:6B-2. This requirement had a disproportionate & negatively cyclic impact on poor communities, especially those of color. The State created a residual market subsidy/alternative insurance (The "Special Automobile Insurance Policy". See - [https://www.state.nj.us/dobi/division\\_consumers/insurance/saip.htm](https://www.state.nj.us/dobi/division_consumers/insurance/saip.htm) Offering a similar subsidy/alternative for qualified social equity applicants, would reduce that barrier to the entry. It would also encourage applicants into Class 4 & 6, instead of encouraging those in Class 1,2 & if the upcoming rules precluded applicants with class 1, 2 or 5 licenses from qualifying for these subsidies/alternatives. This provides a direct investment into qualified social equity applicants will achieve the goals of reinvestment & calculable social equity. This insurance subsidy/alternative would be a direct beneficial investment under Sections d(2)(b) and d(3) for qualified social equity applicants. I remain available to assist the CRC in any way.

Hoffman Emailed Additional Comments on 3/18/22: I spoke at the North and South meetings ... and submitted comments through the form. I took Commissioner Barker's challenge to offer radical suggestions seriously. I made 4 substantive suggestions - which I can absolutely expand upon. My suggestions were:

- 1) Expungement partnerships/clinics/initiatives
- 2) Automobile/Business insurance subsidy for qualified social equity applicants for Class 4 and 6 licenses. (So 1,2 and 5 have SOME incentive not to deliver their own products)
- 3) Research guidance, direction, and potential funding into social sciences and hard sciences (As had previously suggested in written comments with Gaetano Lardieri)
- 4) A CRC subsidized and managed cooperative cannabis product exchange/auction. (An auction for 1's from micro to mso to sell to highest 2 or 5 bidder. Also, a method, if tested safe, to avoid destruction of seized unregulated product from unlicensed legacy operators. Finally, makes retail market robust, as 5's will have access to a multitudes of products for the consumer to choose from).

Name: Rory Wood

Affiliated Organization: Kush Kollege

County: Camden

Email: [info@kushkollege.com](mailto:info@kushkollege.com)

Subject Matter:

Comments: my name is Rory wood of kush kollege. I had a chance to listen in on the previous two hearings and I happy to hear that there are a lot of people expressing the need to allocate funds for training and education. Last year i had a chance to speak to the commission during a monthly crc meeting and I brought up the fact there will be a need for workforce training and education regarding cannabis horticulture, processing and bud tending. Out of the 100 or so people that had a chance to speak no one brought up education or job training. So, it's great to hear that people are speaking of its importance. So, the question is how do we do that? Well in California they have adopted something called a cannabis workforce development grant program, whereas applicants have to show proof of their residency (which are the areas that the state has identified as impacted areas of the illegal cannabis trade), income and if any previous cannabis arrests. Once verified, the funds would then go to the school that has been approved the state to receive these grants. That is one way in which i believe that social equity funds could be allocated. Another way is to continue to have community outreach programs, where we continue to educate those who still think negatively about cannabis. There are a lot of areas that didn't opt in to having cannabis in their community, yet some of those their communities have been ravished by the opioid crisis. Well, i am here to tell you that I have seen and heard of lot of people kick their opioid addiction by way of cannabis edibles, tinctures, oils, and other methods. So, to summarize I believe that job training, education and community outreach are areas that can truly benefit from the social equity funds and help move recreational cannabis is a positive direction. In conclusion, I just want to thank commissioner Nash and Barker for giving the community a stage to share ideas an opinion regarding social equity funds.

Name: John Pellicane

Affiliated Organization: Camden County – Department of Health & Human Services

County: Camden

Email: [john.pellicane@camdencounty.com](mailto:john.pellicane@camdencounty.com)

Subject Matter:

Comments: Specific Recommendations: There were 2 extremely effective programs impacted by budget cuts that could possibly see some restoration. Municipal Alliance Program The Municipal Alliance Program's funding was cut in 2020 by approximately 67%. This program is one of the few in the country to offer evidenced-based substance abuse prevention and education strategies in our municipalities. These are needed today and will be needed in the future. Student Assistance Counselors The second reflects a restoration of the prior cuts (approximately 2016) that impacted the ability of schools to hire or keep Student Assistance Counselors (SACS). A number of schools were unable to continue their SAC programs. We know that early first time use is antecedent to adult substance abuse. We also know that preventing 'first-time use' is a top priority of all substance abuse prevention efforts. Restoration can be achieved. By increasing funding to schools to subcontract via (non-profits SACs) all may exponentially meet the need and expand the reach of the SAC program. Additionally, assisting professionals in non-profits (who are rarely afforded high salaries) with continuing education may will be a cost effective way to ensure those services remain available to at-risk students in the schools. It could guarantee there is a professional licensed/ certified workforce to provide these services. The efforts of the SACS in identifying, educating, and/or referring those who are at greater risk cannot be understated and should be fully funded. It will go a long way in addressing issues far before they become crises. Department of Children and Families' Office of School Linked Services School Based Youth Services provide additional support to educators focused on scholastic activities. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) provides a number of programs through the Office of School Linked Services. Many school age children are struggling to overcome the Covid19 Pandemic, are challenged by the Opioid Epidemic, and will be impacted by the increased availability of other substances. However, strengthening some of the programs offered by DCF's Office of School Linked Services may go a long way to ensuring there are safety nets and programs that address behavioral topics for youth in the schools. Some of the programs are listed below: Early Intervention Support Service Expansion There are a limited number of Early Intervention Support Services (EISS) in New Jersey. Secondary to long wait times, shortages of available licensed professionals including Psychiatric APNs and Psychiatrists (nationally), EISS's were created to provide short-term emergency subacute mental health services. These funds would be put to good use by assisting in the cost of this service and allowing these services to expand hours. This would be a cost effective maneuver in the State. Currently, approximately 95% of Mental Health Crisis clients (many of whom are seen in emergency rooms) are not admitted. Therefore, many of those clients could be seen at a sub-acute level and at a lower cost. Many times, those crises ameliorate, can be treated and resolved. In other circumstances, appropriate referrals can be made to higher and/or lower levels of care. By expanding EISS or Mental Health Urgent Cares to no less than every county in the State, we would decrease the utilization of emergency rooms. This has solid benefits: 1. It would better allow for the 'matching' of the correct level of care to the presenting problem. Currently, the most expensive level of care is being used (for no other reason but 'nothing else exists') for 'subacute problems' that require immediate redress. 2. The second is: without subacute emergency treatment capacity, an unfair burden is left to the un or underinsured. The average cost of an emergency room visit in the State of New Jersey is \$3,087.00. 3. EISS provides these services for under \$200.00 per visit. It would allow an extension of hours

Name: Camillion R. Simms

Affiliated Organization: n/a

County: Camden

Email [cr\\_simms@outlook.com](mailto:cr_simms@outlook.com)

***Subject Matter: Youth Drug Prevention Programs, DIY Projects to improve communities, Investing in neighborhood watch, Basic needs: shelter, food and security.***

Comment: Hello I'm Camillion Simms. I am a veteran, minority, and medical cannabis patient. I am also an aspiring cannabis entrepreneur. I have a strong passion for advocating social equity. I was raised in the South Ward of Newark. I was fortunate enough to have a family located in other states and had a family that traveled. I was exposed to many different experiences that my friends weren't. I like to think that played a major part in making me a well-rounded individual. I say that to say, I think it is imperative that the tax revenue obtained by cannabis sales be used to give back a lot of experiences that was taken away. Such as the DARE program that taught children to stay away from illegal substances by making them aware of the consequences of going down that path. I suggest the program be taken further beyond just drugs but teach children holistic health. What happened to prevention?! The key to living a healthy and full life is preventative care. We therefore have to focus on what can be done to help the youth. Another example is Smokey the Bear. We have gotten away from teaching about keeping our environment safer and our communities clean. Investing in community gardens and clean up events will help disadvantaged people take pride in where they live. One thing I have seen in communities I have lived as I traveled, that choose the best decorated house, let's say for Christmas and there's an incentive. Little small ways to get people back invested in the upkeep of their neighborhoods. However, that focuses on the outside. What about the inside? How many families are without beds? How many families are without kitchen tables? Whatever happened to teaching woodwork? The DIY movement is at an all-time high. So why not teach disadvantaged communities how to DIY and providing materials so they can achieve projects. Lastly the neighborhood watch. There was once a time when the people in communities kept their own crime down, but they were not backed up by the local police or local officials. Investing in a neighborhood "watch" that focuses on putting power back into the hands of those within the communities rather than in the hands of police that live outside of these communities needs to be a focus of attention. People need to feel like their voices matter. Tip lines don't work because of lack of trust. Police need to train in how they can serve the communities they police. There should be revenue allocated that focuses specifically on police assigned to certain districts and areas that are solely for building trust in the communities. People love free things. For example, something as simple as setting up a free water station at a high school football game. Or setting up pop up food "pantries" around the communities. There should be an entire strategic movement holding the legal system responsible for healing the communities they destroyed prior to marijuana legalization. Everyone wants their basic needs met. That's shelter, food, and security. That's a baseline for where revenue needs to be allocated. Include the religious leaders in plans because they hear the voices of the people more than anyone. Respectfully, Camillion

Name: Belinda Manning  
Affiliated Organization: n/a  
County: Atlantic  
Email: [Adilah1@gmail.com](mailto:Adilah1@gmail.com)  
Subject Matter:

Comments: Things I didn't get to share at the hearings... I kept looking at the clock... For years leaders have been operating from a position of authority and perceived knowledge. Leaders in both sectors have planned for communities and organizations rather than with them. External voices are hard to hear in these environments, but we have to hear them. If you don't believe that think Challenger...think O rings. Inviting community members into the hallowed halls of government to assist in planning can be a difficult task. This is especially true of marginalized communities. As a resident living in an "Impact Zone" I have experienced the note of silence when I answer the question: "Where do you live?" I understand its significance, its meaning. And, I understand the impact that it has on my neighbors... Those who are working 2-3 jobs to keep food on the table, and a roof over their heads. In a world where people call them essential, but what they really mean is expendable. Many of them cannot speak English. You and I can make assumptions about their needs, but you know about assumptions. There are a host of planning models that have been used by more progressive organizations, corporations, and cities. The strength of these models is that they work to get the voices of the community in the room working together on a common goal. Like the strength in communities, these models focus on building relationships around what community members have in common. No, these are not focus groups or town meetings. They are structured experiences that yield multiple results. These are "change models". Goals for these change models is that goals and action plans are developed in collaboration and those who have developed them are committed to making them a reality. Although there are a million and one consultant's doing work with leadership, there are few who are trained to help leaders work with their organizations and city. State and Private colleges and universities could be an excellent resource for identifying and developing partnerships with their Organizational Leadership/Development Doctorial candidates. It is not beyond belief that some of these students may be examining the efficacy of one or more of these models or a similar process as a part of their research. There may also be non-profits organizations and Professional Networks that could be a resource to help communities build capacity for effective decision making.

Name: Lincoln Gratton  
Affiliated Organization  
County: Ocean  
Email: [Grattonadam315@gmail.com](mailto:Grattonadam315@gmail.com)  
Subject Matter:

Comments: I really feel that the appropriate way to have the funds that are generated from social equity programs show programs should not involve any law enforcement whatsoever. It is because of the Senseless incarceration of my people. I believe any money that is made from the new cannabis industry, Should not involve long enforcement whatsoever. It is because of the senseless war on drugs and the war against a certain minority group that has led us to this important part of history. We can now write the wrongs of past criminal Justice injustices. This gives an opportunity to people like me who have been arrested numerous times the chance to correct their lives and make something of themselves. It also gives those people an opportunity to become a part of a brand new booming industry and actually have a career. Not just a job a career something to fall back on and something to pass down. At the end of the day cannabis legalization is just another way of saying reparations and why should law enforcement benefit again on the backs of the same people they have incarcerated. It is only fair that the people who have suffered the most should end up benefiting the most Only. There should be financial institutions set up for people to be able to start a cannabis business with no startup capital. There should be access to real estate which is one of the biggest barriers to Overcome. There should also be an emergency Fund just in case there is a pandemic that we go through, and businesses are hurting. This money should be set aside for that.

Name: Anonymous  
Affiliated Organization: n/a  
County: n/a  
Email: n/a  
Subject Matter

Comments: Let's use the revenue to roll out our recreational sales program to increase the revenue we are receiving exponentially then when said program is in place we can use the excess funds to rebuild communities (roads, playgrounds, etc.).

Name: Justin Godell  
Affiliated Organization: ABCO Garden State LLC  
County: Philadelphia  
Email: [jgodell@phillytaxguy.com](mailto:jgodell@phillytaxguy.com)  
*Subject Matter: Tax rate and small tax increments through the supply chain*

Comments: I believe that taxing adult use Cannabis for social equity programs is appropriate. The question is about the mechanics for calculating and reporting the tax. I would like to see the social equity tax be calculated as a function of Sales at each level of the supply chain. I feel a social equity sales tax is appropriate and the industry as a whole should participate. The issue is "how" to do it fairly. A sales tax format is my recommendation. Because the tax is calculated from an invoice, the calculation is straight forward. And if a small tax is taken at each level of the supply chain the tax can be kept low as the tax will compound as the goods increase in value through the supply chain. The rate is easy and regressive: Manufacturer 2% + Wholesaler 1.5% + Retailer 1%. The rate is low. As the price of the good increases, the percentage is worth more in sales tax revenue. The adult use consumer is not seeing a yet another "sales tax" add-on that is overwhelming to the out-the-door price. If the social equity tax rate is low for the end consumer at the retail level, I would favor a 1% flat tax on the total invoice. The retail dispensary selling non-cannabis items will likely not lose a sale on a lighter or t-shirt because of the 1% additional sales tax. My fear is that if the retail social equity sales tax rate is too high, the dispensary selling non-cannabis items will lose business because the adult use customer can get these ancillary products at a non-cannabis store. Finally, I would ask the CRC to avoid Income Tax style collection and reporting. Income tax related collections have an annual reconciliation and not quarterly reporting. There is more administration required. Income tax style of calculation is on net income, not gross. Therefore sales tax off of gross is easier to administer and collects more revenue for the state while publishing a low tax rate. Summary, I believe taxing adult use Cannabis for social equity programs is appropriate. I would focus on keeping the administrative reporting easy for the vendor. I would be in favor of maximizing the tax collected by calculating off of gross income (sales). Finally, I would be in favor of "regressive" sales tax rate so as to not make the retail customer burden the full social equity tax. Thank you for reviewing my comment.

Name: Igor Hutyum

Affiliated Organization: The High Company

County: n/a

Email: n/a

Subject Matter:

Comments: Hello, Thank you for the opportunity to let the community speak on the allocation of taxes. I think it's important to consider reinvesting in the community through education. Specifically, educating individuals who've been raised to believe cannabis is a gateway drug. Prohibition also harmed minorities in America for decades. The arrest statistics comparing white and non-white cannabis arrests support that claim. Statistics also show whites and minorities consume just as much. Full disclosure, I'm white. But minorities were treated as second-class citizens and cannabis prohibition directly influenced that, basically a biased and racist policy. Cannabis was made illegal in 1937 following up from the propaganda movie Reefer Madness that was released in 1936. Who was harmed the worst from prohibition? Black, latino and latina, and indigenous individuals. Arrests went through the roof. It's the truth. The second biggest damage done to the cannabis culture is the amount of false information supported by the government and the media for decades before our time. The older generations know about this very well and the negative influence cannabis brought on American pop culture. It's the same thing happening in Russian media against my home country Ukraine right now. People are made to believe Ukraine is the enemy for the government's agenda of conquest, or whatever their goal is at this point. Reversing the false narrative about cannabis and cannabis consumption is extremely important for New Jersey and the United States. It will be one step closer to restoring peace for individuals of all backgrounds, colors, nationalities, creeds, races, religions, genders, disabilities, and more. All walks of life consume this herb. Diversity within itself. And through education and research, we can fix history's wrongdoings. Solutions: -normalizing cannabis use like alcohol and tobacco - permitting smoke areas to allow cannabis consumption -supporting cannabis research (medical benefits, material uses, sustainable options, etc.) -removing all cannabis cannabinoids as a failure for drug tests -reimbursing cannabis charge expungements -adding cannabis jobs to NJ employment offerings -sponsoring local cannabis education programs -sponsoring local cannabis research (like schools researching cannabis and hemp) Sincerely, -Igor Hutyum

