

New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission  
 Public In-Writing Comments  
Public Meeting: February 12th, 2026

Full Name	Meeting Date	Comment
Austin Pavlow	2/12/2026	<p>To the Cannabis Control Commission, my name is Austin Pavlow and I am submitting this public comment in strong support of allowing regulated home cultivation for both adult-use and medical cannabis, modeled after Maine’s proven framework. Maine allows adults 21+ to grow a limited number of plants for personal use (up to 3 mature plants, 12 immature plants, and unlimited seedlings), requires plants not be visible from public view, mandates reasonable security to prevent access by minors, and requires all plants be tagged with the cultivator’s name, ID number, and a statement that the grow is for personal use; if cultivation occurs on property not owned by the cultivator, written landowner permission is required. Maine also allows medical patients or caregivers to cultivate up to 6 mature plants, 12 immature plants, and unlimited seedlings in a designated secured area. In addition, I strongly recommend raising dispensary purchase limits to 6 ounces, as this reflects the legal possession amount and would reduce unnecessary barriers for compliant consumers and patients. These changes support personal freedom, patient access, and public safety while reducing reliance on the illicit market through clear, enforceable regulations. I respectfully urge the Commission to approve these updates.</p>
Erin Gore	2/12/2026	<p>First, Thank you for your leadership last week on the massive compliance situation and down stream effects.</p> <p>Second, I would like to ask you standardize your fines. I was issued a fine for one employee with an expired badge, and was sited for a violation and a \$8,000 fine. Now you are issuing violations for the same situation at \$1,000. I believe it is only fair to standardize the fines so it is less arbitrage.</p> <p>In addition, I believe for minor compliance violations there should be a three strike rule. When operators are working in good faith, it is important to help educate and guide and also encourage a culture of self reporting. If you fine, different amounts, for every minor thing, it will create a culture of lack of reporting, leading to additional major situations like last week.</p>
Matha Figaro	2/12/2026	<p>Good afternoon Commissioners, and thank you for the opportunity to speak.</p> <p>As we recognize Black History Month, I want to first acknowledge the Commission’s role in helping businesses like mine move from legacy</p>

		<p>operations into the regulated market. As a Black woman business owner, that pathway was not obvious or easy, and I want to thank the Commission — and especially Chairwoman Dianna Houenou, — for the work done to expand representation, access and opportunity in this industry.</p> <p>I also want to encourage all operators to do better due diligence regarding the businesses they choose to work with. Recent enforcement actions have shown how harmful it can be when bad actors at the top of a supply chain implicate manufacturers and other partners. When liability flows downward, the operator responsible should face consequences to the fullest extent possible. I appreciate the Commission’s actions in suspending licenses where necessary to protect compliant businesses and maintain trust in the market.</p> <p>At the same time, I urge continued strong enforcement to keep bad actors out of this industry — whether that involves illegal cultivation, refusal to comply with labor peace agreement requirements, or continued operation while out of compliance under the shield of ongoing litigation. Compliance must remain the standard for participation in this market.</p> <p>I also encourage the Commission to continue engaging with state leaders on home cultivation. Recent events in the marketplace have demonstrated that regulated supply chains remain strong even when disruption occurs, and homegrow should not be viewed as a threat to the regulated market but rather as an opportunity to set thoughtful precedent.</p> <p>Additionally, I ask the Commission and policymakers to please protect New Jersey hemp farmers. As a Class 2 manufacturer, sourcing non-intoxicating cannabinoids and hemp-derived inputs from in-state producers strengthens supply chains, supports local agriculture, and keeps production safer and more transparent. Supporting hemp farmers ultimately supports the entire regulated cannabis ecosystem.</p> <p>Finally, while I am disappointed in the decision today regarding CannPowerment’s waiver request, I appreciate the Commission’s engagement and the opportunity to continue working toward solutions through alternative pathways in the future.</p> <p>Thank you for your continued work to build a safe, equitable, and responsible cannabis market in New Jersey.</p>
<p>Matha Figaro</p>	<p>2/12/2026</p>	<p>As a licensed NJ manufacturer, I am concerned by reports that a licensed laboratory transported regulated cannabis samples to an out-of-state, unlicensed location for testing.</p>

		<p>New Jersey operates under a closed, intrastate regulatory framework. Any out-of-state handling of regulated cannabis raises serious compliance and federal exposure concerns and undermines operator trust in the testing system.</p> <p>The Commission should clarify:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Whether any circumstance permits out-of-state handling of regulated samples;</li> <li>2. Whether submitting licensees were informed and consented;</li> <li>3. What chain-of-custody controls failed;</li> <li>4. What corrective safeguards are being implemented to prevent recurrence.</li> </ol> <p>Testing integrity is foundational to consumer safety and market credibility. Enforcement is important, but clear preventative guidance, documented chain-of-custody requirements, and transparent oversight are equally critical. New Jersey’s regulated market depends on strict intrastate control and laboratory accountability. I respectfully request formal written clarification to protect compliant operators and preserve public trust.</p>
Sarah Ehnert	2/12/2026	Blatant violations of federal and state law should result in revocation, not a cost-of-doing-business fine. Protect compliant operators and restore public trust.
Ashanti Sullivan	2/12/2026	At this meeting we learned that an operator absurdly violated federal and state laws in efforts to go around the system. This was completely outlandish to even conceive the thought of what they did but to put thought into action should carry a harsher punishment. If a licensee violates federal and state law, a \$25,000 fine and suspension is not enough. Revoke the license, protect compliant operators and restore public trust.
Nichelle Santos	2/12/2026	<p>Modernizing New Jersey’s Medical Cannabis Program - Meeting Date 2/20/26</p> <p>Dear Chairwoman, Commissioners, and Executive Director,</p> <p>In 2012, New Jersey legalized medical cannabis to serve patients suffering from chronic and debilitating conditions. That program grew to more than 130,000 certified patients and ultimately became the foundation for today’s successful adult-use market. But today, the patient is being left behind. Enrollment in the MCP is declining rapidly. Thousands of patients are leaving each month — not because they no longer need cannabis as medicine — but because the medical infrastructure no longer supports them as patients.</p>

		<p>They are being absorbed into the AU market, where medical oversight, therapeutic product diversity, and clinical guidance are limited.</p> <p>For these individuals, cannabis is not a consumer product. It is medicine.</p> <p>Now that the adult-use market has matured and stabilized over the last five years, it is time to modernize the medical cannabis program. First, we must revitalize the medical marketplace. Incentivize operators to maintain true medical-grade product diversity across all modalities. Require certified medical staff — such as trained budtenders or cannabis nurses — to support patients. Implement telehealth systems to provide guidance on drug-drug interactions and safe therapeutic use. And allow diversely owned adult-use dispensaries to apply for medical licensure to expand access.</p> <p>Second, we must integrate medical cannabis into employer-sponsored health plans as an alternative benefit. CannaCoverage and Bennabix (formerly Bennabis), have integrated MCP into the health plan in the City of Trenton, Teaneck BOE, and Orange BOE. Healthcare costs are increasing at double-digit rates year over year. Employers and public-sector health plans are searching for innovative solutions to address chronic pain, behavioral health conditions, and opioid dependency.</p> <p>Medical cannabis, when responsibly integrated, can serve as a cost-mitigating therapeutic alternative — reducing reliance on opioids, lowering pharmacy spend, and improving health outcomes. But without a strong medical cannabis infrastructure in New Jersey, employer-sponsored integration becomes impossible. If the medical program erodes completely, there will be no clinical framework, no reimbursement pathway, no patient safeguards — and no way to responsibly integrate cannabis into healthcare financing models.</p> <p>And once again, the patient will be left behind.</p> <p>Third, we must advocate for legislative reform to recognize cannabis as legitimate healthcare. This includes reimbursement pathways through workers' compensation, PIP, Medicaid, NJ FamilyCare, and public programs — and full implementation of institutional caregiver access under the Jake Honig Act so patients in hospitals, nursing homes, hospice, and state institutions are not denied access to their medicine.</p>
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