New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission
Public In-Writing Comments
Public Meeting: March 31, 2026

Full Name	Meeting Date	Comment
Matthew Hartman	3/31/2026	As a consumer of cannabis flower, I'd like to see Harvest, Production and Expiration dates on all flower and preroll sku's. Omitting the harvest date leaves the consumer wondering how long the material has been drying, curing, aging; waiting to be packaged.
Gaetano Lardieri	3/31/2026	New Jersey's 2012 medical cannabis program grew to over 130,000 certified patients and laid the foundation for the state's adult-use market. Since adult-use implementation, medical enrollment has steadily declined. Thousands of patients are leaving the program monthly and transitioning into the adult-use marketplace — not due to lack of medical need, but due to diminished infrastructure and incentives within the medical framework. If this trend continues, New Jersey risks losing its medical cannabis infrastructure entirely. Without infrastructure, patients lose clinical oversight, reimbursement pathways, and healthcare integration opportunities. Core Structural Risk If the medical program erodes: Employer-sponsored health plans cannot responsibly integrate cannabis as an alternative benefit. Insurance reimbursement models cannot develop. Clinical oversight and drug interaction safeguards weaken. Institutional access becomes inconsistent. Patients are absorbed into a commercial retail model rather than treated within a healthcare framework. The result: The patient is left behind. Strategic Policy Recommendations 1. Revitalize the Medical Marketplace

		Incentivize operators to maintain diverse medical-grade product offerings. Require certified medical personnel (cannabis nurses, trained staff). Implement telehealth systems for drug-drug interaction and safety guidance. Permit diversely owned adult-use dispensaries to obtain medical licensure. 2. Integrate Medical Cannabis into Employer-Sponsored Health Plans Healthcare premiums are rising at unsustainable rates. Employers — including public-sector entities — are seeking cost-mitigating alternatives for: Chronic pain Behavioral health conditions Opioid dependency A regulated medical cannabis infrastructure enables: Alternative therapeutic benefit models Pharmacy spend reduction Improved patient outcomes Reduced opioid exposure Without a functioning medical framework, employer-sponsored integration is not viable. 3. Advance Insurance & Legislative Reform Recommend legislative action to: Mandate reimbursement via workers' compensation, PIP, and health insurance. Expand Medicaid and NJ FamilyCare eligibility.

		Fully implement institutional caregiver access under the Jake Honig Act. Develop standardized hospital and institutional dispensing protocols. 4. Expand Qualifying Conditions & Provider Discretion Update qualifying condition lists based on modern research. Grant providers full clinical discretion. Recognize cannabis' applicability across a broader spectrum of conditions, including substance use disorders. 5. Conduct a Statewide Needs Assessment Commission a formal assessment to evaluate: Causes of patient attrition Geographic access disparities Product availability Economic barriers Data-driven reform ensures sustainability. Conclusion New Jersey's medical cannabis program was the foundation of the state's cannabis success. After five years of adult-use stability, the next phase must be healthcare integration. The goal is not market expansion. The goal is clinical integrity, affordability, cost containment, and patient protection. Without medical infrastructure, employer integration fails. Without employer integration, affordability fails. And without both, the patient is left behind. New Jersey has the opportunity to lead again — with a modernized, patient-centered medical cannabis framework.

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Gabrielle Sanders	3/31/2026	Modernizing New Jersey's Medical Cannabis Program Background New Jersey legalized medical cannabis in 2012 to serve patients with chronic and debilitating conditions. The program grew to over 130,000 certified patients and served as the catalyst for the state's adult-use market. Since adult-use legalization, patient enrollment in the medical program has steadily declined. Thousands of patients are exiting the program and transitioning into the adult-use market, where medical guidance and therapeutic safeguards are limited. This shift signals the need for modernization. Core Problem The current medical program: • Lacks sufficient product diversity and medical-focused incentives • Does not provide consistent clinical support for patients • Is financially burdensome due to lack of insurance reimbursement • Maintains a restrictive qualifying-condition list based on outdated research • Does not adequately serve institutionalized patients As a result, patients are being absorbed into a commercial adult-use framework rather than supported in a healthcare-integrated model. Policy Recommendations 1. Revitalize the Medical Marketplace • Incentivize operators to maintain medical-grade product diversity. • Require certified medical staff (trained budtenders, cannabis nurses). • Implement telehealth access for drug-drug interaction and safety guidance. • Permit diversely owned adult-use dispensaries to apply for medical licensure. 2. Advance Insurance & Legislative Reform Recommend legislative action to: • Require reimbursement through workers' compensation, PIP, and health insurance. • Expand eligibility under Medicaid and NJ FamilyCare. • Fully implement institutional caregiver access under the Jake Honig Act. • Develop standardized dispensing protocols for hospitals, nursing homes, hospice, and state institutions. 3. Expand Qualifying Conditions & Provider Discretion • Update the qualifying condition list to reflect modern research. • Allow providers full discretion to recommend cannabis based on

		clinical judgment. • Recognize cannabis' impact across a broader spectrum of conditions, including substance use disorders. 4. Launch a Statewide Education Initiative • Public education campaign on safe utilization and the endocannabinoid system. • Integration across K-12, higher education, medical schools, law schools, and senior communities. 5. Conduct a Statewide Needs Assessment Before implementing reforms, commission a formal assessment to determine: • Why patients are exiting the program • Access gaps by geography and demographic • Product availability trends • Economic barriers Data-driven reform will ensure sustainability. Conclusion New Jersey's medical cannabis program was foundational to the state's cannabis success. After five years of adult-use stability, the time has come to modernize and reintegrate medical cannabis into a patient-centered healthcare framework. The goal is not market expansion. The goal is healthcare integration, equity, and improved patient outcomes. New Jersey can once again lead — by building a medical cannabis program that is clinically sound, economically sustainable, and truly patient-first.
Matha Figaro	3/31/2026	My name is Matha Figaro. I am a New Jersey licensed Class 2 cannabis manufacturer. I am submitting this comment to highlight an emerging market issue that is already having real-time impacts on licensed operators across the state. New Jersey is currently experiencing increased consumer demand for hemp-derived products, particularly in beverage formats. At the same time, licensed cannabis businesses remain subject to strict requirements for testing, tracking, manufacturing, and distribution. This has created a structural imbalance. Products are entering retail channels that serve the same

		consumers as the regulated cannabis market, while licensed operators do not have a clear, compliant pathway to participate in this category under similar conditions. This is not a theoretical concern. It is already affecting purchasing decisions. We are seeing retailers hesitate to onboard regulated products, particularly beverages, due to pricing pressure from hemp-derived alternatives entering the market through non-regulated pathways. As a result, category development is being delayed before it has the opportunity to scale within the regulated system. I want to be clear: this is not a request to restrict hemp. This is a request to harmonize. New Jersey has an opportunity to proactively align these markets in a way that supports consumer safety, local economic development, and the long-term stability of the regulated cannabis industry. Specifically, I urge the Commission to consider: • Establishing a clear, compliant pathway for licensed Class 2 manufacturers to source hemp from New Jersey farmers • Ensuring that products sold through dispensaries are produced within the regulated system, where they can be tested, tracked, and held to consistent safety standards • Providing clarity where hemp and cannabis products overlap in consumer use, so that operators are not incentivized to step outside the regulated framework Licensed operators across all classes have invested significant capital, time, and operational discipline to participate in this system. That investment should be supported through policies that strengthen the regulated market rather than fragment it. With thoughtful alignment, New Jersey can lead by building a model where hemp and cannabis coexist within a coordinated, accountable framework. Without it, we risk creating parallel markets that compete under different rules, to the detriment of both operators and consumers. Thank you for your time and consideration.

		Respectfully, Matha Figaro CannPowerment LLC
Natalia Pietras	3/31/2026	Dear NJCRC, Hemp beverages are currently being sold in cannabis dispensaries under different rules than regulated THC products, even though they are reaching the same consumers. This is already undercutting the regulated cannabis market and slowing the development of new product categories like beverages. I support creating alignment so that products sold in dispensaries are produced, tested, and regulated consistently. New Jersey should support its licensed businesses, local farmers, and a fair, stable market. Thank you for your time and consideration. Respectfully Natalia Pietras
Elena	3/31/2026	Dear NJCRC, Hemp beverages are currently being sold in cannabis dispensaries under different rules than regulated THC products, even though they are reaching the same consumers. This is already undercutting the regulated cannabis market and slowing the development of new product categories like beverages. I support creating alignment so that products sold in dispensaries are produced, tested, and regulated consistently. New Jersey should support its licensed businesses, local farmers, and a fair, stable market. Thank you for your time and consideration. Respectfully
Yasmin Obie	3/31/2026	Dear Chairwoman Houenou and Commissioners, My name is Yasmin Obie. I am Co-Founder of CannPowerment, a New Jersey licensed Class 2 cannabis manufacturer.

		I am writing to raise a concern regarding the growing disparity in how hemp-derived products and regulated THC products are permitted to be displayed, marketed, and advertised within New Jersey. As consumer demand expands for beverage and ingestible formats, we are seeing hemp-derived products positioned with significantly greater flexibility in visibility, merchandising, and promotional presence. At the same time, THC products operating within the regulated cannabis framework remain subject to more restrictive and, in some cases, unclear standards around display and marketing. This creates an uneven playing field. Products that are similar in form and intended use are being presented to consumers in fundamentally different ways. Visibility directly impacts consumer awareness, purchasing behavior, and category growth. When one product type can be more openly displayed or marketed, it naturally gains an advantage that is not based on product quality, safety, or compliance, but on regulatory interpretation. This is not a request to loosen safeguards or reduce responsible marketing practices. It is a request for clarity and alignment. Licensed operators are committed to operating within the rules set by the Commission. However, as new product categories emerge and overlap with hemp-derived offerings, clearer guidance is needed to ensure that compliant THC products are not unintentionally disadvantaged in how they can be presented to consumers within dispensaries and approved channels. Providing explicit, consistent standards for display, merchandising, and marketing would support both compliance and fair competition, while maintaining the Commission's priorities around consumer safety and responsible use. New Jersey has the opportunity to ensure that regulated products are able to compete based on quality, transparency, and trust — not constrained visibility. Thank you for your time and consideration.

		Respectfully, Yasmin Obie Co-Founder CannPowerment LLC
Christopher Keim	3/31/2026	After April 13th when the new definitions of hemp, cannabis, and marijuana become effective how long until enforcement happens? Legal recreational cannabis dispensaries are struggling because of these unregulated products. What are some ways a citizen can help in assisting the state crack down on these products? Hemp derived THC products should be set to the exact standards as any other THC beverage as well.
Reanna Runge	3/31/2026	Dear Commissioners, I am writing to express concern about the imbalance between hemp-derived products and regulated cannabis in New Jersey. Products that serve similar purposes are operating under very different rules. This creates challenges for licensed operators, and confusion and risk for consumers. We are not asking for fewer regulations- we are asking for parity and transparency. As someone who is allergic to hemp, I have been served hemp-derived products without my knowledge and have gotten physically sick as a result. This is not a minor issue- it is a direct result of inconsistent labeling and lack of disclosure. Most recently, I dined at a five-star restaurant where a THC-infused beverage was listed on the menu. I asked my server to confirm it was THC, and I was assured it was. That was incorrect. I was unknowingly served hemp and had an adverse reaction. So I ask: where is the line drawn? Are establishments allowed to serve hemp while presenting it as THC? And how are consumers supposed to make safe, informed decisions if we cannot trust what we're being told? What's more concerning is that licensed dispensaries- operating under strict regulations, are now carrying these loosely regulated hemp-derived products. This creates a false sense of safety and highlights a lack of transparency within the regulated market. New Jersey's adult-use industry was built on the foundation of its

		medical program- rooted in safety and care. But that foundation is being overshadowed. As a culinary professional, I would never serve someone an ingredient that could harm them without their knowledge. Cannabis and hemp should be held to that same standard. The line must be drawn. Consumers deserve clear labeling, honest representation, and access to safe, regulated, lab-tested products- no matter where they are purchased or consumed. Thank you for your time and consideration.
Charles Yost	3/31/2026	Dear Commissioners, I am part of a New Jersey licensed cannabis manufacturing team and am writing to share a concern that is already impacting business decisions in real time. We are seeing hemp-derived products enter retail environments that serve the same consumers as regulated cannabis, while licensed operators remain subject to stricter requirements and do not have a clear pathway to participate in this category. This is affecting purchasing decisions and slowing category development before it has the opportunity to grow within the regulated system. We are not asking to restrict hemp. We are asking for alignment so licensed operators can participate in a compliant way. Thank you for your consideration.
Steve Prager	3/31/2026	Hello, The beverage category is becoming increasingly constrained by milligram limits and loopholes, which disproportionately advantages the intoxicating hemp market over regulated cannabis operators. We need to close the intoxicating hemp beverage loophole. Current edible dosage caps also limit the category's potential and fail to meet consumer demand for higher milligram options. To create a more balanced and sustainable market, edible limits should be reevaluated, and intoxicating hemp products should be separated from licensed dispensary channels. This would allow

		regulated operators—who have invested significantly in compliance and licensing—to more effectively participate and compete, particularly within the beverage segment.
Trey Norwood	3/31/2026	Dear NJCRC, Hemp beverages are currently being sold in cannabis dispensaries under different rules than regulated THC products, even though they are reaching the same consumers. This is already undercutting the regulated cannabis market and slowing the development of new product categories like beverages. I support creating alignment so that products sold in dispensaries are produced, tested, and regulated consistently. New Jersey should support its licensed businesses, local farmers, and a fair, stable market. Thank you for your time and consideration. Respectfully, Trey Norwood
Toni Cody	3/31/2026	Dear Commissioners, I am part of a licensed cannabis manufacturing team and want to share what we are seeing on the ground. Retailers are already hesitant to bring in new regulated products, especially beverages, because they are being undercut by hemp-derived products entering the market through alternative channels. This is delaying category growth and impacting purchasing decisions today, not in the future. We believe aligning hemp and cannabis pathways would help stabilize the market and support responsible growth. Thank you
James Barrett	3/31/2026	My name is James Barrett. I am Co-Founder of CannPowerment, a New Jersey licensed Class 2 cannabis manufacturer. I am writing to highlight a growing structural issue in the market that warrants consideration as new product categories emerge, particularly beverages.

		We are currently seeing increased flexibility in how hemp-derived beverages are able to move through distribution channels and reach consumers. At the same time, THC beverages produced within the regulated cannabis framework remain subject to significantly more restrictive distribution pathways. This creates a clear imbalance. Two product categories that are functionally similar in form and consumer use are being treated very differently from a distribution standpoint. As a result, regulated THC beverages face barriers to market access that hemp beverages do not. This has direct implications for product viability. Distribution is not a secondary consideration. It determines whether a category can scale, reach consumers efficiently, and compete in a meaningful way. When one category has broader access and fewer constraints, it shapes retailer behavior, pricing expectations, and ultimately consumer adoption. I want to be clear that this is not a request to limit hemp-derived products. It is a request to ensure that regulated THC beverages are not structurally disadvantaged. As the market evolves, there is an opportunity to evaluate whether distribution pathways for THC beverages can be modernized in a way that maintains appropriate safeguards while allowing for more efficient and competitive access to market. At a minimum, parity in distribution flexibility should be considered where product categories overlap in format and consumer demand. New Jersey has the opportunity to support innovation within the regulated system while maintaining its commitment to safety, accountability, and transparency. Without thoughtful alignment, emerging categories risk being shaped not by product quality or consumer preference, but by uneven access to distribution. Thank you for your time and consideration.

		Respectfully, James Barrett Co-Founder CannPowerment LLC
Tracey Anderson	3/31/2026	Dear Commissioners, I am writing as part of a New Jersey licensed cannabis business. We are seeing hemp-derived products enter the market under different rules while licensed operators remain fully regulated. This is creating confusion, pricing pressure, and hesitation from retailers. We are not asking to limit hemp, but to align it with the regulated system so businesses can participate fairly and consumers are protected. Thank you for your consideration
Kobe Guilford	3/31/2026	Dear NJCRC, Hemp beverages are currently being sold in cannabis dispensaries under different rules than regulated THC products, even though they are reaching the same consumers. This is undercutting the regulated cannabis market and slowing the development of new product categories like beverages. I support creating alignment so that products sold in dispensaries are produced, tested, and regulated consistently. New Jersey should support its licensed businesses, local farmers, and a fair, stable market. Thank you for your time and consideration. With gratitude, Kobe
Yolanda Trujillo	3/31/2026	Dear Commissioners, Hemp beverages are being sold in dispensaries under different rules than THC products, even though they reach the same consumers. This is undercutting the regulated market and slowing new

		categories like beverages. I support aligning rules so products in dispensaries are produced, tested, advertised and regulated consistently. Thank you for your consideration. Respectfully, Yolanda Trujillo Labeling Specialist
Marianne Bays	3/31/2026	Class 2 Manufacturers in NJ have been put at a great disadvantage by both the restrictive regulations around allowable beverage product forms and the proliferation of Hemp based THC beverages being sold in NJ's liquor stores, convenience stores and gas stations. While NJ has established a 10 mg THC adult dosage and maximum 100 mg THC per package, it violated that standard completely when it set a 5 mg THC per container standard for beverages. While a 5 mg dose (and even lower dose) is appropriate for some customers, it is not appropriate for others. Other states offer more variety in beverage formats and have created a more robust regulated market for THC infused beverages as a result. We do not yet know where Hemp derived THC beverages will land, but recently proposed legislation offered a possibility. This aimed to set a dosage standard at least twice that which has been established for the regulated cannabis industry and to permit unrestricted sales in liquor stores. We already have this condition in the NJ market, until the upcoming Federal change that ends the unrestricted distribution and sale of Hemp based cannabinoid infused products and essentially makes CBD products illegal that are not created through the regulated cannabis market. And what we see in the current hemp based beverage market is that ... because it is not regulated or as restricted, these hemp brands can be made and sold at a lower price point than can be done in NJ's licensed cannabis manufacturing businesses. So, hemp beverage manufacturers are offered a wider distribution, a preestablished distribution network, a greater variety in dosages, and have a lower cost point. Further, we now have Hemp beverages being sold in CRC-regulated dispensaries, which will actively undercut the THC beverage category before it even has a chance to launch. We urge the NJ legislature and the CRC to take steps to level the playing field. We need parity.

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Ken Wolski, RN, MPA	3/31/2026	Testimony to the Cannabis Regulatory Commission (CRC) on Home Grow Arrest Moratorium by Ken Wolski, RN, MPA March 31, 2026 I recently asked Governor Sherrill to issue a moratorium on arrests for growing small gardens of medicinal cannabis in New Jersey. Now I am calling on the Cannabis Regulatory Commission to support this moratorium. There are bills in the current legislative session, S1758/A1674 and S2564, that would allow home cannabis gardens for medical patients, but these bills have not even had committee hearings yet. It will be some time before patients can legally grow their medicine here in the Garden State. Some patients simply cannot wait that long. R.C., a 100% Disabled American Veteran, suffers from traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) from his active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. For several years after his discharge, R.C. grew marijuana when he was living in Hawaii, where it is legal to do so. But since his return to New Jersey, R.C. is suffering terribly without access to the specific strains of cannabis that he needs the most. The Veteran's Administration has refused to help him with this issue. On his limited income, R.C. cannot afford the cannabis in the state's Medicinal Cannabis Program (MCP). Another patient, A.R., suffers from seizures that are unrelieved by typical anticonvulsant pharmaceuticals. Only a specific cultivar of cannabis, that is unavailable in the state's MCP, brings her relief. This moratorium will only allow very restricted gardens. The owner of the garden must be registered in the state's MCP, and the garden must be in a secure space, with limited access. Only plants that fit in a 10-foot by 10-foot canopy would be permitted. No sales, diversion, or public display would be permitted. Home grow has been proposed here since the 2004-2005 Legislative Session when the "New Jersey Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act," S2200/A4501, was introduced. It read, in part, "…a qualifying patient is engaged in the medical use of marijuana if he possesses a registry identification card and no more than six marijuana plants and one ounce of usable marijuana." This moratorium, in addition to easing a great deal of suffering, will also contribute to significant savings in the state budget. Law

		enforcement officers, the courts, jails, prisons and the parole system will be free from enforcing penalties against an activity that we expect to be legalized during Governor Sherrill's time in office. Additionally, more patients will join the state's MCP and have access to your valuable resources. I ask for your support for this moratorium on home grow arrests as Executive Director of the Coalition for Medical Marijuana—New Jersey, Inc. (CMMNJ). CMMNJ, a statewide, 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization, now in its 23rd year, represents medicinal cannabis patients throughout the state. Thank you for your anticipated support.
Yasmin Aleese Onie	3/31/2026	Dear NJCRC, Hemp beverages are currently being sold in cannabis dispensaries under different rules than regulated THC products, even though they are reaching the same consumers. This is already undercutting the regulated cannabis market and slowing the development of new product categories like beverages. I support creating alignment so that products sold in dispensaries are produced, tested, and regulated consistently. New Jersey should support its licensed businesses, local farmers, and a fair, stable market. Thank you for your time and consideration. Respectfully