

# New Solutions Marijuana Reform Campaign

*Promoting Fair & Effective Criminal Justice • Strengthening Families & Communities*

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## An Advocacy Toolkit for Fairness and Equity in Marijuana Legalization

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*Updated as of December 18, 2018*

*Sponsored by*

**Drug Policy Alliance** | 16 West Front Street, Suite 101A, Trenton, NJ 08608  
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**A Drug  
Policy  
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campaign.**

## **Marijuana Legalization in New Jersey**

According to political leaders in the state, marijuana legalization is on the upcoming legislative agenda in New Jersey. At this point, it is not a question of whether marijuana will be legalized, but a question of when and more importantly, how.

In recent years, the push for legalization has gained momentum around the country. Support for legalization in the U.S. has steadily grown to an all-time high of 64%. Between 2012 and 2018, ten states and Washington, D.C. legalized marijuana for adults twenty-one and older.

The criminalization of marijuana is costly, unfair and ineffective. In New Jersey, more than 32,000 people a year are arrested for marijuana possession at a cost of more than \$140 million to New Jersey taxpayers. This absurd and wasteful policy criminalizes otherwise law-abiding people and wastes resources that would be better spent on projects that support our families and communities.

Communities of color are disproportionately impacted by marijuana laws. In New Jersey, African Americans are three times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than whites even though both use marijuana at the same rates. Anecdotal evidence suggests similar disparities for Latinos.

A conviction for marijuana possession can have severe long-term consequences. The resulting criminal record subjects a person to a system of legal discrimination that can make it difficult or impossible to secure employment, housing, student loans, or even a driver's license. Even without a conviction, the consequences of an arrest can include untold stigma and humiliation, the financial burden of a criminal court proceeding and lost hours at work or school.

In addition to the severe long-term consequences of a marijuana conviction, marijuana laws have been used to support biased policies like stop and frisk, racial profiling and the deportation of people of color.

Legalizing marijuana in New Jersey provides a unique opportunity to right the wrongs of our failed prohibitionist policy towards marijuana.

### **What's at Stake? How to Ensure Fairness and Equity in Marijuana Legalization**

As the movement for legalization has gained traction around the country, the importance of including specific racial and social justice provisions in legalization measures has become increasingly clear. As one of the next states to consider legalizing marijuana, New Jersey is uniquely positioned to legalize marijuana in a way that guarantees fairness and equity.

Until recently, most marijuana legalization laws have inadequately addressed the lasting impacts of decades of harsh marijuana prohibition and punishment. This is illustrated by the lack of diversity in the currently regulated marijuana market, persisting racial disparities in enforcement of marijuana laws and the absence of meaningful reparations to those communities most harmed by marijuana prohibition. New Jersey must learn from other states as it prepares to legalize marijuana.

## **Advocating for Fairness and Equity in Marijuana Legalization**

As with other policy issues, advocating for fairness and equity in marijuana legalization should begin in our communities. New Jersey legislators need to hear from constituents like you about why marijuana legalization must be fair and equitable.

Engaging in policy advocacy can sometimes be intimidating and overwhelming. It is hard to know where to start or how to get legislators' attention. With an issue as complex as legalization, it may be even more challenging to get policymakers to focus on specifics. Because of this, there is concern that the essential racial and social justice policy components of legalization may get left out of the legislation process. We cannot let that happen.

That is why we have put together this advocacy toolkit. The toolkit is specifically focused on ensuring fairness and equity in marijuana legalization in New Jersey. It is a step-by-step guide for how you can engage with legislators and advocate for fairness and equity in marijuana legalization.

Our hope is that this toolkit will lay the foundation for how to engage with policymakers, your community and the media, and will help move New Jersey closer to a marijuana legalization law that mirrors the diversity and community that we value as a state.

### **How to Engage with Legislators**

There are many ways to engage with legislators. Once you identify who represents you, you can call their office, schedule a meeting or send them a letter. You can also interact with legislators during formal legislative hearings by testifying in person and/or submitting written testimony. The information below will provide guidance on how to engage in all of these situations.

#### **Step One: Identify Your Legislators**

Before you begin making calls, scheduling meetings or sending letters, it is important to know who represents you! The New Jersey legislative website provides an easy way to do this. If you go to <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/districts/municipalities.asp> you can search for your legislators by municipality. Each legislative district is represented by one Senator and two Assemblypeople. When you click on your legislator, it will bring you to a page that gives you the legislator's phone number and mailing address.

#### **Calling Your Legislator**

Calling your legislator can be helpful to express your perspective on marijuana legalization, especially when legislation is up for a committee or floor vote. Usually when this is the case, we will put out a call to action. If you are not already on our email list, you can sign up at [www.legalizeNJ.org](http://www.legalizeNJ.org).

In general, when you are calling your legislator's office you want to be concise and to the point. You should always introduce yourself, mention that you are a constituent and state why you are calling (see Appendix A for two sample phone scripts).

#### **Scheduling a Meeting**

Legislators want to know what their constituents think about policy issues. After all, they were elected by you and are in office to represent your interests! It is important that as constituents,

we take the time to make our voices heard, especially on such an important racial and social justice issue like marijuana legalization.

Although legislative hearings occur at the State House in Trenton, legislators all have offices in their districts and that is where they will likely want to meet with you. To schedule a meeting, you should call their office and request a meeting on marijuana legalization (see Appendix B for a phone script). Be sure to mention that you are a constituent. After you make the call, you should follow up with an email reiterating what you said over the phone (see Appendix B for an email script). All legislator email addresses in New Jersey follow the same format. For Senators, it is SenLastName@njleg.org (i.e. Senator Sweeney, SenSweeney@njleg.org). For Assemblypeople it is AsmLastName@njleg.org (i.e. Assemblyman Coughlin, AsmCoughlin@njleg.org) or AswLastName@njleg.org (i.e. Assemblywoman Quijano, AswQuijano@njleg.org.). You can also call ask the person you speak to on the phone who you should send your follow up email to.

### **Meeting with Your Legislator**

Once you have a meeting scheduled, you should begin preparing for your meeting by reviewing the legalization fact sheets provided in Appendix C. If you are able, you should print copies of these fact sheets to bring to your meeting to give to the legislator as a leave behind.

You should begin every meeting by thanking the Senator or Assemblyperson for taking the time to meet with you. After you introduce yourself, you should tell the legislator why you wanted to meet. You should express your concern over legalization legislation moving forward without incorporating specific policies to ensure fairness and equity and tell your legislator why those policies are important to you (See Appendix D for a sample meeting script and talking points).

During the meeting you should take notes on questions and/or concerns the legislator has. After the meeting, you should get in touch with staff at the Drug Policy Alliance (609-396-8613 or nj@drugpolicy.org) to let us know what the legislators' concerns were. We may be able to provide you with additional information so that you can follow up appropriately with the legislator. In addition to providing the legislator with the follow up information he or she requested, you should also send a thank you note after the meeting (see Appendix E for an example).

Please be advised that on occasion, instead of meeting directly with your Senator or Assemblyperson, you may be asked to meet with the legislator's staff. Legislators are very busy and often rely on their staff to expand their capacity. You should approach these meetings exactly the same as you would approach a meeting with the legislator.

### **Sending a Letter**

Letter writing is a great way to contact your legislator. Similar to in-person meetings and phone conversations, your letter should include a personal introduction, including that you are a constituent, why you care about this issue and what you want the legislator to do. In this case, support fair and equitable policies in marijuana legalization legislation (see Appendix F for a sample letter).

After you send your letter and give it a week or two to arrive and be read, you should follow up with a phone call to make sure the legislator received the letter. You should ask if the legislator had any questions or concerns about your letter that you can address. This also may be a good

time to ask if the legislator would like to meet with you in person (see Appendix G for a sample follow-up phone script).

## **Legislative Hearings**

Legislative hearings provide another opportunity to interact with legislators. As bills move through the legislative process they are posted for hearings in different committees. Members of the public are invited to testify at these hearings. If you are able, you can come to Trenton to testify before a committee on why fairness and equity in marijuana legalization is important to you. If you are not comfortable testifying, you are still welcome to come and attend the hearing. We will often provide pins for individuals to wear to show their support. Please also note that Drug Policy Alliance has limited travel assistance available to help interested individuals get to Trenton.

If you are unable to come to Trenton, you can contact DPA staff (609-396-8613 or [nj@drugpolicy.org](mailto:nj@drugpolicy.org)) to ask them to submit written testimony for you or a slip in support or opposition of the bill that is being considered. Again, the best way to find out about these hearings is by joining our email list at [www.legalizeNJ.org](http://www.legalizeNJ.org). Once we know about a hearing, we email sample testimony and talking points to our email list for advocates to customize (see Appendix H for sample testimony).

## **Legislative Targets**

While it is important to speak to all legislators in New Jersey about fair and equitable marijuana legalization, it is especially important to target certain legislators. Because the policies we are advocating for have a significant impact on communities of color, outreach to members of the Black and Latino Caucuses of the New Jersey Legislature should be prioritized (see Appendix I for the member list and contact information). These members should have a particular interest in repairing past harms to communities of color and ensuring equal access to the newly created marijuana market. If you have a relationship with one of these members or if they represent your district, you should reach out to them using the guidance above.

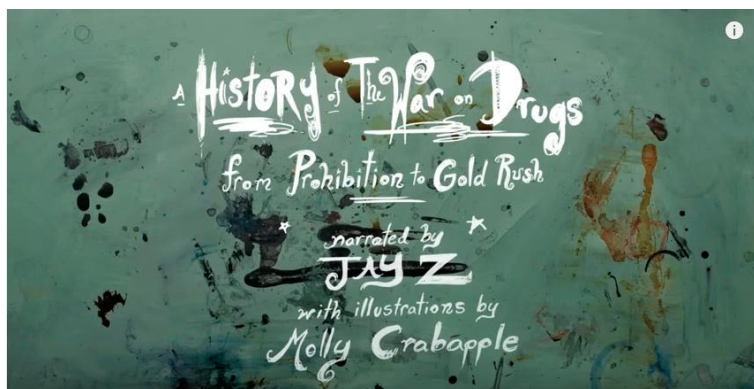
In addition to prioritizing outreach to the Black and Latino Caucuses, outreach to key committees, like the Senate and Assembly Judiciary Committees should also be prioritized. A list of these members can be found in Appendix J. Since these committee members will likely be the first to consider marijuana legalization legislation, it is important that these legislators are familiar with the need to include fairness and equity provisions in the bill.

## **How to Engage the Community**

Policymakers are elected to represent their constituents' interests. The more constituents get involved in advocacy, the greater impact they have on public policy. Engaging with the community on marijuana legalization is critical to raising awareness about fairness and equity in legalization.

There are many ways to engage with community members on legalization. You may attend an already scheduled community meeting and ask to speak on legalization or plan your own meeting specifically on marijuana legalization. You can use the two videos listed below to begin a conversation about fair and equitable marijuana legalization. There are guiding discussion questions for both videos in Appendix K.

## Jay Z – The War on Drugs: From Prohibition to Gold Rush



Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HSozqaVcOU8>

## Support Fair and Equitable Marijuana Legalization in New Jersey



Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqKDBubeo7M>

You can also talk about legalization in less formal ways with your friends and families. You can use the same talking points you would use with legislators (see Appendix D). The main point to get across is that legalization is going to happen in New Jersey. It is our responsibility, as advocates, to make sure that it happens in a fair and equitable way, and repairs past harms to communities that have already been devastated by marijuana prohibition. Encourage your friends and family to get more involved by going to [www.legalizeNJ.org](http://www.legalizeNJ.org).

### **How to Engage the Media**

Public discussion of policy issues often shapes and informs legislators' views and opinions. Engaging with the media is an essential component of advocacy for this reason. Writing an op-ed or letter to the editor on why legalization legislation must be fair and equitable are two great ways to shed light on the issue in the media. Directions for how to do both are included below. Social media is also becoming increasingly important in advocacy as it provides another platform to voice your opinion and engage with lawmakers.

## **Write an Op-ed**

Op-eds provide an opportunity for you to express your opinion about an issue, in this case marijuana legalization. You may have had a personal experience with marijuana enforcement that would help frame the conversation about fairness and equity, or you may just want to express your opinion about why you think marijuana legalization should be fair and equitable. You can use some of the talking points in Appendix D to help shape your arguments. It is also helpful if you can tie your op-ed to a current event or newsworthy item. For example, February is Black History Month. Black History Month is a great opportunity for an op-ed on why marijuana legalization is a racial justice issue. There is an example of a real op-ed on legalization and racial justice in Appendix L for your reference.

When pitching your op-ed to a newspaper or other media outlet, you should ask for the editorial page editor. Some outlets provide this information on their website. Appendix M has a list of the major media outlets in New Jersey and the contact information for both op-ed and letter to the editor submissions. Keep in mind that op-eds are typically between 500 and 800 words, although length may vary by outlet. Your submission should include your name, where you live and your contact information.

## **Submit a Letter to the Editor**

Letters to the editor are another great way to interact with the media and have your voice heard. Letters to the editor are a shorter and more concise way to express your opinion and/or concern about a newsworthy issue. Most of the time, letters to the editor are in response to a specific article that the newspaper or media outlet published. Because letters to the editor are short (typically 200-250 words, depending on the outlet), it is important to stick to one or two main points. See Appendix N for an example of a racial justice focused marijuana legalization letter to the editor.

Letters to the editor are submitted differently depending on the outlet, but most of the major papers in New Jersey accept letter to the editor submissions via email. See Appendix M for a list of the major media outlets in New Jersey and the contact information for both op-ed and letter to the editor submissions. Your submission should include your name, where you live and your contact information.

## **Social Media**

Social media is a great way to interact with legislators, media and other decision makers in a more informal manner. Most legislators and all media organizations have Facebook and twitter accounts that they engage with regularly. Legislative accounts are generally managed by legislators and/or their staff who monitor social media to better understand the concerns and needs of their constituents. If you are interested in a longer conversation with your legislator, you can call your legislator or schedule a meeting.

In general, Facebook posts, comments and tweets should be relatively short. Twitter has a 280 character limit, and ideal Facebook posts and comments are similarly concise. As with op-eds, linking legalization to current events or other newsworthy items is a good way to elevate your argument. Images and videos also attract attention on social media – for example, posting the Jay-Z or New Jersey focused legalization video could stimulate conversation about marijuana

legalization as a racial justice issue. See Appendix O for examples of racial justice focused marijuana legalization tweets and Facebook posts.

### **Additional Resources**

The appendices of this toolkit provide a number of resources about fair and equitable marijuana legalization. You can find additional information at [www.legalizeNJ.org](http://www.legalizeNJ.org). You can also always feel free to reach out to the New Jersey Office of the Drug Policy Alliance at 609-396-8613 or [nj@drugpolicy.org](mailto:nj@drugpolicy.org)) if you have any questions.

It is our hope that this toolkit provides a starting point for more New Jerseyans to get involved in the fight for a marijuana legalization bill that provides equal access to the industry and repairs past harms of marijuana prohibition. We look forward to working with you!



## Appendix A – Sample Call Scripts

As mentioned above, calls are most effective when there is a committee or floor vote coming up but you can also make general calls to your legislators about marijuana legalization. There are two phone scripts below.

**Upcoming Committee Vote:** This script is specifically targeting members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. If none of your legislators are on the committee where a vote is taking place, you can still make calls to committee members, just make sure to tell the staff person who answers the phone where you are calling from. As previously mentioned, the best way to stay up to date about calls to action for specific votes is to join our email list at [www.legalizeNJ.org](http://www.legalizeNJ.org).

*Hello, my name is [insert name] and I am a constituent of [insert Senator on Judiciary Committee]. I am calling to urge Senator [insert name] to vote no on Senate Bill 2703/Assembly Bill 4497 when it is considered in the Senate Judiciary Committee on [date].*

*Fairness and equity demand a regulated marijuana market that provides a level playing field and addresses past harms. Legalization legislation must include policies that encourage full participation in the industry by communities disproportionately harmed by marijuana prohibition. It must also include automatic and retroactive expungement, and must invest a portion of the tax revenue generated back into those communities most harmed by marijuana enforcement.*

*Thanks for your time and consideration.*

**General Phone Script:** This script is to be used when there is not necessarily a committee meeting or floor vote coming up.

*Hello, my name is [insert name] and I am a constituent of [insert Senator/Assemblyperson name]. I am calling to urge Senator/Assemblyperson [insert name] to only support Senate Bill 2703/Assembly Bill 4497 if it guarantees fairness and equity in the newly created marijuana market.*

*Fairness and equity demand a regulated marijuana market that provides a level playing field and addresses past harms. Legalization legislation must include policies that encourage full participation in the industry by communities disproportionately harmed by marijuana prohibition. It must also include automatic and retroactive expungement, and must invest a portion of the tax revenue generated back into those communities most harmed by marijuana enforcement.*

*Thank you for your time and consideration.*

## Appendix B

### Scheduling a Meeting Phone Script

*Hello, my name is [insert name] and I am a constituent of Senator/Assemblyman/woman [insert name].*

*I am calling because I would like to schedule a meeting with Senator/Assemblyman/woman [insert name] at his/her earliest convenience to discuss Senate Bill 2703/Assembly Bill 4497, in particular the fairness and equity provisions that I believe must be included in marijuana legalization legislation.*

*I am available the following days and times: [let the aide know when you are available]*

*Great! I look forward to meeting with the Senator/Assemblyman/woman then. Thank you!*

### Scheduling a Meeting Follow-up Email Script

Dear Senator/Assemblyman/woman [insert name],

I hope you are doing well. I just got off the phone with your staff and scheduled a meeting with you on [insert date, time and location].

I am looking forward to meeting with you to discuss Senate Bill 2703/Assembly Bill 4497, in particular the fairness and equity provisions that I believe must be included in marijuana legalization legislation.

Thanks in advance for your time.

Very best,

[Insert Your Name]

## **Appendix C – Fact Sheets**

The following fact sheets are also available in Spanish upon request.

- New Solutions Marijuana Reform Campaign: Executive Summary
- New Solutions Marijuana Reform Campaign: Consequences of Marijuana Arrests and Convictions
- New Solutions Marijuana Reform Campaign: Fairness and Equity
- New Solutions Marijuana Reform Campaign: Regulation Works

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### **Marijuana prohibition is costly, unfair and ineffective.**

New Jersey arrests more than 32,000 people a year for marijuana possession at a cost of more than \$140 million to New Jersey taxpayers. This absurd and wasteful policy criminalizes otherwise law-abiding people and wastes resources that would be better spent on projects that support our families and communities.

A conviction for marijuana possession can have severe long-term consequences. The resulting criminal record subjects a person to a system of legal discrimination that can last a lifetime and can make it difficult or impossible to secure employment, housing, student loans, or even a driver's license. Even without a conviction, the consequences of an arrest can include untold stigma and humiliation, the financial burden of a criminal court proceeding and lost hours at work or school.

Marijuana laws in New Jersey have a disproportionate impact on communities of color. African Americans are three times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than whites even though both use marijuana at the same rates. Anecdotal evidence suggests similar disparities for Latinos.

### **The solution is to legalize, tax and regulate marijuana like alcohol for adults.**

Ten states (Alaska, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont, Washington) and the District of Columbia have now legalized marijuana. These states have created new jobs and generated millions of dollars in tax revenues without negative consequences. These states have also seen a large drop in arrests for marijuana and thus fewer people labeled as criminals simply because they use marijuana. And legalizing, regulating and controlling marijuana is a more effective way to keep marijuana away from youth.

### **New Jersey should enact common sense and popular reform to create a responsible, safe and controlled system for marijuana.**

A September, 2017 Quinnipiac poll found that 59 percent of New Jersey voters support legalizing marijuana. New Jersey should pass fair and equitable legislation to legalize, tax and regulate marijuana. This would make marijuana laws consistent with the values and opinions of New Jersey residents and build on smart and common sense reforms across the country.

### **Legalizing, taxing and regulating marijuana like alcohol for adults will create a safe and controlled system with social and economic benefits for all New Jerseyans.**

Legalizing marijuana will create new jobs and generate millions of dollars in tax revenue to fund projects that help all New Jersey residents. Otherwise law-abiding people will no longer be labeled as criminals and racial disparities and harms will be reduced. Resources that are currently wasted on marijuana prohibition will be freed to use for projects that support our families and communities. The time has come for New Jersey to legalize marijuana. It is the fair and responsible thing to do.

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### **The Serious Long-Term Consequences of a Marijuana Conviction**

Instead of improving the safety of our communities, our marijuana laws make criminals out of millions of otherwise law-abiding people and impose a lifetime of punishment on those who are convicted. A marijuana conviction subjects an individual to a system of legal discrimination that makes it difficult or impossible to secure employment, housing, student loans, or even a driver's license. Even without a conviction, the collateral consequences of an arrest can include untold stigma and humiliation, the unmanageable financial burden of a criminal court proceeding and lost hours at work or school.

#### **Employment**

Employers routinely use information about previous criminal arrests and convictions to deny job applicants, regardless of whether the applicant has superior qualifications or the offense is related to the position in question. A criminal record also has permanent effects on income levels, even for individuals lucky enough to find work. People with criminal records earn 30 to 40 percent less over their lifetimes than those without.

#### **Education**

Federal law temporarily bars a student convicted of marijuana possession for the first or second time from receiving government-funded financial aid for higher education. A third offense triggers a permanent disqualification. This means that the most vulnerable young people, those most dependent on student loans, are more likely to become educational outsiders and consequently be subject to diminished employment opportunities and limited earning potential for the rest of their lives. And this, in turn, perpetuates disadvantage in our most vulnerable communities.

### **Marijuana Laws Disproportionately Impact Communities of Color**

The debilitating costs of marijuana arrests and convictions are even more harmful when considered in light of their disparate racial impact. In New Jersey, African Americans are three times as likely to be arrested for marijuana possession as whites, despite similar usage rates across races. Marijuana laws have been used to support biased policies like stop and frisk, racial profiling and the deportation of people of color.

### **The Time Has Come for Responsible, Common-Sense Reform**

It is time to legalize, tax and regulate marijuana like alcohol for adults. This will create a safe and controlled system with many social and economic benefits. Otherwise law-abiding adults will not be turned into criminals and racial disparities and harms will decline. Resources that are currently wasted on marijuana prohibition will be freed to focus on projects and programs that support and strengthen our families and communities.

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**New Jersey’s marijuana laws have had a disproportionate impact on communities of color. Marijuana legalization in New Jersey must be fair and equitable and must address past disproportionate harms to communities of color.**

African Americans are three times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than whites even though both use marijuana at the same rates. Due to the way Latinos are identified in the criminal justice system, there is insufficient data on disparities for this community. However, anecdotal evidence suggests similar disparities. In addition to the severe long-term consequences of a marijuana conviction, marijuana laws have been used to support biased policies like stop and frisk, racial profiling and the deportation of people of color.

**As New Jersey considers legalizing, taxing and regulating marijuana, fairness and equity demand a system that provides a level playing field and addresses past harms.**

Fair and equitable reform must include policies that encourage full participation in the industry by communities disproportionately harmed by marijuana prohibition and must repair past harms, including:

- Protections for those who apply for a license or employment in the industry who have prior arrests and/or convictions – an individual may not be denied a license or employment solely because of a prior arrest and/or conviction;
- Access to the industry for individuals from different socioeconomic backgrounds, including:
  - A licensing structure that provides a path for small business owners to enter the market; and
  - Fees for applications and other costs for entering the industry must be scaled and reasonable to allow for a competitive and diverse market.
- Requirement that the state shall actively seek to achieve a diverse industry, including:
  - An emphasis on racial, ethnic, gender and geographic diversity among license holders. The state must encourage applicants who qualify as minority or women’s businesses to apply for licensure; and
  - No location restrictions for marijuana businesses that result in a lack of business opportunity and job creation in urban areas.
- Provisions intended to repair communities most harmed by marijuana prohibition, including:
  - A portion of tax revenue generated by marijuana legalization shall be invested in those communities disproportionately harmed by marijuana prohibition; and
  - Automatic and retroactive expungement for all arrests and convictions that are no longer a crime under the new law.
- Penalties for marijuana activities that occur outside the new legal system must be civil penalties rather than criminal to avoid the continuation of a system that disproportionately harms communities of color.

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### **Legalizing, taxing and regulating marijuana like alcohol for adults has worked in ten other states and the District of Columbia. It will work in New Jersey.**

Ten states (Alaska, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont, Washington) and the District of Columbia have now legalized marijuana. These states have seen significant benefits from marijuana legalization.

#### **Tax revenue**

Colorado collected \$68 million in taxes on legal marijuana in the first full year of legalization (2014) and by its fourth year of legalization (2017) collected more than \$205 million. The tax revenue was used to fund school construction and other state programs.

Washington State collected \$65 million in tax revenue in its first year of legal marijuana sales (2015) and by its fourth year (2017) collected \$91 million. The tax revenue was used to fund substance abuse prevention and treatment programs, youth and adult drug education, community health care services and academic research on the effects of legalization.

Oregon's collected \$21 million in tax revenue in its first year of legal sales (2015-2016) and in its second full year (2016-2017) collected \$70 million. The revenue is slated to fund schools, mental health and drug treatment and law enforcement.

Alaska collected almost \$2 million in tax revenue in its first full year (2016-2017) and Nevada collected \$13 million in its first year of legal sales.

#### **Youth use of marijuana**

Concerns about an increase in youth use of marijuana have proven unfounded. While marijuana use rates fluctuate, data from Colorado and Washington show that the legalization had little to no effect on the overall rate of youth use of marijuana. Rates of use overall remained stable and some age and grade groups saw drops in youth use after legalization.

#### **Road safety**

Just as in all other states, it remains illegal to drive while impaired in the states that have legalized marijuana. DUI arrests are down in Colorado and Washington, the first states to legalize, and there is no correlation between marijuana legalization and crash rates. The crash rates in both states are statistically similar to comparable states without legal marijuana. There is more limited data for the other states that have legalized, but legalization does not appear to have increased DUI rates in those states.

#### **Reduction in arrests**

Arrests in all states and the District of Columbia have plummeted for marijuana possession, cultivation and distribution since legalization. This reduction in arrests has saved the states millions of dollars and prevented the criminalization of thousands of people.

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## Appendix D – Sample Meeting Script and Talking Points

*Hello Senator/Assemblyman/woman [insert name]. It is nice to see you. Thank you for taking the time to meet with me today.*

*My name is [insert your name] and I live in [insert town]. I'm here today to speak with you about Senate Bill 2703/Assembly Bill 4497. I have concerns about the legislation and do not think the bill adequately ensures fairness and equity in the marijuana market.*

*As you know, communities of color have been disproportionately harmed by marijuana prohibition around the country and here in New Jersey. African Americans in our state are three times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession despite similar rates of use across race. Anecdotal evidence suggests similar disparities for Latinos. Marijuana prohibition laws have also historically been used to support biased policies like stop and frisk, racial profiling and the deportation of people of color.*

*Marijuana legalization in New Jersey must address these past harms to communities of color. Fair and equitable reform must include policies that encourage full participation in the industry by communities disproportionately harmed by marijuana prohibition and must repair past harms. This can be accomplished by including:*

- *Protections for those who apply for a license or employment in the industry who have prior arrests and/or convictions – an individual may not be denied a license or employment solely because of a prior arrest and/or conviction;*
- *Access to the industry for individuals from different socioeconomic backgrounds, including:*
  - *A licensing structure that provides a path for small business owners to enter the market; and*
  - *Fees for applications and other costs for entering the industry must be scaled and reasonable to allow for a competitive and diverse market.*
- *A requirement that the state shall actively seek to achieve a diverse industry, including:*
  - *An emphasis on racial, ethnic, gender and geographic diversity among license holders. The state must encourage applicants who qualify as minority or women's businesses to apply for licensure; and*
  - *No location restrictions for marijuana businesses that result in a lack of business opportunity and job creation in urban areas.*
- *Provisions intended to repair communities most harmed by marijuana prohibition, including:*
  - *A portion of tax revenue generated by marijuana legalization shall be invested in those communities disproportionately harmed by marijuana prohibition; and*
  - *Automatic and retroactive expungement for all arrests and convictions that are no longer a crime under the new law.*



- *Penalties for marijuana activities that occur outside the new legal system must be civil penalties rather than criminal to avoid the continuation of a system that disproportionately harms communities of color.*

*Thank you again for your time Senator/Assemblyman/woman. I will certainly follow up with answers to the questions that you have asked and hope that we can work together on this important issue.*

## **Appendix E – Sample Thank You Meeting Follow Up**

Dear Senator/Assemblyman/woman,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me yesterday about Senate Bill 2703/Assembly Bill 4497. I appreciate your concerns and hope that we can work towards a fairer and more equitable piece of legislation.

Attached you will find the follow up materials that you requested [*or alternatively*, I am working on putting together the follow up materials you requested and will get them to you by [insert date]].

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness and consideration. I look forward to working with you.

Very best,

[Insert Your Name]

## Appendix F - Sample Letter for a Legislator

The below letter is an example of what you can send to legislators. As mentioned above, it would be best to send letters to members of the Senate and Assembly Judiciary Committees and Members of the Legislative Black and Latino Caucuses.

The Honorable [Insert legislators name]  
New Jersey Legislature  
[Insert address]

Dear Senator/Assemblyperson [insert legislators name],

As a voter in New Jersey, I am writing to express my concern with Senate Bill 2703/Assembly Bill 4497. While I support marijuana legalization, I was disappointed to see certain elements missing from the bill that are essential to establishing a fair and equitable marijuana market in New Jersey.

As you know, New Jersey arrests more than 32,000 people a year for marijuana possession at a cost of more than \$140 million to New Jersey taxpayers. This absurd and wasteful policy criminalizes otherwise law-abiding people and wastes resources that would be better spent on projects that support our families and communities.

A conviction for marijuana possession can have severe long-term consequences. The resulting criminal record subjects a person to a system of legal discrimination that can last a lifetime and can make it difficult or impossible to secure employment, housing, student loans, or even a driver's license. Even without a conviction, the consequences of an arrest can include untold stigma and humiliation, the financial burden of a criminal court proceeding and lost hours at work or school.

Marijuana laws in New Jersey have a disproportionate impact on communities of color. African Americans are three times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than whites even though both use marijuana at the same rates. Anecdotal evidence suggests similar disparities for Latinos. In addition to the severe long-term consequences of a marijuana conviction, marijuana laws have been used to support biased policies like stop and frisk, racial profiling and the deportation of people of color.

As New Jersey considers legalizing, taxing and regulating marijuana, fairness and equity demand a system that includes policies that provide a level playing field and address past harms, including:

- Protections for those who apply for a license or employment in the industry who have prior arrests and/or convictions;
- Access to the industry for individuals from different socioeconomic backgrounds;

- A requirement that the state shall actively seek to achieve a diverse industry;
- Provisions intended to repair communities most harmed by marijuana prohibition, including the investment of a portion of the tax revenue into those communities as well as automatic and retroactive expungement of prior marijuana convictions; and
- Civil penalties for marijuana activities that occur outside the new legal system to avoid the continuation of a criminal system that disproportionately harms communities of color.

I urge you to include these components in Senate Bill 2703/Assembly Bill 4497 to help create a fair and equitable marijuana market in New Jersey. Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

## **Appendix G – Sample Call Script for Letter Follow Up**

*Hello, my name is [insert name] and I am calling to follow up on a letter that I sent Senator/Assemblyman/woman on Senate Bill 2703/Assembly Bill 4497.*

*I wanted to make sure that the Senator/Assemblyman/woman received the letter and to see if he/she had any questions. As you know, Senate Bill 2703/Assembly Bill 4497 is a bill to legalize marijuana. I have concerns that the legislation in its current state will not ensure a fair and equitable market.*

*It would also be great to meet with the Senator/Assemblyman/woman on this issue if he/she has time. It is an issue I care deeply about. I am available at the following times [insert times].*

*Thank you for your time, I look forward to meeting with the Senator/Assemblyman/woman.*

## Appendix H – Sample Testimony

When legislation is moving through the legislature, it often changes very quickly and can differ from hearing to hearing. While we may support a specific version of the bill one week, the next week certain provisions may be removed and then we will oppose or support the bill with amendments. As mentioned before, to stay up to date about marijuana legalization legislation and whether to support or oppose a specific version of a legalization bill, you should sign up for our email list at [www.legalizeNJ.org](http://www.legalizeNJ.org). The following testimony template is an example template for an informational hearing on legalization.

[Insert Date]

Chairman and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

Re: Senate Bill 2703/Assembly Bill 4497

[Insert introductory paragraph about yourself, your organization and/or your congregation if applicable.]

As [insert title and organization, if applicable, or you can say, as a voter in New Jersey] I am submitting this testimony today to express our concern with Senate Bill 2703/Assembly Bill 4497. While we commend Senator Scutari's leadership on the issue of marijuana legalization, we are disappointed to see certain elements missing from the bill that are essential to establishing a fair and equitable marijuana market and repairing the harms that have disparately impacted communities of color in New Jersey.

Marijuana laws in New Jersey have a disproportionate impact on communities of color. African Americans are three times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than whites even though both use marijuana at the same rates. Anecdotal evidence suggests similar disparities for Latinos. In addition to the severe long-term consequences of a marijuana conviction, marijuana laws have been used to support biased policies like stop and frisk, racial profiling and the deportation of people of color.

As New Jersey considers legalizing, taxing and regulating marijuana, fairness and equity demand a system that includes policies that provide a level playing field and address past harms, including:

- Protections for those who apply for a license or employment in the industry who have prior arrests and/or convictions;
- Access to the industry for individuals from different socioeconomic backgrounds;
- A requirement that the state shall actively seek to achieve a diverse industry;

- Provisions intended to repair communities most harmed by marijuana prohibition, including the investment of a portion of the tax revenue into those communities as well as automatic and retroactive expungement of prior marijuana convictions; and
- Civil penalties for marijuana activities that occur outside the new legal system to avoid the continuation of a criminal system that disproportionately harms communities of color.

These components are critical to making any marijuana legalization law fair and equitable.

The criminalization of marijuana has been a tragic failure. New Jersey arrests more than 32,000 people a year for marijuana possession at a cost of more than \$140 million to New Jersey taxpayers. This absurd and wasteful policy criminalizes otherwise law-abiding people and wastes resources that would be better spent on projects that support our families and communities.

A conviction for marijuana possession can have severe long-term consequences. The resulting criminal record subjects a person to a system of legal discrimination that can last a lifetime and can make it difficult or impossible to secure employment, housing, student loans, or even a driver's license. Even without a conviction, the consequences of an arrest can include untold stigma and humiliation, the financial burden of a criminal court proceeding and lost hours at work or school.

[Insert name or organization] urges you to support marijuana legalization legislation that creates a fair and equitable marijuana market and repairs the harms that have disproportionately impacted communities of color. Thank you for your consideration.

## Appendix I – New Jersey Legislative Black and Latino Caucus Contact Information

### Legislative Black Caucus

#### **Senator Ronald L. Rice, Chair**

Phone: (973) 371-5665  
Email: [senrice@njleg.org](mailto:senrice@njleg.org)  
District 28: (Essex) Bloomfield, Glen Ridge,  
Irvington, Newark, Nutley

#### **Assemblywoman Shavonda E. Sumter, Second Vice-Chair**

Phone (973) 925-7061  
Email: [aswsumter@njleg.org](mailto:aswsumter@njleg.org)  
District 35: (Bergen and Passaic) Elmwood  
Park, Garfield, Haledon, North Haledon,  
Paterson, Prospect Park

#### **Senator Shirley K. Turner**

Phone: (609) 323-7239  
Email: [senturner@njleg.org](mailto:senturner@njleg.org)  
District 15: (Hunterdon and Mercer) East  
Amwell, Ewing, Hopewell Borough (Mercer),  
Hopewell Township (Mercer), Lambertville,  
Lawrence (Mercer), Pennington, Trenton, West  
Amwell, West Windsor

#### **Senator Nia H. Gill**

Phone: (973) 509-0388  
Email: [sengill@njleg.org](mailto:sengill@njleg.org)  
District 34: (Essex and Passaic) Clifton, East  
Orange, Montclair, Orange

#### **Senator Sandra B. Cunningham**

Phone: (201) 451-5100  
Email: [sencunningham@njleg.org](mailto:sencunningham@njleg.org)  
District 31: (Hudson) Bayonne, Jersey City

#### **Assemblyman Herbert Conaway**

Phone: (856) 461-3997  
Email: [asmconaway@njleg.org](mailto:asmconaway@njleg.org)  
District 7: (Burlington) Beverly, Bordentown,  
Bordentown Township, Burlington, Burlington

Township, Cinnaminson, Delanco, Delran,  
Edgewater Park, Fieldsboro, Florence,  
Moorestown, Mount Laurel, Palmyra, Riverside,  
Riverton, Willingboro

#### **Senator Troy Singleton**

Phone: 856-234-2790  
Email: [sensingleton@njleg.org](mailto:sensingleton@njleg.org)  
District 7: (Burlington) Beverly, Bordentown,  
Bordentown Township, Burlington, Burlington  
Township, Cinnaminson, Delanco, Delran,  
Edgewater Park, Fieldsboro, Florence,  
Moorestown, Mount Laurel, Palmyra, Riverside,  
Riverton, Willingboro

#### **Assemblyman William W. Spearman**

Phone: (856) 547-4800  
Email: [asmspearman@njleg.org](mailto:asmspearman@njleg.org)  
District 5: (Camden and Gloucester) Audubon,  
Audubon Park, Barrington, Bellmawr,  
Brooklawn, Camden, Deptford, Gloucester City,  
Haddon Heights, Harrison (Gloucester),  
Lawnside, Magnolia, Mantua, Mount Ephraim,  
Runnemede, Wenonah, Westville, Woodbury,  
Woodlynne

#### **Assemblywoman Mila M. Jasey**

Phone: (973) 762-1886  
Email: [aswjasey@njleg.org](mailto:aswjasey@njleg.org)  
District 27: (Essex and Morris) Caldwell,  
Chatham Township, East Hanover, Essex Fells,  
Florham Park, Hanover, Harding, Livingston,  
Madison, Maplewood, Millburn, Roseland, South  
Orange, West Orange

#### **Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds- Jackson**

Phone: (609) 571-9638  
Email: [aswreynoldsjackson@njleg.org](mailto:aswreynoldsjackson@njleg.org)



District 15: (Hunterdon and Mercer) East Amwell, Ewing, Hopewell Borough (Mercer), Hopewell Township (Mercer), Lambertville, Lawrence (Mercer), Pennington, Trenton, West Amwell, West Windsor

**Assemblywoman Shanique Speight**

Phone: (862) 237-9752  
Email: aswspeight@njleg.org  
District 29: (Essex) Belleville, Newark

**Assemblywoman Cleopatra G. Tucker**

Phone: (973) 926-4320  
Email: aswtucker@njleg.org  
District 28: (Essex) Bloomfield, Glen Ridge, Irvington, Newark, Nutley

**Assemblywoman Angela V. McKnight**

Phone: (201) 360-2502  
Email: aswmcknight@njleg.org  
District 31: (Hudson) Bayonne, Jersey City

**Assemblyman Jamal C. Holley**

Phone: (908) 624-0880  
Email: asmholley@njleg.org  
District 20: (Union) Elizabeth, Hillside, Roselle, Union (Union)

**Assemblyman Benjie E. Wimberly**

Phone: (973) 925-7061  
Email: asmwimberly@njleg.org  
District 35: (Bergen and Passaic) Elmwood Park, Garfield, Haledon, North Haledon, Paterson, Prospect Park

**Assemblyman Gordon M. Johnson**

**Legislative Latino Caucus**

**Assemblywoman Gabriela M. Mosquera**

Phone: (856) 232-6700  
Email: aswmosquera@njleg.org  
District 4: (Camden and Gloucester) Chesilhurst, Clementon, Gloucester Township, Laurel Springs, Lindenwold, Monroe (Gloucester), Pitman, Washington (Gloucester), Winslow

**Senator Nilsa Cruz-Perez**

Phone: (856) 541-1251  
Email: sencruzperez@njleg.org  
District 5: (Camden and Gloucester) Audubon, Audubon Park, Barrington, Bellmawr,

Phone: (201) 530-0469  
Email: asmjohnson@njleg.org  
District: (Bergen) Alpine, Bogota, Cresskill, Englewood, Englewood Cliffs, Fort Lee, Hackensack, Leonia, Northvale, Palisades Park, Rockleigh, Teaneck, Tenafly

**Assemblyman Adam Taliaferro**

Phone: (856) 339-0808  
Email: asmtaliaferro@njleg.org  
District 3: (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem) Alloway, Bridgeton, Carneys Point, Clayton, Deerfield, East Greenwich, Elk, Elmer, Elsinboro, Franklin (Gloucester), Glassboro, Greenwich (Gloucester), Logan, Lower Alloways Creek, Mannington, National Park, Newfield, Oldmans, Paulsboro, Penns Grove, Pennsville, Pilesgrove, Pittsgrove, Quinton, Salem, South Harrison, Swedesboro, Upper Deerfield, Upper Pittsgrove, West Deptford, Woodbury Heights, Woodstown, Woolwich

**Assemblywoman Britnee N. Timberlake**

Phone: (973) 395-1166  
Email: aswtimberlake@njleg.org  
District 34: (Essex and Passaic) Clifton, East Orange, Montclair, Orange

Brooklawn, Camden, Deptford, Gloucester City, Haddon Heights, Harrison (Gloucester),

Lawnside, Magnolia, Mantua, Mount Ephraim, Runnemede, Wenonah, Westville, Woodbury, Woodlynne

**Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez**

Phone: (732) 855-7441  
Email: aswlopez@njleg.org  
District 19: (Middlesex) Carteret, Perth Amboy, Sayreville, South Amboy, Woodbridge

**Assemblyman Pedro Mejia**

Phone: (201) 770-1303  
Email: asmmejia@njleg.org  
District 32: (Bergen and Hudson) East Newark, Edgewater, Fairview, Guttenberg, Harrison (Hudson), Kearny, North Bergen, Secaucus, West New York

**Assemblywoman Annette Quijano**

Phone: (908) 327-9119  
Email: aswquijano@njleg.org  
District 20: (Union) Elizabeth, Hillside, Roselle, Union (Union)

**Senator M. Teresa Ruiz**

Phone: (973) 484-1000  
Runnemede, Wenonah, Westville, Woodbury, Woodlynne  
Email: senruiz@njleg.org  
District 29: (Essex) Belleville, Newark

**Assemblywoman Eliana Pintor-Marin**

Phone: (973) 589-0713  
Email: aswpintormarin@njleg.org

District 29: (Essex) Belleville, Newark

**Assemblywoman Angelica M. Jimenez**

Phone: (201) 223-4247  
Email: aswjimenez@njleg.org  
District 32: (Bergen and Hudson) East Newark, Edgewater, Fairview, Guttenberg, Harrison (Hudson), Kearny, North Bergen, Secaucus, West New York

**Assemblywoman Annette Chaparro**

Phone: (201) 683-7917  
Email: aswchaparro@njleg.org  
District 33: (Hudson) Hoboken, Jersey City, Union City, Weehawken

**Senator Nellie Pou (Chair)**

Phone: (973) 247-1555  
Email: senpou@njleg.org  
District 35: (Bergen and Passaic) Elmwood Park, Garfield, Haledon, North Haledon, Paterson, Prospect Park

# Appendix J – Senate and Assembly Judiciary Committee Members

## Senate Judiciary Committee

### Senator Nicholas Scutari, Chair

Phone: (908) 587-0404  
Email: [senscutari@njleg.org](mailto:senscutari@njleg.org)  
District 22: (Middlesex, Somerset and Union) Clark, Dunellen, Fanwood, Green Brook, Linden, Middlesex, North Plainfield, Plainfield, Rahway, Scotch Plains, Winfield

### Senator Nia H. Gill, Vice-Chair

Phone: (973) 509-0388  
Email: [sengill@njleg.org](mailto:sengill@njleg.org)  
District 34: (Essex and Passaic) Clifton, East Orange, Montclair, Orange

### Senator Christopher Bateman

Phone: (908) 526-3600  
Email: [senbateman@njleg.org](mailto:senbateman@njleg.org)  
District 16: (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset) Branchburg, Delaware, Flemington, Hillsborough, Manville, Millstone (Somerset), Montgomery, Princeton, Raritan (Hunterdon), Readington, Rocky Hill, Somerville, South Brunswick, Stockton

### Senator Gerald Cardinale

Phone: (201) 567-2324  
Email: [sencardinale@njleg.org](mailto:sencardinale@njleg.org)  
District 39: (Bergen and Passaic) Bloomingdale, Closter, Demarest, Dumont, Emerson, Harrington Park, Haworth, Hillsdale, Mahwah, Montvale, Norwood, Oakland, Old Tappan, Park Ridge, Ramsey, Ringwood, River Vale, Saddle River, Upper Saddle River, Wanaque, Washington (Bergen), Westwood, Woodcliff Lake

### Senator Kristin M. Corrado

Phone: (973) 237-1360  
Email: [sencorrado@njleg.org](mailto:sencorrado@njleg.org)  
District 40: (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic) Allendale, Cedar Grove, Franklin Lakes, Ho-Ho-Kus, Little Falls, Midland Park, Pequannock, Pompton Lakes, Ridgewood, Riverdale, Totowa, Waldwick, Wayne, Woodland Park, Wyckoff

### Senator Michael J. Doherty

Phone: (908) 835-0552  
Email: [sendoherty@njleg.org](mailto:sendoherty@njleg.org)  
District 23: (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren) Alexandria, Alpha, Bedminster, Bethlehem, Bloomsbury, Bound Brook, Bridgewater, Califon, Clinton, Clinton Township, Franklin (Hunterdon), Franklin (Warren), Frenchtown, Glen Gardner, Greenwich (Warren), Hackettstown, Hampton (Hunterdon), Harmony, High Bridge, Holland, Kingwood, Lebanon Borough, Lebanon Township, Lopatcong, Mansfield (Warren), Milford, Peapack-Gladstone, Phillipsburg, Pohatcong, Raritan (Somerset), South Bound Brook, Tewksbury, Union (Hunterdon), Washington Borough (Warren), Washington Township (Warren)

### Senator Nellie Pou

Phone: (973) 247-1555  
Email: [senpou@njleg.org](mailto:senpou@njleg.org)  
District 35: (Bergen and Passaic) Elmwood Park, Garfield, Haledon, North Haledon, Paterson, Prospect Park

### Senator Paul A. Sarlo

Phone: (201) 804-8118  
Email: [sensarlo@njleg.org](mailto:sensarlo@njleg.org)  
District 36: (Bergen and Passaic) Carlstadt, Cliffside Park, East Rutherford, Little Ferry, Lyndhurst, Moonachie, North Arlington, Passaic, Ridgefield, Ridgefield Park, Rutherford, South Hackensack, Teterboro, Wallington, Wood-Ridge

### Senator Bob Smith

Phone: (732) 752-0770  
Email: [sensmith@njleg.org](mailto:sensmith@njleg.org)  
District 17: (Middlesex and Somerset) Franklin (Somerset), Milltown, New Brunswick, North Brunswick, Piscataway

### Senator Brian P. Stack

Phone: (201) 721-5263  
Email: [senstack@njleg.org](mailto:senstack@njleg.org)  
District 33: (Hudson) Hoboken, Jersey City, Union City, Weehawken

**Senator Loretta Weinberg**

Phone: (201) 928-0100

Email: senweinberg@njleg.org

District 37: (Bergen) Alpine, Bogota, Cresskill, Englewood, Englewood Cliffs, Fort Lee, Hackensack, Leonia, Northvale, Palisades Park, Rockleigh, Teaneck, Tenafly

**Assembly Judiciary Committee**

**Assemblywoman Annette Quijano, Chair**

Phone: (908) 327-9119

Email: aswquijano@njleg.org

District 20: (Union) Elizabeth, Hillside, Roselle, Union (Union)

**Assemblyman Michael Patrick Carroll**

Phone: (201) 576-9199

Email: asmcarrroll@njleg.org

District 25: (Morris and Somerset) Bernardsville, Boonton, Boonton Township, Chester Borough, Chester Township, Denville, Dover, Mendham Borough, Mendham Township, Mine Hill, Morris, Morristown, Mount Arlington, Mountain Lakes, Netcong, Randolph, Rockaway Borough, Roxbury, Victory Gardens, Washington (Morris), Wharton

**Assemblyman William W. Spearman**

Phone: (856) 547-4800

Email: asmspearman@njleg.org

District 5: (Camden and Gloucester) Audubon, Audubon Park, Barrington, Bellmawr, Brooklawn, Camden, Deptford, Gloucester City, Haddon Heights, Harrison (Gloucester), Lawnside, Magnolia, Mantua, Mount Ephraim, Runnemede, Wenonah, Westville, Woodbury, Woodlynne

**Assemblyman Gordon M. Johnson**

Phone: (201) 530-0469

Email: asmjohnson@njleg.org

District 37: (Bergen) Alpine, Bogota, Cresskill, Englewood, Englewood Cliffs, Fort Lee, Hackensack, Leonia, Northvale, Palisades Park, Rockleigh, Teaneck, Tenafly

**Assemblywoman Carol A. Murphy, Vice-Chair**

Phone: (856) 314-8835

Email: aswmurphy@njleg.org

District 7: (Burlington) Beverly, Bordentown, Bordentown Township, Burlington, Burlington Township, Cinnaminson, Delanco, Delran, Edgewater Park, Fieldsboro, Florence, Moorestown, Mount Laurel, Palmyra, Riverside, Riverton, Willingboro

**Assemblyman Erik Peterson**

Phone: (908) 238-02151

Email: asmpeterson@njleg.org

District 23: (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren) Alexandria, Alpha, Bedminster, Bethlehem, Bloomsbury, Bound Brook, Bridgewater, Califon, Clinton, Clinton Township, Franklin (Hunterdon), Franklin (Warren), Frenchtown, Glen Gardner, Greenwich (Warren), Hackettstown, Hampton (Hunterdon), Harmony, High Bridge, Holland, Kingwood, Lebanon Borough, Lebanon Township, Lopatcong, Mansfield (Warren), Milford, Peapack-Gladstone, Phillipsburg, Pohatcong, Raritan (Somerset), South Bound Brook, Tewksbury, Union (Hunterdon), Washington Borough (Warren), Washington Township (Warren)

## **Appendix K – Video Discussion Questions**

The following questions can be used to guide a discussion about marijuana legalization and racial and social justice following a preview of either the Jay-Z or New Jersey focused legalization videos.

1. How has the enforcement of marijuana laws impacted you and your community?
2. How do you think the legalization of marijuana will help address racial disparities in marijuana enforcement?
3. What types of barriers do you see in accessing the marijuana industry? Do you think there are policy provisions that can ensure equal access?
4. How do you think the tax revenue from marijuana legalization should be used?

## Appendix L – Sample Op-ed

Below is an op-ed from Drug Policy Alliance’s New Jersey State Director, Roseanne Scotti that was published on June 15, 2017 on NorthJersey.com.

### NorthJersey.com

#### Marijuana legalization must be fair and equitable

By Roseanne Scotti  
June 15, 2017

<http://www.northjersey.com/story/opinion/contributors/2017/06/15/marijuana-legalization-must-fair-and-equitable/398329001/>

New Jersey is gearing up for an intense campaign for marijuana legalization. [Senate Bill 3195](#) and [Assembly Bill 4872](#), which would legalize marijuana in New Jersey, have been introduced by state Sen. Nicholas P. Scutari, D-Union, and Assemblyman Reed Gusciora, D-Mercer.

The Drug Policy Alliance commends the sponsors for their leadership on this issue and we will be working with them to ensure that the final legislation contains provisions missing from the bill that are essential to establishing a fair and equitable marijuana market and repairing the disproportionate harm that marijuana prohibition has inflicted on communities of color. To highlight the need for these provisions, the Drug Policy Alliance is releasing a short [video](#), made in collaboration with [Brave New Films](#), which explores the current and historical impacts of marijuana prohibition on communities of color. The video features racial and social justice advocates from across New Jersey.

Marijuana laws have had a disproportionate impact on communities of color. African Americans are three times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than whites even though both use marijuana at the same rates. Anecdotal evidence suggests similar disparities for Latinos. In addition to the severe long-term consequences of a marijuana conviction, marijuana laws have been used to support biased policies like stop and frisk, racial profiling and the deportation of people of color.

As more states legalize marijuana, there is a growing recognition of this disparate impact and the need to [address it](#). In Maryland, a judge recently put that state’s medical marijuana program [on hold](#) due to the lack of diversity among those granted licenses for the program. California’s law is the gold standard for fair and equitable marijuana legalization. The law mandates retroactive record expungement and sentence reduction, decriminalization of all marijuana offenses for minors and automatic record destruction at age 18, allocation of \$50 million of tax revenue to communities of color annually, low barriers to entry in the industry and no bar to the industry for people with most prior drug convictions.

New Jersey must learn from these other states and ensure that its marijuana legalization legislation contains provisions to address past harms and create a level playing field in this new industry.

As part of our [legalization campaign](#), the Drug Policy Alliance and its [partners](#) will work to ensure [policies](#) including automatic and retroactive expungement for people previously convicted of marijuana offenses, investment of the revenue generated into those communities disproportionately impacted by marijuana prohibition, and equal opportunity to access the jobs and wealth generated by the marijuana industry are incorporated into any legalization legislation.

Rev. Charles Boyer, pastor of Bethel A.M.E. Church in Woodbury, who is featured in the video, said, “Marijuana legalization must be understood from a moral perspective. As an African American faith leader, I have seen firsthand how the war on drugs has disproportionately devastated my community even though all communities use marijuana at similar rates. A conviction for marijuana possession can have severe long-term consequences and can make it difficult or impossible to secure employment, housing, student loans, or even a driver’s license. Marijuana legalization in New Jersey must address these harms and repair those communities most impacted by our failed marijuana policies.”

And Kathy Wright, executive director of the New Jersey Parents’ Caucus and the mother of a son who has been arrested for marijuana possession, recently told [Rolling Stone](#) why she supports marijuana legalization. “Getting wrapped up in the juvenile justice system can completely derail a child’s life,” said. “Legalizing and removing the criminalization of marijuana would allow us to put funding into much-needed community services.”

The release of this new video serves to launch the Drug Policy Alliance’s campaign to legalize marijuana in New Jersey. Marijuana prohibition is costly, unfair and ineffective. New Jersey arrests more than 22,000 people a year for marijuana possession at a cost of more than \$125 million to New Jersey taxpayers. This failed policy criminalizes otherwise law-abiding people and wastes resources that would be better spent on projects that support our families and communities.

We will end this failed policy and ensure that marijuana legalization will be fair and equitable.

[Roseanne Scotti](#) is senior director of Resident States and state director of New Jersey for the Drug Policy Alliance.

## Appendix M – Newspaper Contact Information for Op-eds and Letters to the Editor

Use the email addresses below to submit your letters to the editor and op-eds. Be sure to include the text of your letter and op-ed in the body of the email that you send. Sometimes attachments will not go through. Also be sure to include your contact information, as the editor may want to follow up to confirm your submission. If your piece does not get published and you do not hear back from the newspaper, you can always follow up with a friendly call to see if they are interested.

<b>Newspaper</b>	<b>Letter to the Editor Submission Email</b>	<b>Oped Submission Contact Information</b>
Asbury Park Press	yourviews@app.com	Randy Bergmann, Community Content Editor 732-643-4034; rbergmann@gannettnj.com  Kristina Cowart, News Assistant/Letters 732-643-4206; kcowart@gannettnj.com
Burlington County Times	bctletters@thebct.com	Gretchen Barrett, Editorial Page Editor; gbarrett@calkins.com
Courier News	cnletters@mycentraljersey.com	Keith Ryzewicz, Community Content/Engagement Editor 908-243-6653; kryzewicz@gannettnj.com
Courier Post	cpmetro@courierpostonline.com	Tammy Paolino, Audience Engagement Editor/Features Content Strategist; 856-486-2477; tpaolino@gannettnj.com
Daily Record	letters@dailyrecord.com	Joe Ungaro, Executive Editor/General Manager; 973-428-6624; jungaro@GannettNJ.com
Jersey journal	jjletters@jjournal.com	Ron Zeitlinger, Managing Editor; 201-217-2429; ron.zeitlinger@jjournal.com
New Jersey Herald	letters@njherald.com	973-383-1179; newsroom@njherald.com
Newark Star Ledger	eletters@starledger.com	973-392-5728; oped@starledger.com
Press of Atlantic City	letters@pressofac.com	Kevin Post, Editorial Page Editor; 609-272-7250; kpost@pressofac.com
The Record	letters@northjersey.com	973-569-7000
South Jersey Times	sjletters@njadvancemedia.com	Jessica Beym, Community Editor; 856-754-7133; jbeym@njadvancemedia.com
The Times of Trenton	letters@njtimes.com	Kevin Shea, Managing Producer/Community Editor; 609-989-5731; kshea@njadvancemedia.com



## **Appendix N – Sample Letter to the Editor**

The following sample letter to the editor can be used to respond to a positive or negative article about legalization. The main point of the letter is to highlight the racial and social justice components that must be included in legalization. Remember to stick to one or two points since letter to the editor should be around 200 words.

### **Marijuana Legalization is a Racial and Social Justice Issue**

In response to [insert article title] from [insert date]:

Marijuana enforcement and the long-term consequences of an arrest or conviction disproportionately impacts communities of color. In New Jersey, African Americans are three times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than whites even though both use marijuana at similar rates.

As New Jersey considers legalizing, taxing and regulating marijuana, fairness and equity demand a system that provides access to the industry for all New Jerseyans and addresses past harms to communities most impacted by marijuana prohibition.

There is a growing recognition that marijuana legalization must address the wrongs of the past, and states like California have led the way in crafting fair and equitable laws. New Jersey should learn from states like California and include racial and social justice provisions in its legalization legislation.

Policymakers must enact legalization legislation that ensures diversity and inclusion and eliminates barriers that stack the deck against communities of color. If New Jersey does not create a diverse, robust and inclusive marijuana industry, whose benefits are shared equally among all communities, marijuana legalization in New Jersey will only serve to further harm vulnerable communities.

[Insert Name, City of Residence and Contact Information]

## Appendix O – Sample Social Media Posts

### Tweets:

- #MarijuanaLegalization in NJ will free resources spent on prohibition for use on projects that support families & communities #LegalizeNJ
- A marijuana arrest/conviction subjects a person to a system of legal discrimination & untold stigma. NJ's #MarijuanaLegalization must repair past harms by allowing for record expungement for those with past marijuana arrests/convictions. #LegalizeNJ
- Maryland's #marijuana industry has huge racial disparities. NJ must do better by passing fair & equitable reform. #LegalizeNJ <http://wapo.st/2w3YIKa>
- We MUST ensure that New Jersey's #MarijuanaLegalization legislation is grounded in racial & social justice! We need provisions to create a diverse and accessible industry, reinvest in communities most impacted by prohibition & allow for expungement. #LegalizeNJ
- Marijuana legalization is a #racialjustice issue. Join @DrugPolicy\_NJ's coalition to demand fair & equitable reform. #LegalizeNJ <http://bit.ly/2E4DYII>

### Facebook:

As New Jersey considers marijuana legalization, we must fight to ensure that legislation repairs past harms to communities most impacted by marijuana prohibition and creates a diverse and accessible industry. Check out this video from Drug Policy Alliance that calls for marijuana legalization grounded in racial and social justice. #LegalizeNJ (LINK TO VIDEO)