

The Coalition for Medical Marijuana New Jersey, Inc. (CMMNJ) is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) educational organization, incorporated in the State of New Jersey. The mission of CMMNJ is to educate the public about medical marijuana. The goal of CMMNJ is to have safe and legal access to medical marijuana for all qualified New Jersey patients. CMMNJ will be 20 years old on March 10, 2023.

CMMNJ was instrumental in getting the Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act introduced into the New Jersey Legislature in 2005 and signed into law in 2010. Legal sales of medical marijuana in the state began on December 6, 2012.

In 2014, CMMNJ's Board of Directors endorsed legalization of marijuana since legalization is the best way to get this essential medicine to the most people. Legalization is also a start to undoing the harms to society that are caused by drug prohibition. In 2021, New Jersey became the 13th U.S. state to fully legalize marijuana.

Website: Coalition for Medical Marijuana - New Jersey: https://www.cmmnj.org/

Facebook: Friends of the Coalition for Medical Marijuana-NJ;

https://www.facebook.com/groups/62462971150

Twitter: @CMM_NJ

CMMNJ blog: https://cmmnj.blogspot.com/

In recognition of extraordinary service to our community, CMMNJ was awarded a 2021 "NJ State Governor's Jefferson Award" in the Volunteer Group category.

Ken Wolski, RN, MPA, Executive Director Coalition for Medical Marijuana—New Jersey, Inc.: info@cmmnj.org 219 Woodside Ave., Trenton, NJ 08618 (609) 394-2137 ohamkrw@aol.com kenwolski@gmail.com CMMNJ's current medical cannabis goals include home cultivation rights; insurance coverage; and hospital & institutional access.

Home Cultivation: Allow registered New Jersey patients to grow a few plants each for cost savings and consistent supply, with minimal impact on the legal industry. Visit the website and sign the petition at <u>Let Patients Grow NJ #JeffsLaw</u>.

The home grow bills in the New Jersey legislature in 2023 include:

- \$342/A997: Authorizes home cultivation of medical cannabis.
- A1422: Legalizes possession of six marijuana plants for personal use.
- <u>\$353/A3657</u>: Legalizes six plants for personal use and 10 plants for medical.

Insurance Coverage for Medical Cannabis:

Insurance coverage for medical cannabis will reduce healthcare costs in the state. Cannabis stabilizes multiple conditions in individuals, requiring fewer medical interventions. Insurance coverage will save money and produce a healthier New Jersey. The Senate Health Committee unanimously passed the Medical Cannabis Insurance bill S313 at its hearing on 3/10/22.

Medical Cannabis Insurance bills in the New Jersey legislature in 2023:

- <u>S313/A3248</u>: Costs of medical cannabis to be reimbursed by Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund, PAAD, Senior Gold and VCCO. The bills passed both Health Committees and are in the Senate and Assembly Budget and Oversight Committees.
- <u>\$309</u>/ <u>A3511</u>: Requires workers' compensation, PIP, and health insurance coverage.
- <u>\$782</u> /<u>A3932</u>: Subsidize medical cannabis in Medicaid or NJ Family Care.

Hospital and Institutional Access:

New Jersey patients who are in hospitals, nursing homes, state institutions, group homes and hospice are unable to access medical cannabis though they need it, qualify for it, and are entitled to it. Patient outcomes would improve, and health care costs would be reduced if these patients had access to medical cannabis. Implement the Jake Honig law's Institutional Caregivers!

(NJ's <u>bill subscription service</u> at <u>NJ Legislature (state.nj.us)</u> allows you to create a list of bills, track legislative action & stay up to date on topics you care about.)