

November 25, 2019

Dr. Terrence Jones
PO Box 2665
Albuquerque, NM 87125

RE: Petition 2019-007

Dear Dr. Jones,

The Medical Advisory Board for the Medical Cannabis Program will consider your petition 2019-007 to address Social Inequity of Ownership of Producers in the Medical Cannabis Program on December 10th, 2019. The hearing begins at 1:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Harold Runnels Building, 1190 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe 87505.

If you attend the hearing, and you are enrolled in the Medical Cannabis Program or your petition discusses your medical condition, you have the option to meet with the Medical Advisory Board in private to discuss your petition. The Board will review your petition before the hearing, so there is no need to meet with them unless you'd like to present information that you did not include in your petition. Presentations should be limited to ten minutes. If you wish to meet with the Board in executive session, you must notify me before 5 p.m. on December 6th, 2019,

The Rules and regulations related to testimony are attached to this letter. During the hearing, **the Board will refer to your petition as petition number 2019-007**. Please be aware that this is a public hearing and local news media may attend.

At the hearing, the Medical Advisory Board will vote to recommend to the Secretary of the Department of Health that your petition be approved or deny the petition. The Board may make several decisions at the meeting: approve the petition and recommend the request is implemented, deny the implementation of the petition, table the petition to gather more information, or choose not to hear the petition as the Board may decide it is outside the scope of their scope of work. Please note that what the Board decides on December 10th, 2019 is a recommendation, and the final decision on adding new eligible conditions for enrollment will be made by the Secretary of the Department of Health.

Once a decision is made regarding the petition the Department will notify you in writing regarding the Department's decision.

Sincerely,


Andrea Sundberg

Patient Services Program Manager
Andrea.Sundberg@state.nm.us

MEDICAL CANNABIS PROGRAM

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PETITION SUBMISSION

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Narrative Address:

Terence L. Jones, PhD

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Petition's Subject— (READ AS MEDICAL CONDITION) Social Inequality of Ownership

Problem: Failure to Address Social Inequality of Ownership / Remedy: Re-Open Medical Cannabis
Dispensary Ownership Application Process

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Borrowed Inspirational Words of Purpose and Guidance:

“The data shows that for over two decades people of color, including Black and Brown residents, were arrested and incarcerated for drug offenses at disparately high rates, while largely white cannabis cultivators, manufacturers and distributors who were not operating entirely above board either, flourished under changing laws designed to accommodate the burgeoning industry,” said Darlene Flynn, director of one city’s newly created Department of Race and Equity

The world could use more.
More understanding.
More trust.
More empathy.
More facts.
More responsibility.
More community.
More balance.

We're here to bring you the truth about Medical Cannabis/Hemp.

Medical Cannabis/Hemp is not about getting high. Both are about healing, restoring and balancing — from the inside out.

Terence L. Jones, PhD, dba (JNM) promise is to relentlessly pursue the most credible health and plant science education.

We are truth seekers, wellness warriors, innovation designers, ingredient enthusiasts, and science ambassadors.

The world could use more doers. And we're here to help.

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Introductory Narrative:

As a veteran, health care professional/educator and small business developer my interest is both professional and that of a concerned citizen.

New Mexico's medicinal marijuana industry generated \$80.4- 120 million in sales during 2018 — or more if the figures I was given are correct, nearly doubling the revenue from the previous year — but the state will need to add more growers with the new grower plant increase approved by the NMDOH recently and additional retailers to keep pace with what is anticipated to continue to be a rapidly expanding demand, according to prognostications.

During the two largest and most recent Medical Cannabis confabs it was brought to the attention of the hundreds of attendees that of the 82 plus medical cannabis dispensaries in New Mexico none are owned by veteran's or minorities. This has an impact on successful access to the medicinal which is currently an acknowledged problem by patients, dispensaries and practitioners.

Testimony overheard during the latest forums analyzing the decade-year-old plus program also found patients don't often buy the full maximum amount of cannabis the law allows because they can't afford the cost. The state's numerous dispensaries also ration sales and urban dispensaries purchase product from rural dispensaries that then provide less than desired to their patients thereby needing to stretch their limited supply of the plant.

Several of the most recent MCAB meeting participants concluded the program does not consistently and reliably serve the 70,000 plus registered patients who count on cannabis to reduce pain, reduce muscle spasms and the frequency of seizures, encourage appetite and now with the MCAB's recent vote, an opportunity to potentially reduce reliance on opioid drugs.

Benefits:

When viewing medical cannabis use through an economic prism, the industry is projected to surpass \$40 billion by 2020. However, minorities are not as likely to seek opportunities in the growing/retail industry due to the disproportionate arrests/convictions of people of color involving marijuana possession. But while people of color historically have borne the brunt of cannabis enforcement, most of legalization's gains have gone to the majority population. Just 1% of storefront dispensaries nationwide, for example, have African American/Black owners, according to a 2016 BuzzFeed report.

"The data gives you a clear picture of the disparity of the failed war on drugs that has disproportionately harmed people of color—and most significantly Black and Brown citizens," according to Virgil Grant, co-founder of the Southern California Coalition and the California Minority Alliance, groups focused on building an inclusive cannabis industry.

In New Mexico there are no African American dispensary owners. According to some MCAB attendees "The Medicinal Marijuana Program has always prioritized patient needs above all else". Whether they are individuals with debilitating chronic pain, folks with end-stage cancer, or veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, patients simply cannot wait any longer for therapy that is both more affordable and easier to access. The need for expanding access to all communities through the

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Medical Cannabis program is greater than ever. Several veterans made one overwhelming request, during the MCAB meeting, "if you are not a veteran do not purport to speak for veterans."

Other benefits:

Economy-wide state contracting disparities in New Mexico's relevant markets are potentially even greater than disparities in the public sector. One reason often noted by residents indicates the difference may be because the state has operated an assertive minority business enterprise program to remedy discrimination — a program that would tend to reduce, but not yet eliminate, the effects of discrimination in public procurement.

Absent affirmative remedial efforts by the State, one would expect to see evidence in the relevant markets in which medical cannabis dispensary licensees will operate that is consistent with the continued presence of business discrimination to some degree.

It appears to me that to effectively address the acknowledged social inequalities and chronic shortage of medical cannabis for patients in New Mexico (Santa Fe Reporter, 2013) the establishment of minority owned dispensaries in the state is overdue. In addition, the latest reports from the NMDOH data research indicate there has been a 77% increase in the number of Medical cannabis patients from November 2016 to November 2017. (Abjournal, 12/16/17). The time is now for increasing the number of culturally representative/sensitive dispensaries in New Mexico by including veterans and the minority community in the ownership and operation of medical cannabis dispensaries.

"The latest 2019 Quinnipiac polls indicate that 93% of Americans support the legalization of medical marijuana." This unprecedented level of support necessitates a strong scientific educational response.

This above statement may seem like a no-brainer, but this is one of the hot tips that I adhere to and make a great dispensary or retailer truly stand apart from the rest. State law requires training, I will make sure I staff my business with employees who are smart and well educated on the product. Make sure they know how to recommend strains and products to fit various medical conditions and symptoms, in conjunction with patients' physician thereby ensuring that my employees also know how to stay compliant with state laws (checking identification and medical recommendations, knowing expiration dates, etc.). In addition to basic cannabis knowledge, it's always a good plan to not only thoroughly educate but to also make sure our employees are personable and friendly. A little customer service goes a long way!

T. L. Jones, PhD. has a first Degree in Biology with a research interest in the role of natural fungus to eradicate malady in medical cannabis crops i.e., (powdery mildew). In addition, his PhD focus is in Epidemiology. He has over 12 years of experience working as a health professional and master science educator, including as quality control analyst and Quality Assurance Director for Abbott Labs, Los Angeles, CA., then as health disparities epidemiologist and former division director for the NM Dept. of Health's Division of Health Improvement. He has also served as Adjunct Professor and Master Science Teacher at the University of New Mexico Health Science Center, Diversity programs (UNMHSC) and as science adjunct professor at the Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute. Dr. Jones currently serves as the subcommittee chair for the Cannabis Legal Section's Medical Cannabis/Hemp committee of the New Mexico State Bar Association.

This background knowledge and experience in health science coupled with a research interest in modern molecular biology is what makes Dr. Jones confident of the positive role that botanical medical cannabis plays in many lives. He has indicated that according to a recent survey by the International Association of Cannabinoid Medicines (IACM), most individuals who use cannabis for medical reasons are seeking symptomatic relief from pain or physical discomfort—for e.g., back pain, injury or accidents, migraine etc.—followed by sleeping disorders, depression, neuropathy and multiple sclerosis. There is an increasing body of evidence for using cannabis as a medicine for these conditions in addition to others.

Dr. Jones' healthcare management and research experience coupled with successfully completing all level III science and health education teacher/administrator certification requirements with the New Mexico Public Education Department are further illustrations of his keen interest and knowledge in the life sciences and health care management/administration and education.