



NEW MEXICO  
CANNABIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

For Immediate Release  
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## **New Mexico Cannabis Chamber of Commerce Advocates for Improvements to Medical Cannabis**

Albuquerque, NM— As the possibility of the legalization adult-use cannabis becomes more of a reality, the medical marijuana industry is looking for ways to keep growing and serving patients in need. The New Mexico Cannabis Chamber of Commerce (NMCCC) explains that there are avenues of improvement for the medical industry in the state of New Mexico.

The medical programs in all states that have legalized are steadily decreasing in patient count, and the threat of this happening in New Mexico is undeniable. Data from medical cannabis programs in Colorado, Oregon and Nevada – the only states with both an active recreational marijuana industry and a pre-existing medical marijuana patient database – shows patient counts steadily declining in the months and years after the launch of each state’s adult-use market.

One of the largest barriers to entry that deters medical patients from renewing their medical marijuana cards is recurring regulatory hurdles and fees. Once cannabis is legalized for adult use, a percentage of medical patients opt for ease-of-access, rather than higher potency products, causing a significant loss of patients.

A decline in the medical program means that people who are in need of specialized cannabis care are not getting proper professional advice and guidance. Chronic pain and severe conditions can require higher levels of THC than what is available in recreational dispensaries, which implicates the importance of the program.

Out of the three states that have a pre-existing medical program and adult use, Colorado has the smallest decline in medical program participants, due to decreased medical card costs. Lowering the price of cards and renewal fees is a possible way to promote retention in New Mexico.

Another way to maintain retention and growth rates in the medical program is a decrease in prices. States that have legalized adult use with existing medical marijuana programs have all witnessed an increase in medical cannabis prices. New Mexico can avoid price hikes by uncapping plant production in the medical industry. Medical marijuana producers are capped at 450 plants at a given time. The cap combined with the limitless amount of medical marijuana card holders leads to a shortage in products and increased prices.

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