



M4MM position of support for New Jersey Assembly Bill A913

Minorities for Medical Marijuana (M4MM) offers our full and unequivocal support for **New Jersey Assembly Bill A913**, which adds *sickle cell anemia* to the list of qualifying conditions for medical cannabis treatment under the state’s medical marijuana program.

Sickle cell disease disproportionately impacts African American and other communities of color, causing chronic pain, frequent hospitalizations, and diminished quality of life. Yet, these same communities have historically faced limited access to effective and affordable care, including alternative treatments that can provide relief without the risks of long-term opioid use. A913 takes a critical and compassionate step toward expanding safe and equitable access to medical cannabis for individuals who suffer from this debilitating genetic disorder.

As the largest community-based organization advocating for people of color in the cannabis industry, M4MM has long prioritized **health outcome improvements** and **equity in access to medical cannabis** as central pillars of our national and state-level policy agenda. We believe A913 directly aligns with these objectives by:

- **Improving Health Outcomes:** Expanding the medical use of cannabis to treat sickle cell disease enables symptom relief through a non-opioid, patient-centered modality. M4MM strongly supports expanding cannabis-based treatment research and application for illnesses that disproportionately affect people of color, including sickle cell anemia.
- **Reducing Health Disparities:** By broadening medical cannabis eligibility, New Jersey is addressing a longstanding racial inequity in access to pain and symptom management for predominantly Black and Brown patients living with this disease.
- **Supporting Economic and Clinical Integration:** Through its existing regulatory infrastructure and modest fiscal impact, as noted in the bill’s fiscal analysis, the state can integrate sickle cell patients into its established medicinal cannabis program with minimal burden while potentially improving quality of life for thousands of New Jersey residents.

Assembly Bill A913 is a model for health equity and compassionate care. It reflects the goals laid out in M4MM’s 2022–2024 Public Policy Plan, particularly our commitment to:

- **Health innovation through medical cannabis research**, especially in underserved populations;
- **Creating inclusive medical cannabis programs** that serve all qualifying patients equitably;
- **Empowering communities of color** through increased access to treatment, participation in care systems, and ownership across the medical cannabis sector.

We urge the New Jersey Legislature and Governor to move swiftly to enact Assembly Bill A913. This bill is more than a legislative amendment—it is a moral commitment to the wellbeing of historically marginalized patients across the Garden State.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Foster
National Policy Director for Cannabis & Hemp
Minorities for Medical Marijuana