



NEW YORK  
CITY BAR

**COMMITTEE ON DRUGS & THE LAW**

LUKE C. SCHRAM  
CHAIR  
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December 3, 2019

The Honorable Governor Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

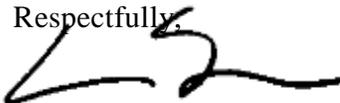
**Re: Request for Community Listening Sessions to Discuss Marijuana Legalization**

Dear Governor Cuomo,

I am writing on behalf of the New York City Bar Association's Drugs and the Law Committee regarding ongoing efforts to prepare New York for the possibility of the regulated adult use of marijuana and to examine the legal and policy changes that will be necessary in order to make a safe and orderly transition from an illicit market to a viable regulated one. The City Bar supports legalization<sup>1</sup> and greatly appreciates your commitment to this issue. We also fully recognize the importance of giving marijuana regulation a thorough study and public airing to ensure that the system adopted in New York is effective, fair and safely administered.

Because of this, we echo the calls of other advocacy groups, including Drug Policy Alliance and Start SMART NY,<sup>2</sup> in urging you to lead a series of listening sessions in communities throughout the state that have been the most harmed by marijuana criminalization. Any marijuana regulation system should reverse, not exacerbate, inequities, and seek to ensure that individuals and communities that have been harmed historically by enforcement be given fair access to the market and its economic benefits and relief from criminal convictions. Those communities most impacted under prohibition must be engaged in the process of crafting a new legal system.

Thank you again for your work on New York's marijuana policy and we appreciate your consideration of our request.

Respectfully,  
  
Luke C. Schram

Cc: Hon. Liz Krueger  
Hon. Crystal Peoples-Stokes

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<sup>1</sup> See [http://documents.nycbar.org/files/Marijuana\\_CorePrinciples\\_General.pdf](http://documents.nycbar.org/files/Marijuana_CorePrinciples_General.pdf); see also <https://www.nycbar.org/member-and-career-services/committees/marijuana-legalization-and-regulation>.

<sup>2</sup> Letter to Gov. Cuomo: Marijuana Legalization Community Listening Sessions, Dec. 2, 2019.