

Submitter: Sandra Brooke  
On Behalf Of: Self as a Psychologist  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: SB303

The people of Oregon have spoken, that they want access to the breakthrough therapies of Psychedelic (Psilocybin) Assisted Therapy (PAT). This approach has been shown, through scientific research, to be effective for conditions that we have been unable to treat effectively, such as severe Depression, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (e.g. from childhood abuse, for Veterans from war); and Severe Anxiety, such as fear of death for those terminally ill.

Our State has also been VERY clear that it wants these breakthrough therapies to be equitably available, across all races, financial classes, etc.

These medicines, however, remain on Schedule 1 federally. (President Nixon's close Aide has now revealed that that administration exaggerated the dangers of these substances, and the real purpose of making them a felony was to disrupt the movements of two groups that were challenging Nixon's policies - hippies and Blacks - by putting them in jail.)

On the provider end, sincere Oregonians, many of whom are already mental health and health professionals, are training to be PAT Facilitators. They are already taking a federal risk in order to bring emotional healing to other Oregonians in need. On the client end, it will be hard enough to allay the fears of previously persecuted population subgroups who need these healing modalities to trust that there will not be a repeat of federal persecution.

There are increasing number of scientific studies already going on, approved by the FDA, to continue to offer data regarding these treatments. To require that information on facilitators and clients of the Oregon Service Centers be collected and sent to the State would undercut the safety of participating in any way in these Breakthrough Therapy offerings. It would ruin the trust that is so critical to this important mental health movement. The most informed State Committee overseeing PAT regulations has already chosen against this data collection idea.

The reality is that no data is secure. We have seen hackers access just about anything. But more seriously, if the Federal Government demands this data from the State PAT program, names of Facilitators and Clients will go to the Feds, and make these individuals subject to felonies! I believe we would be ignoring history to deny how possible this is. The State "breakthrough therapy" PAT program would be destroyed, and those involved could be imprisoned.

Please don't ruin this program by tacking something onto what the well informed State Committee decided to deny and scare off Providers and Clients from this breakthrough mental health therapy, a program the PEOPLE OF OREGON HAVE SHOWN THAT THEY WANT.