

Co-Chairs Campos & Valderrama, Members of the Committee,

My name is Sam Chapman, I'm the Executive Director for the [Healing Advocacy Fund](https://healingadvocacyfund.org), a 501c3 nonprofit which works to implement safe, high quality, and equitable psychedelic therapy. We educate and support leaders and communities in understanding the benefits of psilocybin therapy for mental health challenges including depression, anxiety and addiction.

The Healing Advocacy Fund urges you to support adequate funding for the Oregon Psilocybin Services program through OHA's budget bill, SB 5525 (POP # 449).

Oregonian's are suffering now more than ever. According to Mental Health America, Oregon ranks 49th in the nation in the prevalence of mental illness and in access to mental health services. And while there are tools that work for some, far too many people still lack access to care or are falling through the cracks.

The Oregon Health Authority recently released a report that showed alcoholism costs the state nearly \$5 billion a year in health care costs, criminal justice costs, vehicle crashes and lost productivity. Yet research from prestigious institutions such as Johns Hopkins, NYU, and UCLA shows that psilocybin therapy in a regulated and controlled setting shows real promise for people struggling with their mental health, including alcoholism and addiction. A clinical trial on alcoholism showed that a single dose of psilocybin combined with cognitive behavioral therapy resulted in significant improvements in alcohol use outcomes and reductions in craving, compared to placebo plus cognitive behavioral therapy ([Bogenschutz et al., 2022](#)).

Another study using psilocybin for treating end-of-life anxiety and distress showed that a single dose of psilocybin, administered in a supportive setting, led to significant and sustained reductions in anxiety and depression, as well as increased quality of life and spiritual well-being ([Griffiths et al., 2016](#)).

The success of psilocybin in two other clinical trials investigating its potential to treat depression had led the FDA to grant it "breakthrough therapy" designation. This prestigious designation highlights the immense potential of psilocybin therapy to revolutionize depression treatment beyond the limited options currently available. The promise of psilocybin therapy is at the root of why we and so many others worked hard to pass Measure 109 in 2020.

Creating an accessible, equitable and safe program means being thoughtful about how the program is implemented. We spent two years developing strict rules and regulations, with a laser focus on safety, quality of services, and access for those who stand to benefit the most. We know that Oregon is leading the way for the rest of the nation, and we have to get this right.

Today, hundreds of trained facilitators are starting to graduate from their training programs, and we're just months away from the first service center opening its doors to the public. There is just one problem: The Oregon Psilocybin Services (OPS) Program, which is the agency tasked with implementing the program, lacks sufficient funding for a successful program launch. Without a fully funded program, we will lose out on the opportunity to establish a program that will enable a powerful new tool for healing. Without an investment in OPS, we will lose out on the chance to bring serious cost savings to Oregon tax payers and the state's budget.

Fully funding the OPS budget request means we can ensure that the program has the staffing and resources required to bring a much needed mental health option to those who currently available options are not working, or are inaccessible. It means we will have a new option for treating depression, anxiety, and addiction and alcoholism.

Oregonians in need across the state are waiting to access this program as part of a path back to mental health. I urge you to support the full budget OPS request.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sam Chapman
Executive Director
Healing Advocacy Fund