

March 14, 2025

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

900 Court Street NE

Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 2387 - Oregon Psilocybin Program Improvement Bill

Chair Nosse, Co-Chairs Javadi and Nelson, and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support for HB 2387, the Psilocybin Program Improvement Bill. My name is Janeane Harwell, PhD, and I serve as a Development Specialist with the Northwest Regional Primary Care Association (NWRPCA), based in Seattle, WA. I work remotely from Eugene, OR, and am deeply invested in improving behavioral and mental health access across the state. NWRPCA collaborates closely with primary care, behavioral health providers, and residency programs across Region X (AK, ID, OR, WA), with nearly all Oregon federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) as members.

I write today not only as a healthcare para-professional but as an Oregon resident who recognizes the transformative potential of psilocybin therapy. HB 2387 makes critical improvements to Oregon's Psilocybin Services Program, enhancing safety, access, and oversight. I am particularly hopeful for its impact on individuals experiencing chronic mental health challenges and homelessness in my own community.

Background & Impact of Psilocybin Therapy

Oregon voters passed Measure 109 in 2020, establishing the nation's first regulated psilocybin therapy program. Since the program launched in May 2023, it has provided services to more than 10,000 individuals seeking relief from PTSD, depression, anxiety, and addiction. Many of these individuals are new to psilocybin and seek a structured, supportive environment for their therapy. The program's early success underscores its potential to provide meaningful, long-term relief—with just one session offering effects lasting up to a year.

As a professional engaged in the FQHC primary care landscape, I see firsthand the urgent need for expanded treatment approaches for addiction and mental health disorders. The psilocybin program offers a new path out of chronic and cyclical suffering, restoring hope for those who have struggled with traditional treatments. In my own family, a loved one with a serious mental health diagnosis continues to navigate an exhausting cycle of medication adjustments, potential overdoses, and treatment instability. The prospect of psilocybin therapy represents a beacon of hope for them and many others.

Key Provisions of HB 2387

HB 2387 introduces essential updates to the Psilocybin Services Program to improve patient safety, provider protections, and program governance. Key provisions include:

1. Protecting Healthcare Providers

- Currently, licensed healthcare professionals (nurses, doctors, mental health providers) cannot use their expertise while serving as psilocybin facilitators. This bill creates licensure protections, allowing them to discuss psilocybin therapy with patients without fear of losing their licenses.
- Many professionals are hesitant to engage in conversations about psilocybin due to unclear regulations, limiting informed consent for patients. This bill ensures that patients can openly discuss potential benefits and risks with their healthcare team.

2. Dual Licensure for Healthcare Providers

- HB 2387 allows licensed healthcare professionals who also obtain psilocybin facilitator licenses to integrate their expertise into pre-session preparation and post-session integration.
- Administration of psilocybin will remain non-directive as defined by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). This change ensures that patients receive informed and responsible guidance throughout their therapeutic journey.

3. Enhancing the Psilocybin Advisory Board (OPAB)

- The Psilocybin Advisory Board currently lacks representation from psilocybin service providers. This bill requires the inclusion of a service center operator, a licensed facilitator, and a behavioral health professional to ensure regulatory decisions reflect on-the-ground experiences.
- Additionally, the bill streamlines the board's membership to align with other state boards, improving efficiency and decision-making.

4. Ensuring Accurate Dosing Information

- HB 2387 mandates that psilocin (a compound 40% more potent than psilocybin) be clearly labeled on all psilocybin products.
- Facilitators must inform clients about potency variations to prevent unintended dosing discrepancies, improving overall safety and informed consent.

Oregon continues to lead the nation in innovative and compassionate approaches to mental health treatment. Colorado has already followed in our footsteps, and other states are watching as we refine this pioneering model. By adopting HB 2387, Oregon will strengthen patient protections, expand access to qualified healthcare providers, and ensure that psilocybin therapy remains a safe, well-regulated, and effective option for those in need.

I urge you to support HB 2387 and its critical provisions to improve the Oregon Psilocybin Services Program. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to mental health innovation.

Sincerely,

Janeane Harwell, PhD
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