

Submitter: Dustin McCluskey - OPPA Response
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4110

This testimony concerns the safe administration of Ibogaine and is in response to concerns raised by the Oregon Psychiatric Physicians Association (OPPA) in their written testimony. My goal is to provide the OPPA, as well as this House Committee, with additional information regarding current safety protocols that may help inform their perspective.

A safe and effective model of care has already been developed and is currently functioning successfully in Mexico. The ibogaine provider Ambio alone operates clinics that treat over a thousand people each year. To date, its only hospitalization resulted from a physical slip-and-fall on a staircase, not a medical complication from the treatment itself.

Deaths from Ibogaine generally result from one of two issues: pre-existing cardiac conditions or drug interactions. Both are entirely preventable. These realities highlight the importance of Ibogaine administration occurring in controlled environments under the care of medical professionals.

Cardiac risks are obviated by screening prior to administration with an EKG, as well as prophylactic intravenous co-administration of magnesium and continuous EKG monitoring during treatment.

Drug interactions are mitigated through a controlled environment and rigorous drug testing—both upon arrival and again just before administration. For those who are taking Ibogaine as part of a detox program, a longer stabilization period is integrated into the experience to ensure the subject's stability prior to treatment.

The risks of Ibogaine in uncontrolled settings are very real and the OPPA is right to highlight them. However, these risks are being successfully managed by the standards of care already established and flourishing in professionally operated clinics. I urge you to not allow these manageable risks to delay the delivery of Ibogaine to the Oregonians who desperately need this medicine now.

Dustin McCluskey