

Harvey Johnson
Peaks Island
LD 1975

Hello,

I ask that you support LD 1975 on two grounds.

One: The criminalization of Substance Use Disorder, through the prosecution of suffering individuals in possession of various drugs is a clearly failed approach to public health. Addiction is a mental health disorder, and needs appropriate treatment and funding in order for us to resolve this crisis. More arrests will not help. Accessible and well-funded support services are the only way forward.

Two: Some of the chemicals/plants on the current list of banned drugs have been scientifically found to alleviate the personal suffering that leads to addiction, and have been used to cure addiction, even after it sets in. In particular, several classic psychedelics, such as psilocybin, have been recently approved by the FDA as breakthrough treatments for a variety of mental health disorders. If such a conservative agency can see the benefits, then the evidence is obviously overwhelming. If you haven't already, please look into the research being carried out by John Hopkins University, and the MAPS Foundation.

On a personal note, I suffered from Bipolar 1 for most of my life. I had heard that plant medicines may help, but was afraid to try them, in part because of the illegality. Only after sharing with a friend that I was considering suicide, and his kind offer of magic mushroom tea, did I decide to give them a try. What else did I have to lose? Well, five years on now I can confidently say that they have healed me - mind body and soul. These medicines need to be made more accessible, and decriminalizing them would be a great first step.

Thank you for your consideration.

Harvey Johnson