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TESTIMONY AGAINST LD 1914
An Act to Enact the Maine Psilocybin Health Access Act

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and distinguished members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, my name is Henry C. Skinner, MD and I am testifying on behalf of the Maine Association of Psychiatric Physicians, of which I am President, in opposition to LD 1914.

Scientific evidence is steadily building that psilocybin has very important uses in mental health care and should be more widely available to augment the benefits of therapy. Indeed, it is in the process of being approved for psychiatric indications by the Food and Drug Administration.

Unfortunately, this bill seems to be “cover” for legalizing non-medical use.

The bill proposes that anyone with a high school diploma and no further medical or mental health training be allowed to basically provide therapy and medication to any client. This amounts to the amateur practice of medicine.

While DHHS is called upon to embark on a large project of creating licensing and regulatory standards, this bill this the Department’s hands regarding essential regulatory standards.

Maine’s psychiatrists are quite aware of the strong public sentiment in favor of this bill. We agree that psilocybin will have an important place in the future of mental health care. However, like any medication it can have adverse effects, is not a good fit for people with a number of mental health and medical contraindications, and the therapy component needs to be performed by licensed mental health professionals.

This bill sets up a reckless framework for psilocybin access. Please vote ought not to pass on LD 1914.

