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**Testimony of Madison Carlino
Drug Policy Analyst, Reason Foundation**

**Maine House of Representatives
Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee**

LD 1034: decriminalize personal possession of therapeutic amounts of psilocybin for adults

Dear Chair Beebe-Center and members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee,

On behalf of Reason Foundation, I thank you for accepting these comments and making them part of the public record. Reason Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit think tank dedicated to advocating for policy solutions that enhance public health, foster dynamic markets that offer economic opportunity, and ensure consumer access to safe, regulated products.

LD 1034 represents a modest step forward in drug policy reform by decriminalizing personal possession of therapeutic amounts of psilocybin for adults. This bill does not create a commercial market or legalize retail sale—it only removes criminal penalties for adults who possess small, personal-use amounts of psilocybin.

Reason Foundation has comprehensively reviewed the available scientific literature on psilocybin and found that it presents a strong safety profile. Specifically, psilocybin is associated with low physiological toxicity, minimal risk of abuse or addiction, generally well-tolerated psychological effects, and no evidence of lasting harmful physiological or psychological outcomes.

In clinical settings, psilocybin has shown promise in treating depression, anxiety, PTSD, substance use disorders, neurological disorders, and end-of-life distress. Studies also consistently show that the psilocybin experience can lead to lasting improvements in mental health, with patients often describing the experience as among the most personally meaningful of their lives.

We believe adults should not be criminalized for seeking out the therapeutic benefits of psilocybin.

LD 1034 Creates Space for Broader Policy Conversations

As other states have begun to explore safe, regulated access pathways for psychedelic compounds, Maine now has an opportunity to consider frameworks that ensure both personal freedom and public health protections.

Future legislation could explore a license-type model that allows trained facilitators to guide individuals through psilocybin experiences in supported settings. These models promote safety, informed use, and equitable access while still exploring promising alternative treatments.

Reason Foundation has been actively engaged in policy conversations surrounding psychedelic-assisted therapy and access models across the country. We would welcome the opportunity to support Maine in developing a regulatory framework that reflects the latest scientific evidence and centers patient well-being.

Conclusion

Psilocybin is safe, and adults should not face criminal punishment for seeking its therapeutic effects. LD 1034 creates an opening for more robust, regulated approaches to mental health care in the future. We urge the committee to support this bill and consider Maine's role as a leader in safe, forward-thinking psychedelic policy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Madison Carlino

Drug Policy Analyst
Reason Foundation