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Testimony of Representative Grayson Lookner presenting

**LD 1034, An Act to Decriminalize Personal Possession of Therapeutic
Amounts of Psilocybin for Adults**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Good morning, Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and honorable colleagues on the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. My name is Grayson Lookner, and I'm proud to represent House District 113, which includes several neighborhoods in Portland. I'm here today to present **LD 1034, An Act to Decriminalize Personal Possession of Therapeutic Amounts of Psilocybin for Adults.**

This bill represents a commonsense shift in how we view plant medicine in Maine. Psilocybin mushrooms grow naturally in our forests and fields, just as they have for thousands of years. These aren't dangerous synthetic drugs - they're natural organisms that have been used medicinally by cultures around the world for millennia.

What we're discussing today is simple: Should adults in Maine face criminal penalties for possessing a natural substance that many find helpful for their well-being? The answer should be no.

This is particularly important for two groups who have found profound relief through psilocybin: our combat veterans struggling with PTSD and those facing terminal illnesses. These aren't recreational users - they're people who have tried everything else and found that this natural medicine helps where pharmaceuticals have routinely failed them. When someone is suffering at the end of their life, or a veteran is haunted by trauma, shouldn't they have every available option for relief?

The criminalization of drugs has been a failed experiment. It hasn't stopped use, it hasn't made anyone healthier, and it's wasted countless taxpayer dollars. Meanwhile, we've watched as alcohol - a far more dangerous and addictive substance - remains legal and heavily marketed. This inconsistency makes no sense from a public health perspective.

Let's talk about what LD 1034 *wouldn't do* – it would not: (1) create a recreational market or legalize the sale of psilocybin, nor would it (2) create a bureaucratic system of regulation and a framework for therapeutic use. It would simply allow adults to possess small amounts of this naturally occurring compound for their own use in whatever way they deem fit.

LD 1034 isn't about encouraging drug use. In fact, it has nothing to do with that. It's about recognizing that adults should have the freedom to make their own choices about what they put in their bodies, especially when it comes to natural medicines that grow right here in the ground in Maine. It's about moving away from punishment and toward harm reduction.

I urge you to support this bill. Let's stop treating Mainers like criminals for seeking relief, and instead focus on education and responsible use. The war on drugs has failed. It's time for a new approach.

Thank you, I'd be happy to answer any questions.