

Testimony of Sarah Farrugia  
Executive Director of Decriminalize Maine, Portland

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LD 1582 - An Act To Enact the Maine Psilocybin Services Act

I am here today to provide testimony on behalf of Decriminalize Maine, a grassroots organization, in regards to Bill LD 1582. While Decriminalize Maine's position is "neither for nor against" this specific proposal, we hope to add some insight into the conversation on ways to make psilocybin available for clinical and personal use within the state of Maine. Within the past few years, other states and cities have already approved a variety of ways to make psychedelic medicines available to people. So, it is timely for Maine to consider this topic, yet adopting legislation that was generated in another state without an informed conversation about Maine's needs seems hasty at this time.

We agree that the regulation of psychedelic-based clinical services should be designed by established healthcare organizations, especially when riskier substances such as synthetically produced or unregulated psilocybin, MDMA, LSD and others are being used. Research methodologies and their translation into health policy takes an extensive amount of time and there's a more immediate need to reduce the social risks that Mainers are incurring by using the naturally occurring psychedelics for reasons that range from relieving profound suffering to enhancing personal health.

These substances are among the safest substances consumed by the public with some of the lowest addiction profiles. When used in a safe environment with trusted companions (set and setting), and/or in conjunction with therapy and integration, they can provide significant benefits for health and wellbeing.

In summary, we feel that the committee would best spend its time either significantly re-working this proposal to emphasize decriminalizing the use of naturally occurring psychedelics or to consider other legislation. Thank you again for taking the time to review this testimony.