Ryan Fowler Otisfield LD 1582

Hello. Thank you fro hearing our concerns. I am a medically retired veteran with service connected traumas, along with other diagnosis. As a result of the traumas and associated difficulties, I was prescribed medicines to address the psychological struggles I face. Those struggles include depression, and anxiety which lead to suicidal ideations, among other things. My medicines would increase and increase as I always plateaued. I tried multiple different mental health meds and sought opinions from different providers as I sought relief. I ended up taking multiple medications, inlcuding multiple "benzos." I would plateau on these which made things worse. Wanting to feel better and consistently not being able to, along with ideations, is frustrating to say the least. Fast forward to today, I am on NO psycho active medications. None. No benzos. No pristiq or mini press. I am halfway through a law program. I feel okay. There are still small battles, but nothing compared to before and I owe it all to plant medicines. I micro dose (.1 gram) every other day of a mushroom that has close to ZERO side effects. I don't plateau. I don't consider suicide hour to hour. I have started to connect and live again. The medications I was on, prescribed by medical professionals, were not working for me. The medicines pushed me through a critical time, and lost their effect. The medical providers wanted to give me more. I believe there are significant opportunities for our population that struggles with mental health with very minimal harm--if any--to society. Psilocybin, along with another plant medicine, may have saved my life, literally--which means my daughter has a dad and my wife has a husband--thanks to a small mushroom with almost nill side effects. Now I am able to complete a law program and intend to help and support the community in rural Maine. Please consider decriminalizing this "drug" so that others can access this relief. May save some other vets that are deterred because it is not legal. I am happy to discuss the changes and impacts further along with my opinion on how this should be permitted. Thank you for your service.