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LD 1582

I am a writing in support of LD 1582. I am a physician in Maine who is board certified in addiction medicine and osteopathic family medicine. Depression is a serious and at time life threatening condition - one in seven people with undertreated depression die. There are many treatment modalities for depression in current use. However, not everyone will respond to those therapies, and the cost of depression in lost work hours, lost parenting, increased medical concerns, and lost lives should be a concern to all of us.

The use of psilocybin for treatment of refractory depression has a growing body of evidence in its favor. The protocols are very structured and performed with supervision - no one is just sent home with hallucinogenic drugs, as some people fear.

Allowing psilocybin to be added to the list of possibilities for people who suffer from depression is a real opportunity. I support this bill without reservation.