

**State of Nevada Legislative Counsel – Joint Interim Standing
Committee of the Judiciary**

Friday, January 19, 2024

Ladies and gentlemen of the interim judiciary committee, I'm honored to join you today to discuss the potential benefits of supporting psychedelic therapeutics in our state. As we navigate the landscape of mental health, it's crucial to consider innovative approaches that may offer relief to those in need.

Psychedelic-assisted therapies have shown promising results in addressing mental health conditions such as PTSD, depression, anxiety, and addiction. Rigorous research conducted at some of the country's top academic institutions have indicated that therapeutics including psilocybin, MDMA, and ibogaine, when administered responsibly, can contribute to significant improvements in patients' well-being.

Moreover, supporting psychedelic therapeutics aligns with the growing national trend towards mental health awareness. By embracing progressive solutions, our state has the opportunity to be at the forefront of this transformative movement, fostering a compassionate and forward-thinking approach to mental healthcare.

In terms of safety, it's important to emphasize that psychedelic therapies are administered in controlled settings by trained professionals. This ensures a secure environment, minimizing any potential risks associated with these treatments. Novel safety data has shown, that contrary to 1960s reports, psychedelics do not carry toxicity nor lead to dependency. Schedule I drugs are substances, or chemicals are defined as drugs with no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse. This is clearly a political designation rather than a medical one.

Additionally, the economic implications of supporting psychedelic therapeutics should not be overlooked. By investing in these alternative therapies, we can stimulate job creation within the healthcare sector, supporting the growth of specialized professionals and contributing to the overall economic well-being of our state. The cost to the system for current failed drug policy can also not be understated.

As we consider the positive impact on individuals and communities, it's imperative to acknowledge the changing societal attitudes towards these treatments. Public perception is shifting, and embracing psychedelic therapeutics reflects our commitment to evolving with the times, respecting the latest medical evidence, and prioritizing the mental health of our community.

Supporting psychedelic therapeutics is not an exploration into uncharted territory; it's an investment in the well-being of your constituents. By endorsing the aim to investigate psychedelics, and delineating appropriate pathways to sustainable treatment, we have

the opportunity to signal our commitment to progressive, evidence-based approaches to mental healthcare, positioning our state as a leader in fostering a healthier, more compassionate society. I am confident that, together, we can pave the way for a brighter future in mental health treatment within our state.

I attend today as a neurologist, clinical associated professor, medical researcher of psychedelics, and advocate for the advancement of knowledge to challenge stigma, and answer your questions on the potential of psychedelics to heal. I am eager to compare the current standard of care to psychedelic therapeutics, clarify any misconceptions dating back to Nixon era misinformation on the war on drugs, and share the latest evidence of why psychedelics work, underscoring safety, and highlighting a pathway to regulation that has medical support. Thank you for your time and consideration.