

Chairs Lieber and Nosse, and Members of the Subcommittee,

My name is Sam Chapman and I was the campaign manager for Measure 109, now serving as the executive director of Healing Advocacy Fund. We are the nonprofit supporting the implementation of Measure 109 through education and advocacy. We're here to voice support for Governor Brown's proposed budget for the Oregon Health Authority, a portion of which would support Measure 109's important implementation work.

All Oregonians deserve every opportunity to live whole, healthy lives. Yet for many years, far too many people in Oregon have been suffering with depression, anxiety and addiction. Despite their best efforts and the efforts of the medical professionals who treat them, far too many are not getting better. We know that the numbers of people suffering has only increased due to the pandemic.

All of us who worked to pass Measure 109 last fall believe psilocybin therapy is one important solution to this mental health crisis. It has the potential to improve many lives, and last Election Day, Oregon voters overwhelmingly agreed with us.

Because this is a first-of-its kind program, Measure 109 called for the Oregon Health Authority and the Psilocybin Advisory Board to spend two years thoughtfully establishing a regulatory framework for the therapy. Our goal is to ensure accessibility to the therapy, equity in the program's design and safety for people receiving the therapy.

We know that there are many questions about what psilocybin therapy could look like in Oregon. Over the next two years, as we build Oregon's psilocybin therapy program, we will collaborate with experts, individuals with lived experience and Black, Indigenous and People of Color impacted by our mental health system to build a model program for the nation.

Once appointed by the Governor, the Oregon Psilocybin Advisory Board will develop research-based regulations regarding access, affordability, facility and training requirements for psilocybin therapy. OHA staff will support the advisory committee as well as the rulemaking process to make this program successful. The Governor's proposed OHA budget makes this work possible, and I urge your support.

Thank you.