

February 27, 2023

Senator Paterson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of SB 303.

Measure 109 which established psilocybin therapy here in Oregon did not include a vital component, namely a mechanism for monitoring safety, quality of care and access to services.

SB 303 corrects that.

SB 303 requires service centers to collect and submit to the Oregon Health Authority aggregate data on client demographics, adverse reactions, reasons for seeking services and dosages used.

This data is critical to be able to monitor safety and to help understand if services are being made available to those with diverse backgrounds and those with PTSD and other conditions for which psilocybin treatment can be beneficial.

Voters approved this measure, and now I believe the state has the responsibility to monitor the program to assure its safety. That's why I have been working with the healing advocacy fund.

Collecting data and monitoring the safety of our health system, doctors, drinking water, restaurants is something the Oregon Health Authority is quite familiar with. It does it every day and it does it well.

I know a little bit about this, as I was the Director of the Oregon Health Authority from 2009-2013.

The state collects information on hundreds of health services and conditions.

For example we collect individual's data on cancers. In 1995 the Oregon legislature voted unanimously to make Cancer a reportable disease. The data collected helps improve efforts to screen, prevent and better treat cancers.

The data collected by the Cancer registry, like all other health data is handled with strict protections of patient confidentiality.

Our All Payer All Claims health insurance data base collects information on millions of health insurance claims every year. Again, with strict protections to assure patient confidentiality.

Most importantly, because, we collect health data, Oregonians are safer and healthier.

Without the ability to collect basic information about the safety of psilocybin services we will have no way of assuring the safety of the program and will be shirking our collective responsibility to protect the public's health.