

Following is the transcript of my in-person testimony during the 2/27/23 hearing for SB303.

Hi my name is Jesse Koenig, I live in Portland. Thank you for this opportunity to testify today to oppose senate bill 303. My professional background is in aerospace engineering and electronics manufacturing. I recently left that to work in Oregon Psilocybin Services. I am excited and optimistic about the potential of psilocybin and in the future other entheogenic modalities to reduce suffering and increase well-being, on both individual and collective levels.

I also recognize the power and virtue of good data and I recognize that in some sense we're here with Measure 109 due to the powerful data from clinical studies showing the efficacy of psilocybin. I am very much looking forward to working with others in this field to collectively find the best ways to use data and build knowledge, to maximize positive outcomes for clients and providers. But this should be voluntary by all parties, especially as psilocybin is federally illegal.

OHA and the Oregon Psilocybin Advisory Board conducted a thorough process over the course of two years including input from the public, to craft rules that honor the will of the voters and best protect and serve participants across the psilocybin ecosystem. That process, with careful intention and awareness of all sides of the argument, resulted in rules with no mandatory data collection and reporting. We should respect that. Although the current amendment provides an ability for clients to opt out of sending their data to OHA and OHSU, my understanding is that the bill would still not give any ability for facilitators and service centers to opt out. To do the most good, psychedelics require trust and consent throughout. This bill would decrease trust and consent.

Also there are already more than enough challenges - legal, financial, and operational - facing those who want to become psilocybin facilitators or create service centers. This is especially true in light of IRS rule 280E which pertains to trade in controlled substances, and is causing attorneys and accountants to question whether service centers can be viable at all as stand-alone businesses. And of course there are challenges for OHA in terms of resources to carry out this program. Let's not add another set of burdens and risks now at the last minute. Let's respect M109 and the rule-making process, and allow the program to get off the ground with the rules OHA has already adopted.

I'd also like to mention that I endorse the [written testimony](#) that has been submitted on behalf of [OPSCC](#) - The Oregon Psilocybin Services Collaborative Community.