

Submitter: John-Paul Crowe

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5025

20 February, 2025

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division: Oregon Psilocybin Services Budget

Co-Chairs Campos and Valderrama, and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to share information on the Oregon Psilocybin Services budget, within the Public Health Division at the Oregon Health Authority.

My name is John-Paul Crowe and work as a psilocybin facilitator in Bend, OR. Passed in 2020 by the voters, Measure 109 was designed to create a state licensed and regulated psilocybin therapy program, allowing access for individuals with mental health needs, and strong safeguards for clients, workers, and the community. Since May of 2023 when the first services were delivered, estimates show that approximately 9,000 people have now been served by the program.

This year, the Oregon Psilocybin Services (OPS) program is at a pivotal moment. A \$3.5 million shortfall within the OPS budget threatens to undermine its ability to provide equitable access to care, which would double licensing fees. For service centers with \$10,000 licensing fees, this is not a change that could be easily absorbed. This shortfall threatens to undermine Measure 109's core promise to deliver state-regulated psilocybin therapy, and the state's leadership in mental health innovation. At the same time, House Bill 2387, the Psilocybin Services Program Improvement Bill, offers a path forward to strengthen the program's foundation, improve client safety, and better integrate psilocybin services into Oregon's healthcare and behavioral health systems.

In the coming year, psilocybin therapy is likely to play a stronger role in supporting Oregon's goal to decrease mental health and substance use disorders, but without your support, this innovative mental health initiative could falter before it has the chance to fully demonstrate its impact.

I urge you to champion funding for Oregon Psilocybin Services for the program at this

important juncture in the program's development. Please support the \$3.5 million in funding to the OPS program to ensure psilocybin service providers can continue to provide important mental health services to Oregonians

Oregon has the opportunity to lead the nation in addressing mental health challenges with compassion and innovation. Let's give this program the time and resources it needs to establish itself as a model for others to follow, and honor the will of the voters to make this program a success.

Sincerely,

John-Paul Crowe