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Co-Chairs Campos and Valderrama, and Committee Members,  
Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division  
Oregon Psilocybin Services Budget

Dear Co-Chairs and Committee Members,

I am writing to you today as a dedicated licensed Psilocybin Facilitator in Bend, Oregon, to ask: **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.** Passed in 2020 by the voters, Measure 109 created a groundbreaking state-licensed psilocybin therapy program designed to offer relief to individuals facing significant mental health challenges, including PTSD, depression, anxiety, and addiction. Since its inception in May 2023, the program has already provided life-changing services to approximately 9,000 Oregonians.

In my professional experience, I have witnessed firsthand how psilocybin therapy has offered renewed hope to individuals who have long struggled with their mental health. I recall one client, who after a single guided session, reported a transformative experience that brought clarity and relief lasting nearly a year. These personal victories underscore the importance of maintaining and enhancing the program's capacity.

The OPS program is built on a robust framework to ensure the safety and well-being of its clients, which includes:

- **Safe Environment:** Only individuals over the age of 21 can access psilocybin services, ensuring a mature, responsible user base.
- **Thorough Screening:** Every client undergoes a comprehensive screening process to confirm that psilocybin therapy is a suitable option given their health history.
- **Strict Location Regulations:** Service centers are strategically located away from schools, ensuring community safety.
- **Effective Emergency Protocols:** With adverse events reported in less than 0.12% of cases, the program has proven its capability in managing emergencies appropriately.

Despite these promising outcomes, the OPS program is still in its early stages. With 2025 set to mark the first year of comprehensive data collection—thanks to Senate Bill 303 passed in 2023—and with several major research initiatives underway, we are at a pivotal moment. This emerging data will be instrumental in optimizing psilocybin services to address Oregon's mental health challenges more effectively.

However, the program currently faces a significant funding challenge—a \$3.5 million shortfall that threatens its sustainability and the equitable access to care it promises. The proposed increase in licensing fees, particularly for centers with fees around \$10,000, could jeopardize the program's future and undermine Measure 109's visionary goal.

I firmly believe that House Bill 2387, the Psilocybin Services Program Improvement Bill, offers a strategic path forward. By reinforcing the program's infrastructure, enhancing client safety, and better integrating psilocybin therapy within Oregon's healthcare system, we can build on our early successes and set a national standard for innovative mental health care.

Oregon has a unique opportunity to lead the nation with a compassionate and forward-thinking approach to mental health. I urge you to support additional funding for the OPS program, ensuring that it receives the resources it needs to thrive and fulfill the promise made to Oregon voters.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to advancing mental health solutions in our state. I am happy to discuss my experiences and insights further if needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Megan R. West', with a long horizontal line extending from the top of the signature.

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