

February 21, 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 Michelle Lindley, and I am co-owner of Omnia Group Ashland, a legal service center located in Ashland, Oregon. Measure 109 was the framework for a state licensed and regulated psilocybin therapy program, which allows access to individuals located in our state and worldwide. These individuals are seeking psilocybin therapy for mental health needs with a clear and strongly regulated program for clients, licensed facilitators, and the community. Since we have been licensed in August of 2023, we have seen over 750 clients. Statewide this number is approximately 9000.

Our clients are seeking the legal framework of Measure 109 psilocybin therapy services for mental health needs and challenges, including PTSD, depression, anxiety, addiction, and end of life or life threatening illness anxiety. People who are seeking these services are new to the idea of psilocybin therapy, but are well informed by the increasing evidence available through clinical studies and the more widespread discussions of their efficacy through podcasts and videos. They are seeking the support of licensed and richly experienced facilitators paired with the safety and support of our licensed service center. As the owner of Omnia Group Ashland, I've seen countless individuals find hope and healing through their psilocybin experience, with effects lasting for up to a year and well beyond in many cases.

We have had 0 cases that have required community services intervention. The Oregon Psilocybin Services program has a number of rules in place to ensure safety, including:

- Clients over the age of 21 are only allowed access to consume psilocybin in a

state licensed service center, under the supervision of a trained and licensed facilitator.

- All clients must first be screened by service centers to ensure services are a good fit for their health background.
- Service centers cannot be located within 1,000 feet of a school.
- Adverse events must be reported to the state when emergency services need to be called – of all the clients served, less than .12% have had emergency services, and as mentioned above we have had 0.

Our program is in its initial stages, and we are in need of time and support to reach our potential.

2025 will be the first year there will be access to comprehensive data on the program thanks to Senate Bill 303, passed in 2023. Major research initiatives studying the impacts and outcomes of psilocybin services are also underway; this information will provide invaluable insights into how psilocybin services can be optimized to address Oregon's mental health crisis.

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.

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,

Michelle Lindley

Omnia Group Ashland Licensed Service Center Owner