

Submitter: Stephanie Barss
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2387

March 20, 2025

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: HB 2387 - Oregon Psilocybin Program Improvement Bill

Chair Nosse, Co-Chairs Javadi and Nelson, and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for HB 2387, the Psilocybin Program Improvement bill. My name is Stephanie Barss. I work as a hospice and palliative care provider in Central Oregon and have been with the same agency for over two decades. I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 2387, which improves Oregon's groundbreaking Psilocybin Services Program.

I am board-certified as a Family Nurse Practitioner and a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. I also served on the Oregon Psilocybin Advisory Board for four years. It was an honor to be part of the board and I learned a great deal. The statute got a lot of things right; however, it was clear, from the passing of Measure 109 that there would be difficulties fitting licensed health professionals into the framework if they also wanted to serve as licensed facilitators.

I work with people who are coping with the diagnosis of a life-limiting illness. These people are often medically complex with significant symptom burdens related to their disease process and have additional stressors that may include anxiety, depression, demoralization, and/or existential distress. I strongly believe this population needs extra support, skill, and expertise to maximize positive outcomes (while participating in Oregon Psilocybin Services) and assure both physiological and psychological safety. I believe that individuals who have experience working with people with severe illnesses such as nurses, chaplains, social workers, doctors, and/or psychologists who also have trained and become licensed as facilitators are exactly who I want to support those people whom I care deeply about.

HB 2387 proposes dual licensure, which allows healthcare professionals who are also licensed psilocybin facilitators to utilize their healthcare expertise in the preparation (pre-session) and integration (post-session) of psilocybin services.

Administration will remain non-directive. I work with a therapist, a doctor, and a chaplain now who are also facilitators and they are who I want to support my clients. Without clarity of dual licensure, they often feel vulnerable. They work ethically and within the current law, but their boards need clarity from an updated statute. Unfortunately, I also know multiple excellent health professionals, who ultimately elected not to work as a facilitator because the law was not clear nor offered them inclusion and guidelines about how to practice with dual licensure. I fear without this change Psilocybin Services is at risk of ruin.

Also, as a former Oregon Psilocybin Services board member, I fully support the change to mandate that the board also be composed of those with lived experience as licensed and professional psilocybin service providers. Additionally, I support the addition that requires psilocin labeling on all psilocybin products. These changes make good sense.

Thank you for your service and your consideration in support of HB 2387.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Barss
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