

HB1796-FN and HB1809 Testimony
House Health, Human Services, and Elderly Affairs Committee
14 Jan 2026

by Sue Homola, SAM NH Chairman

Psilocybin

- Psilocybin is a federally illegal, Schedule I drug, which is the most restrictive category of DEA drug classification.
- Psilocybin is a psychedelic substance, and users can experience adverse hallucinations, anxiety, and panic after taking the drug, some which occur long after use.

Recreational Use/Abuse

- According to US DOJ: *“Psilocybin mushrooms are popular at raves, clubs and, increasingly, on college campuses and generally are abused by teenagers and young adults.”*
<https://www.justice.gov/archive/ndic/pubs6/6038/6038p.pdf>
- According to Annals of Internal Medicine (2025) Use of psilocybin increased by 2.4% among 12th graders in 2023, an increase of 53% over five years.
<https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/ANNALS-24-03145>
- According to University of Michigan *Monitoring the Future* research, psychedelic drug use by young adults has doubled over the past decade, with an exponential rise occurring after 2019. *“Hallucinogen use reached a new all-time study high in 2023, reported by 8.9% of young adults.”*
<https://monitoringthefuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/mtfpanel2024.pdf>

Medicinal Uses Not Yet Proven

- American Academy of Psychiatry’s current official position:
“There is currently inadequate scientific evidence for endorsing the use of psychedelics to treat any psychiatric disorder except within the context of approved investigational studies. APA supports continued research and therapeutic discovery into psychedelic agents with the same scientific integrity and regulatory standards applied to other promising therapies in medicine. Clinical treatments should be determined by scientific evidence in accordance with applicable regulatory standards and not by ballot initiatives or popular opinion.”
<https://www.psychiatry.org/getattachment/d5c13619-ca1f-491f-a7a8-b7141c800904/Position-Use-of-Psychedelic-Empathogenic-Agents.pdf>
- Not all research is created equal. According to the Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and Law (Dec 2024), researchers acknowledge: *“With excitement and development about psilocybin’s therapeutic potential, there is risk for increased bias concerning its potential effects by those administering the treatment.”*
<https://jaapl.org/content/52/4/477>
- There are many unscientific and unauthorized studies being done. This is one case study where a psychologist participated in repeated psilocybin dosing and experienced *“severe sleep impairment, anhedonia, and suicidal ideation requiring hospitalization.”* Her care team advised her to not seek medical attention and to delay any further treatment (potentially for political reasons), and they were only able to eventually stabilize her with electroconvulsive therapy (ECT).

<https://bmcp psychiatry.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12888-024-06303-z>

Adverse Effects

- According to Dr. Charles Raison, a professor of psychiatry and human ecology at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health in Madison, about 1 in 20 people report ongoing adverse effects after user psychedelics. *“A year later, they say, ‘I had an experience that was so distressing to me that it messed up my ability to function, or alienated me from my family, or gave me post-traumatic stress disorder,’”* Raison said.

<https://www.cnn.com/2025/04/21/health/psilocybin-use-poison-calls-wellness/index.html>

- According to a Canadian Medical Association Journal report, a study published in March 2025 found a link between bad psychedelic trips and a more than twofold increased risk of death within five years. The study found **suicide** to be the most common reason for an early death, along with unintentional drug poisoning, respiratory disease and cancer. Study also said: *“Despite a resurgence of interest in identifying potential therapeutic effects of hallucinogens, major gaps exist in our understanding of associated risks.”* The study found suicide to be the most common reason for an early death, along with unintentional drug poisoning, respiratory disease and cancer.

<https://www.cmaj.ca/content/197/8/E204>

- According to a 2024 Psychiatric News article: *“Since 2019, calls to U.S. poison centers involving youth or young adults who took the psychedelic psilocybin have risen sharply, according to a study in the Journal of Adolescent Health. The timing is notable as 2019 was the start of a psilocybin decriminalization movement across numerous states and cities.”*

<https://psychiatryonline.org/doi/10.1176/appi.pn.2024.06.6.2>

Who is Pushing Psychedelics: The Psychedelic Science Funders Collaborative (PSFC)

- A small consortium of high-value, Silicon Valley individuals who have been pushing for fast-tracked psychedelic use. <https://web.archive.org/web/20240529013308/https://psfc.co/>

- According to PSFC board member Genevieve Jurvetson: *“This field has been carried by like 20 families, and the leverage that they’ve had with a million, you know, tens of millions of dollars — hundreds of millions at this point — is really quite extraordinary.”*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6icxB_EK-7g&t=1332s

- The lobbying for psychedelics is following the same playbook used to gain political acceptance of controlled substances, except this time they are using the veteran community to be that sympathetic entry point.

- According to Psymposia report: *“PSFC cast veterans to play a central role in their goal of shaping public perception of psychedelic therapy. In 2023, PSFC described preparations for the media’s ‘inevitable’ turn against them through the creation of ‘a coordinated communications effort’ to mitigate negative press.”* <https://www.psymposia.com/magazine/psychedelic-syndicate-part-1-silicon-valley-maps-lykos-mdma-fda-billionaires/>

- This effort was rolled out as early as 2019. PSFC co-founder Joe Green told an audience at the Burning Man festival, that while he didn't want to “sound unduly calculating,” PSFC’s focus on veterans was based on internal polling that indicated veterans are **“one of the most sympathetic groups in our country.”** On its mailing list, one PSFC member described veterans as “the glue that binds the psychedelic culture to everyone else.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F0m7AgdqUs&t=1415s> (Heads up: Joe Green delivers this message on stage while in his underwear and wearing a bathrobe.)

PSFC is Lobbying for Three Goals

1. Obtain regulatory medical approval for MDMA-assisted therapy to treat PTSD.
2. Support state-level approval of psilocybin-assisted therapy.
3. Obtain regulatory medical approval for psilocybin-assisted therapy.

Note: This support also includes usage of other psychedelics as well, such as Ibogaine.

<https://www.psymposia.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/PSFC-Psychedelic-Landscape-Report-May-2021.pdf>, see page 22.

PSFC's Funding Priorities Follow a Familiar Drug Playbook

- Overstate the benefits
- Underemphasize the risks
- Capture the regulatory process

Read Full Psymposia Investigation Report, "How Silicon Valley Used Veterans to Hijack the Psychedelic Industry": <https://www.psymposia.com>

The Backstory on Experimenting on Military Members and Veterans

- Extensive documentation has been done by the Citizens Commission on Human Rights (CCHR), detailing how military members and veterans have been exploited by pharmaceutical research for decades.
- CCHR is *"a non-profit, non-political, non-religious mental health industry watchdog whose mission is to eradicate abuses committed under the guise of mental health. We work to ensure patient and consumer protections are enacted and upheld as there is rampant abuse in the field of mental health. In this role, CCHR has helped to enact more than 190 laws protecting individuals from abusive or coercive mental health practices since it was formed over 50 years ago. Commissioners: CCHR's Board of Advisers, called Commissioners, include doctors, scientists, psychologists, lawyers, legislators, educators, business professionals, artists and civil and human rights representatives. There are more than 250 CCHR chapters in 34 countries, with the international headquarters based in Los Angeles, California."*
- Read "Psychedelics for Vets? CCHR Cites History of Exploitation and Failed Science" <https://www.cchr.org/2025/07/11/psychedelics-for-vets-exploitation-failed-science/>
- From CCHR: *"From 2001 to 2009, the Army's suicide rate increased more than 150% while orders for psychiatric drugs rose 76% over the same period. These soaring statistics cannot be attributed to the horrors of war, as 85% of military suicide victims had never even seen combat. This suggests that the PTSD diagnosis is being widely handed out to active-duty and vets to justify putting more and more of them on cocktails of prescribed mind-altering drugs from which they may never recover."* <https://www.cchr.org/documentaries/hidden-enemy/military-drugging-profiting-from-ptsd.html>

Important Note:

- Psilocybin legalization is getting a full-court press like marijuana legalization experienced. They are using the same playbook.
- Even drug-friendly Massachusetts voters actually rejected a ballot measure to legalize psilocybin.

States that have approved Psilocybin "clinics"

- **Colorado:** Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Safety (RMPDS) is collecting data on this topic. Colorado Natural Medicine applications for psychedelic healing centers opened on December 31, 2024. The number of psilocybin calls to U.S. poison centers increased over 317% in the past five years. Psilocybin was the most common psychedelic drug involved in poison center calls.

[https://www.denverhealth.org/-](https://www.denverhealth.org/-/media/files/media/01132025%20MediaRelease%20DenverHealth%20RMPDSPsychedelicMonitoring)

[/media/files/media/01132025%20MediaRelease%20DenverHealth%20RMPDSPsychedelicMonitoring](https://www.denverhealth.org/-/media/files/media/01132025%20MediaRelease%20DenverHealth%20RMPDSPsychedelicMonitoring)

- **Oregon:** In 2020, Oregon became the first U.S. state to legalize psilocybin services for public use. The Oregon Psychiatric Physicians Association and American Psychiatric Association opposed the measure, highlighting the *"lack of Phase III clinical trials of psilocybin and the potential dangers of allowing nonphysician providers to administer an experimental drug to patients with medical and psychiatric disorders"*. In addition, there are concerns that the lack of research on the efficacy and safety of psilocybin in clinical and public may lead to future lawsuits.

<https://jaapl.org/content/jaapl/51/2/160.full.pdf>

Other Examples of Legislation:

California: A bill to create a pilot program for clinics for first responders was vetoed by Governor in 2023.

Iowa: A recent bill for legalizing a psilocybin clinic for PTSD was withdrawn.

<https://legiscan.com/IA/bill/HF620/2025>

SAM NH Takeaways and Recommendations

- Psilocybin's efficacy to treat mental health issues must be verified by rigorous, peer reviewed medical studies.

- State-level clinics, and/or legalization programs monitored by NH DHHS, are akin to experimenting on citizens.

- Psilocybin should be federally researched, not legalized at the state-level.