SB1009 FAV

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I am Deborah Servetnick. I live in Pikesville. I hold a Masters in Education, I've been a death doula since the AIDS epidemic, and I founded the nonprofit ServeMedicine.

I'm asking for your support of SB 1009.

I was diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer in 2011, and in 2012 I was a participant in the JHU Psilocybin in Cancer Study. I got so sick from my treatment, I wanted to die. I stopped chemo against medical advice - the side effects were awful - I couldn't walk, I could barely finish a sentence, I couldn't hold a pen or type which made returning to my job as a Baltimore County high school teacher traumatic. Chemo and radiation side effects lasted years; some I have to this day.

I was hard to live with, and when my 12 year old daughter and I were Christmas shopping she said, "Mom, I know you wanna die because you keep walking in front of the cars."

I knew I needed help.

It's been 12 years and I know that JHU psychedelic study saved my life. My life is nothing like it was before my diagnosis. My family told me I was easier to live with, chemo brain improved, and I felt joy. I stopped living with the fear of cancer.

We have decades of studies demonstrating how beneficial psychedelics can be in resolving anxiety and depression, treating PTSD, and in making people feel connected to spirit and nature. But

studies cannot accommodate all who have a life threatening illness or EOL diagnosis.

Had I stayed on chemo I would be dead.

Psychedelics help me see the value of my life; they didn't give me the side effects that I had from the treatment and they didn't require me to use them for an extended period of time. Those of you who are using medicine requiring a daily dose or multiple doses a day would be surprised to see how efficacious psychedelic medicine can be and how sustainable the results of treatment are.

Psychedelics are still classified Schedule 1. Let's not make the same mistake we did with cannabis taking decades to move forward.