

HB0548 - Clusterbusters and Psychedelics & Pain Association Testimony in Support

HB0548 - Task Force on Responsible Use of Natural Psychedelic Substances

Dear Maryland House Health and Government Operations Committee,

My name is Kevin Lenaburg and I am the Policy Director for the patient advocacy nonprofit organization Clusterbusters and the Executive Director of the Psychedelics & Pain Association. I am testifying in support of House Bill 548.

Clusterbusters advocates and educates about cluster headache, a somewhat rare condition experienced by about 1 in 1,000 people. Clusterbusters represents the approximately 6,000 people in Maryland who live with this debilitating disease that is one of the most painful conditions known to medicine. Currently there are few treatments for this disease and many patients struggle to find what works effectively for them.

For the past 20 years, Clusterbusters has been collaborating with researchers at leading universities, including Harvard and Yale, to prove that psychedelic substances like psilocybin are some of the most effective treatments for cluster headache. And beyond cluster headache, dozens of studies going back almost 100 years have shown that various psychedelics can effectively treat a wide range of pain conditions.

Clusterbusters supports approaches that emphasize user education to maximize benefits and reduce risks. Through education we are helping thousands to safely and effectively use psychedelic medicines in the comfort of their homes.

Psychedelics are powerful substances and there are many medical and policy nuances for how they can best be made available to, and used by, a wide range of populations. A Task Force of experts is an effective way to evaluate the research and approaches of other states, to make recommendations that are best for Maryland.

To help improve the mental and physical health of Maryland, please support HB 548.

Kevin Lenaburg
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