

## **HB 548 Task Force on Responsible Use of Natural Psychedelic Substances**

Health and Government Operations Committee

Feb 21, 2024

### **Position: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT**

[BrainFutures](#) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit addressing barriers to equitable access of evidence-based innovations in mental health and well-being established by the Mental Health Association of Maryland (MHAMD). We appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of House Bill 548 with a friendly amendment.

HB 548 proposes the creation of a Task Force on Responsible Use of Natural Psychedelic Substances. This task force will study and propose recommendations regarding production standards, therapeutic assistance, the shift away from criminalizing conduct, and the development of a Natural Psychedelic Permit for the state of Maryland.

In early 2021, we launched a psychedelic-assisted therapy initiative to educate policymakers, health care providers, payers and the public about the clinical applications and benefits of psychedelic substances. As an organization, we've released a series of educational resources and guidelines including a review of the current research surrounding [Psychedelic Medicine](#) with a second edition coming out this spring, a paper on [Psychedelic Access Pathways](#), and a comprehensive [Guide to CPT and HCPCS Codes for Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy](#).

Over the next several months, we'll be building multi-stakeholder collaborations to prepare for wide scale adoption of these treatments and lay a foundation for the regulatory and reimbursement work ahead. We're also collaborating with top universities across the US to develop educational curricula to ensure the safe use of natural psychedelic substances, including curricula relating to the testing of, proper dosage of, and usage setting for such substances.

BrainFutures can provide a wealth of information in the field of psychedelic access that could prove useful in determining how best to responsibly advance these substances in a safe, data driven manner. **As such, we request an amendment adding the Executive Director of BrainFutures, or the Executive Director's designee, to the task force membership.**