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SB0336 – FAVORABLE

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Written Testimony

I submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 0336, which would extend the Maryland Task Force on Responsible Use of Natural Psychedelic Substances through 2027 and require an updated report in 2026.

I am a professor and research scientist in psychiatry at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where my work currently focuses on psychedelic substances, including their potential therapeutic effects, benefits, risks, and other ethical considerations. I am also a co-founder of the Hub at Oxford for Psychedelic Ethics, an organization dedicated to advancing evidence-based and ethically grounded psychedelic research.

The Maryland Task Force has played an important role in ensuring that discussions surrounding psychedelic substances are informed by high-quality scientific evidence and bioethical scholarship. As interest in these substances grows, scientifically, clinically, publicly, and in policy contexts, it is increasingly important that these discussions are grounded in the scientific evidence rather than speculation or polarization.

The Task Force provides a way for emerging research, ethical considerations, and stakeholder perspectives to be synthesized and communicated to policymakers.

From my perspective, extending the Maryland Task Force is *not* about predetermining policy outcomes. Rather, it preserves Maryland's capacity to engage in informed, evidence-based deliberation as the relevant science and regulatory landscape continue to evolve.

From both a scientific and public-interest perspective, responsible policymaking in this area benefits from sustained attention to data, ethics, and lived experience. The Task Force supports these goals by creating a careful and transparent bridge between research and policy discussion.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB0336 and to support the continued work of the Task Force.

Respectfully submitted,
David B. Yaden, PhD
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