



February 24, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Beidle,

We write to you to express our strong support for SB 527, legislation creating a new grant program in Maryland to support clinical research on ibogaine, a psychoactive compound being studied for its potential to treat opioid use disorder and other neurological/mental health conditions.

Veterans are one of the most vulnerable populations when it comes to mental health. Since 2001, over 125,000 veterans have died by suicide, and 29% of Global War on Terrorism veterans are known to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The disproportionate incidence of PTSD among veterans is also a driver of the disproportionate incidence of suicide among them. We lose no less than 17 and by some estimates as many as 44 U.S. veterans to suicide every day, at nearly double the rate of non-veteran Americans lost to suicide each year.¹

Clearly, current mental health treatment options available to our veterans through VA healthcare facilities have been far from universally effective. Our veterans and their families need access to alternative therapies that address the complexity of the challenges they face following service to our nation. As demonstrated by ongoing medical and scientific research, psychedelic therapies are rapidly emerging as an effective tool in treating PTSD, traumatic brain injury (TBI), treatment-resistant depression, substance use disorder, anxiety, and other mental health indications that fuel disproportionate rates of suicide among the veteran population.

Founded in 2019, Veterans Exploring Treatment Solutions (VETS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization working to end the veteran suicide epidemic by providing resources, research, and advocacy for U.S. military veterans seeking psychedelic-assisted therapies for TBI, PTSD, addiction, and other health conditions. VETS envisions a world where our veterans have access to the most advanced healthcare options to heal from the mental and physical wounds of war. VETS has supported over 1,000 U.S. Special Operations Forces (SOF) veterans and veteran spouses to access psychedelic-assisted therapy (P-AT) treatment abroad, paired with preparation and integration coaching, through our "Foundational Healing Grants" program.

¹ "44 Veteran Suicides a Day - What We're Doing Isn't Working, Alternative Treatments Are Needed! - SOAA." SOAA, 30 June 2023, soaa.org/44-veteran-suicides-daily/.

We support SB 527 because it is a pragmatic step forward in ensuring Marylanders, including the state's veteran community, have access to breakthrough mental health treatments as they become available. By supporting Maryland's participation in FDA-overseen clinical research on emerging psychedelic-assisted therapies, SB 527 helps advance the development and future accessibility of promising treatments for traumatic brain injury, substance use disorders, PTSD, depression, and other serious neurological and mental health conditions. Veterans, who face disproportionate rates of PTSD, depression, and suicide, stand to benefit significantly from thoughtful investment in this growing field of research.

SB 527 is a crucial first step in positioning Maryland as a leader in innovative, evidence-based mental health care. With bipartisan support growing nationwide for research into psychedelic-assisted therapies, states are recognizing the urgency of expanding treatment options for individuals who have not found relief through conventional approaches. Maryland has a unique opportunity to lead by example with a comprehensive, forward-thinking strategy grounded in science and public health. By enacting this legislation, the Old Line State will not only honor its commitment to those who have served but also set a precedent for responsible, research-driven policymaking that has the potential to improve and save countless lives.

We also recognize that Maryland, like many states, is navigating near-term fiscal pressures and difficult budget decisions. Should current budget constraints limit the State's ability to move forward with this investment at this time, we respectfully encourage the General Assembly to keep SB 527 and its underlying policy framework in mind for future legislative sessions. The need for innovative, evidence-based solutions to address opioid use disorder, PTSD, and veteran suicide will not diminish, and early policy groundwork today can position Maryland to act swiftly when fiscal conditions permit.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to our nation's heroes. VETS stands ready to assist in any way possible to support the successful implementation of this vital initiative.

Respectfully,

Logan Davidson

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