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HB0427 – FAVORABLE

Bill Number: HB0427

Position: FAV

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Written Testimony

I submit this testimony in support of House Bill 0427, 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 psychedelic substances, including their therapeutic potential, risks, benefits, and ethical considerations. I am also a co-founder of the Hub at Oxford for Psychedelic Ethics, an organization dedicated to advancing psychedelic bioethics.

The Maryland Task Force has played a role in ensuring that Maryland's consideration of natural psychedelic substances is informed by high quality scientific evidence and bioethical thinking, and I hope it can continue to do so.

Psychedelic substances are the subject of rapidly growing scientific, clinical, public, and policy interest, particularly for their potential relevance to mental health. The Task Force provides a structured forum in which scientific research and scholarship can inform discussions related to psychedelics.

From my perspective, extending the Maryland Task Force is *not* about predetermining policy outcomes. Rather, it preserves the capacity for discussions related to Maryland policy to be informed by scientific research and scholarship.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB0427 and to support the continued work of the Task Force.

Respectfully submitted,

David B. Yaden, PhD

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