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Health Committee

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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 427: Task Force on Responsible Use of Natural  
Psychedelic Substances – Extension**

**Health Committee**

**February 10, 2026**

Good afternoon, Madam Chair, Madam Vice Chair and members of the Health Committee. I'm Delegate Pam Guzzone representing Howard County's District 13 and I am here in support of House Bill 427 which extends the Task Force on Responsible Use of Natural Psychedelic Substances for an additional year until December 31, 2027.

As you may remember in 2024 we passed a bill that established the Task Force to evaluate and recommend policy frameworks for legal access to natural psychedelic substances.

Since the Task Force was established, they have done an enormous amount of work – over 100 meetings, 700 hours of volunteer time from the task force members and a thoughtful, comprehensive report of over 200 pages. The report contains information on health impacts, safety, public perception and economic effects of psychedelics as well as a proposed regulatory framework to safely incorporate psychedelics into Maryland's healthcare system.

And yet, there is more work to do. Extending the sunset date to December 31, 2027 will allow the Task Force to build out its research, expand and increase input from the community to further develop and map out recommendations for implementation strategies including suggested guidelines around decriminalization, treatment protocols, training, and public education.

The Task Force has developed a strong base of data and has sketched out a framework for the safe and effective use of psychedelics in Maryland. This additional year of work will provide the time go from a framework to a clear legislative plan – one that will allow Marylanders struggling with conditions like treatment resistant depression a legal, scientifically studied, protocol to use natural psychedelics to treat their depression. Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 427.