

*Supporting HB0427  
Favorable (FAV)*

*The Hub at Oxford for Psychedelic Ethics (HOPE)*

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB0427.

We are submitting this testimony on behalf of the Hub at Oxford for Psychedelic Ethics (HOPE), an interdisciplinary center that aims to develop sustainable frameworks for psychedelic ethics, law, and social policy. It serves as an international academic and policy hub to bring together researchers and other stakeholders to advance psychedelic ethics, law and [policy](#). We host annual meetings alternating between Johns Hopkins and Oxford University to gather scientists, bioethicists, and other stakeholders. Previously, HOPE has published a widely read consensus statement on psychedelic ethics, and has [submitted a report](#) in response to a Request for Information from the Congressional Psychedelics Advancing Therapies Caucus.

An expanding body of clinical research on psychedelics—substances that alter mood, perception, and cognition—supports their therapeutic potential for a range of conditions, including substance use disorders and depression. This growing evidence base has reinforced the importance of considering the responsible use of psychedelics via various access pathways, and how public health risks might best be mitigated. While we are not here advocating for any particular policy, the development of any policy should be informed by rigorous scientific evidence and careful bioethical analysis to support safe, ethical, and equitable implementation. We support the extension of the Task Force, and their mandate to study and advise upon policies relating to psychedelic substances in this manner.

We concur with the goals laid out for the Task Force in HB0427. To ensure that its work reaches its full potential, we identify several priorities which we believe are crucial for any policy pathway. One such is the consideration of a systematic data collection program for any psychedelic policy to assess benefits and risks and to support policy evaluation. In addition, establishing clear standards and guidelines for key aspects of policy implementation—including practitioner training, informed consent, and supervision—will be essential given the current lack of field-wide consensus.

We reiterate our support for HB0427, and for the extension of the Task Force on Responsible Use of Natural Psychedelic Substances.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Katherine Cheung, Bloomberg School of Public Health & Berman Institute of Bioethics, Johns Hopkins University*

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