

Supporting HB 0427
Full Support (FAV)

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I am a licensed Maryland pharmacist and have studied the clinical potential of the use of natural psychedelics and have reviewed the previous Task Force report in detail. I am writing in support of HB 0427.

I believe strongly that the Task force has done an excellent job highlighting the potential benefits, risks, and clinical implementations of their recommendations toward increasing access to natural psychedelics. Further, it is notable and exemplary that they have undertaken this effort with a critical lens of equity and inclusion. I wholeheartedly support the continuation of their important work in regards to developing a complete and careful legislative framework and honing their recommendations into actionable items for the legislature.

Secondly, I believe strongly that the trajectory toward legalization of natural psychedelics is the right choice for our state. This class of treatments is a novel strategy for the treatment of PTSD and major depressive disorder (MDD). Considering other populations at high risk for PTSD and MDD such as previously or currently incarcerated persons, crime victims, military, and first responders, Maryland is home to a significant number of potential patients who otherwise cannot access these uniquely effective treatments. This state contains a large catchment of active and former military and first responders, and many more are included if you consider a small driving radius from our state border including dozens of federal agencies.

While I support access to these treatments on their clinical basis, the potential for state revenue generation through licensing and taxes are also immense. It is my opinion that the catchment population that could benefit and would purchase these products is likely underestimated as folks like myself intend to promote and advocate these treatments to at-risk groups in the entire region. I strongly believe that the total market potential likely exceeds the \$22 million estimate by the Johns Hopkins report.

From my clinical and constituent perspective, I hope you choose to pass this bill in pursuit of creating an access pathway for natural psychedelics use in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Andrew Rogalski, PharmD, BCPS