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Senate Committee on Legislation Operations and Elections
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SJR10

Good afternoon, Chair Orenshcall, Vice Chair Daly, and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Kate Cotter and I'm representing Nevada Coalition for Psychedelic Medicines. Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Joint Resolution 10, which urges Congress to take several critical actions regarding the therapeutic use of certain psychedelic compounds.

This resolution addresses the urgent mental health crisis affecting millions of Americans, including veterans, first responders, and Nevada residents who struggle with conditions such as PTSD, depression, anxiety, and substance use disorders. For many patients, conventional treatments prove inadequate, leaving them without effective therapeutic options.

SJR10 is grounded in substantial scientific evidence. The resolution highlights how clinical research has demonstrated that compounds including psilocybin, psilocin, DMT, ibogaine, mescaline, and MDMA show promising therapeutic potential when administered in controlled clinical settings.

The FDA has recognized this potential by granting Breakthrough Therapy designation to MDMA-assisted therapy for PTSD and psilocybin-assisted therapy for treatment-resistant depression and major depressive disorder.

This resolution highlights Phase 2 and 3 clinical trials demonstrating the effectiveness of psychedelic-assisted therapy: MDMA-assisted therapy led to 67 percent of patients with severe PTSD no longer meeting diagnostic criteria after treatment, and psilocybin-assisted therapy showed a 75 percent response rate and a 58 percent remission rate in individuals with major depressive disorder at 12 months.

Additionally, we cite a Stanford University study on ibogaine, which found significant reductions in PTSD, depression, and anxiety symptoms in veterans with traumatic brain injury, with 88% reduction in PTSD symptoms, 87% reduction in depression symptoms, and 81% reduction in anxiety symptoms at 1-month follow-up.

The federal government has begun to recognize this potential. The 2024 National Defense Authorization Act directed the Department of Defense to establish a process for service members to participate in psychedelic clinical trials and allocated \$10 million in funding. The Department of Veterans Affairs has launched research partnerships with Brown University and

Yale University to study MDMA-assisted therapy for veterans with PTSD and alcohol use disorder.

However, the current Schedule I classification of these compounds creates significant barriers to research and patient access, despite evidence showing therapeutic benefit and no physical dependence.

Given these facts, SJR10 specifically urges Congress to:

1. Increase federal funding for research into the therapeutic applications of psychedelic compounds
2. Establish a streamlined process for approving and conducting research while maintaining appropriate safety protocols
3. Create a pathway for compassionate use under the Right to Try Act
4. Reschedule psilocybin, psilocin, DMT, ibogaine, mescaline, and MDMA to reflect their therapeutic value
5. Establish legal protections for individuals and entities complying with state and local laws regarding psychedelic use

The resolution also expresses Nevada's support for expanded research at qualified institutions.

This is a bipartisan effort with strong support across the political spectrum, as evidenced by our 7 primary sponsors and 20 cosponsors. The emerging scientific consensus on the therapeutic potential of these compounds presents a rare opportunity to expand treatment options for those desperately in need of effective mental health treatments.

I'm happy to answer any questions about the resolution and its underlying research.