

AB378 Testimony of John Henry Parker

Chair and members of the committee, for the record, my name is John Henry Parker.

For over 35 years I have been a behavioral assessment analyst in the corporate sector and a volunteer peer-advisor and mentor to "at-risk" Veterans.

I have authored and produced two books and audiobooks that deal directly with transitioning "at risk" Veterans.

Transitioning Veterans: How we get in our own way, and what to do about it.

Be The Dawn In The Darkness: The relentless pursuit of becoming who we are meant to be.

I am a former Marine who has suffered from severe PTSD my entire life until my introduction to psychedelics about 15 years ago.

I am the son of a Marine Korean War and Vietnam Combat Veteran who never sought help.

I am also the father of a Purple Heart Recipient and Army Combat Veteran of two deployments to Afghanistan who did not survive his transition from military service due to the severity of his PTSD.

After the loss of my son Danny in 2009, I semi-retired to focus my efforts on supporting and mentoring "at risk" Veterans and their families with a personal mission of saving lives and keeping families together.

Now, many years later, having worked with hundreds of struggling Veterans, one-on-one, who suffer from PTSD, depression, substance abuse disorders, and suicide ideation, I can tell you that progress is slow, arduous, and, at times, heartbreaking.

I am here to report that most often, after only a single session with psychedelics, Veterans wake up and come to their senses. Hope begins to return, and we are able to help them begin to reset their outlook on life.

With the help of our legislators and the support of this growing advocacy movement, I hope we will find the collective wisdom to pass this legislation and provide our Veterans, the help they deserve and desperately need.

Thank you