



OCCAP

Oregon Council of
Child & Adolescent
Psychiatry

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PO Box 19233

Portland, OR 97280

OCCAP Opposition Statement to Measure 109

The Oregon Council of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (OCCAP) joins the Oregon Psychiatric Physicians Association (OPPA) and the American Psychiatric Association (APA) in opposing Measure 109, which allows psilocybin to be used for the treatment of multiple mental health conditions by providers who do not have any medical training.

The OCCAP believes that psilocybin-assisted psychotherapy shows promise in treating several mental health conditions and also that it is paramount that medical providers with adequate training be involved in any psilocybin treatment. Medical providers and particularly psychiatrists have had the most training and experience in identifying and managing underlying medical conditions, medication interactions, side effects, and adverse events.

Psychiatrists have a depth of experience in managing hallucinations, agitation and behavior that stems from acute intoxication from a variety of psychoactive substances, and the psychological experiences which are expected to occur in some individuals who have ingested psilocybin. Medical experience and depth of training is even more important in treatment with a drug that has not yet been studied thoroughly and does not yet have Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval.

Measure 109 would allow the use of psilocybin to treat conditions “including but not limited to addiction, depression, anxiety disorders, and end-of-life psychological distress.” Neither the safety nor effectiveness of psilocybin has been established according to FDA guidelines or clinical trials. Early, limited trials have shown promise, but the FDA has given “breakthrough therapy” status to psilocybin for a single condition, Major Depressive Disorder, opposed to the broad array of conditions listed in Measure 109.

We are concerned that the FDA approval process, which was developed specifically to protect the public from speculative drug treatments that are potentially dangerous, is being bypassed. The Phase 3 trials for psilocybin have not yet even started. We agree with our colleagues at the OPPA and APA: using ballot initiative to bypass professional standards and public safety measures is dangerous.

The Oregon Health Authority is currently heavily burdened with the task of keeping Oregonians safe in the COVID-19 pandemic. Measure 109 would

assign the responsibility of regulating an experimental drug treatment to their over-full plate at a time when resources are being cut and the amount and severity of unmet needs is increasing.

Executive Council, Oregon Council of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists