

Exhibit 2

February 11, 2022

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary of Health and Human Services
US Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20201

Re: Establishing an Inter-agency Taskforce on Psychedelic Medicines and Therapies

Dear Secretary Becerra:

Thank you for your persistence in addressing the many health care issues challenging our nation as we continue to battle the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have been informed by Reason for Hope, a non-profit policy and advocacy organization, that in advance of anticipated Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of MDMA for the treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and psilocybin for the treatment of depression (expected within approximately 24 months), the Biden Administration is considering authorization of an inter-agency strategic task force to prepare for the real-world deployment of psychedelic medicine and therapy. We understand that the strategic task force would lead a public-private partnership with various groups of stakeholders, including relevant state agencies, to address the myriad complex regulatory and public policy issues necessary to ensure a framework for the safe and responsible use of psychedelic therapies for mental health care.

Whether through the FDA or state law, it seems clear that legalizing psychedelic medicine is far more complex than a typical drug approval; rather, it represents perhaps the most significant shift in the delivery of mental health care in modern history. The time intensive treatment process, generally including preparation, administration, and integration sessions (“psychedelic-assisted therapy”), does not fit neatly within our current mental health care system. Indeed, we must carefully consider issues of cost, access, infrastructure, and insurance coverage within this new paradigm of care.

We thus fully support the Biden Administration taking an active role in helping states to navigate this landscape. Reason for Hope, who helped prepare the October briefing for HHS and SAMHSA leadership, explained that the intended result of the inter-agency strategic task force would be to publish national guidelines in the federal register pertaining to issues such as provider training, credentialing, state licensure, dispensing, monitoring, instituting good standards of safe and ethical practice, etc. We are encouraged to learn that states would then receive block grant funding and support from SAMHSA to implement or tailor the guidelines to meet their individual needs.

After reviewing the October briefing materials, we are confident that the task force will significantly ease the burden on each state to develop its own novel regulatory system, and enable a scaled-up force of trained, credentialed, licensed, and accountable psychedelic-assisted therapy

session facilitators. Critically, this will also help ensure a cohesive system for safety and ethical monitoring and reporting nationwide. However, while we view this collaborative process as a clearly beneficial starting point, we believe that each state must also retain flexibility to adapt its regulations to meet the needs of its citizens as we learn new information in this emerging space.

Finally, given the ongoing mental health and substance abuse crises exacerbated by COVID, several states have already passed or proposed intrastate regulatory systems for research and supervised use of psilocybin, opting not to wait for FDA approval. Indeed, as NIDA Director Nora Volkow recently stated, “the train has left the station” regarding use of psychedelics as a mental health treatment.¹ And we need not look far to see that without proactive federal leadership and guidance, the result will be a confusing and administratively burdensome patchwork of state laws. However, this state patchwork will prove far more complex than with marijuana, as psychedelic-assisted therapy involves regulation of both a drug *and* the practice of medicine, which is traditionally a matter of state authority.

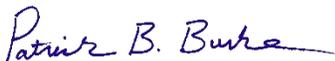
Thus, we reiterate the urgency to authorize the psychedelic task force and begin the process of federal and state government officials and stakeholders working together to create a cohesive regulatory system, through which states retain control over the practice of medicine.

Please reach out to Brett Waters, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Reason for Hope, or Kayleigh Zaloga, Legislative Assistant to New York State Assemblyman Richard Gottfried, if you have any questions that you would like to discuss: brett@reason-for-hope.org; zalogak@nyassembly.gov. We appreciate your vision and leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,



Richard N. Gottfried
Chair, Committee on Health
New York State Assembly



Patrick B. Burke
New York State Assemblyman
Lead Sponsor, Medical Psilocybin Services Act

¹ <https://darik.news/southdakota/top-federal-drug-official-says-train-has-left-station-on-psychedelics-as-reform-movement-spreads/202201474253.html>.



Tracy E. Pennycuick, U.S. Army (Ret.)
Pennsylvania State Representative
Prime Sponsor, Public Health Benefits of Psilocybin Act

Jennifer O'Mara (signed)

Jennifer O'Mara
Pennsylvania State Representative
Prime Co-Sponsor, Public Health Benefits of Psilocybin Act



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Connecticut State Assembly
Member, Connecticut Psilocybin Study Working Group



Josh Elliott
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