

**A RESOLUTION OF THE JACKSON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY**  
**Resolution No. 2019-003**  
**Regarding the Psilocybin Service Initiative of Oregon**

**WHEREAS** over 900 peer reviewed studies demonstrate psilocybin-assisted therapy is safe and effective (1-4) in low and high doses (5-6) and, like meditation, generates mystical selflessness, ego-dissolution, dreamlike awe, openness or even feelings of transcendence, with an afterglow promoting enduring prosocial changes in behavior (7-12); and

**WHEREAS** this safe, rapid-acting antidepressant treats suicidal ideation, bipolar disorder, treatment-resistant depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), cluster headaches, persistent and phantom-limb pain, inflammation, generalized and social anxiety, cortisol-induced chronic stress, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), addiction, substance use disorders, or symptoms of dependence on narcotics, alcohol, and nicotine (13-25), shifting emotional biases away from negative towards positive stimuli (26); and

**WHEREAS** this non-addictive modality (27) ensures clients are physically and psychologically safe, with appropriate dosages (28-30) and preselected music enhancing outcomes (31), and trained therapists optimizing frame of mind (Set, 32) and therapeutic environment (Setting) to reduce mania and panic, decrease amygdala reactivity, and facilitate pleasant and profound experiences of ineffable unity, sacredness, and transcendence of time and space, synchronizing neuronal oscillations and causing immediate and persisting positive effects on attitudes, mood, and behavior (33-35); and

**WHEREAS** legal psilocybin would facilitate neuroscientific research (36), produce unconstrained cognition and alterations in the structure and meaning of concepts and a sense of expanded awareness (37), aid emotional insight by lowering psychological defenses and improving recall of salient memories (38), and enhance open-mindedness, dynamic thinking, extraversion, insightfulness, conscientiousness, and positive mood while lowering neuroticism, startle reflex, recognition of negative facial expressions, desire to punish, and perpetration of intimate partner violence by improving emotion regulation in males (39-42); and

**WHEREAS** this indigenous medicine grows naturally in the United States (43), including Oregon, has been used safely for millennia by Native Americans (44), and improves mood disorders associated with the brain's default mode network (DMN), while heightening empathy, creativity and problem-solving, uplifting mood, increasing nature relatedness and decreasing authoritarian political views, fostering pro-environmental behavior based on feelings of deep inter-connectedness with the planet, inspiring cross-cultural concern for others, coping, spirituality and moral responsibility, and reliably occasioning complete mystical experiences (45-50); and

**WHEREAS** randomized, controlled double-blind trials of psilocybin for palliative care produce safe, rapid, robust, and sustained improvements in cancer-related psychological and existential distress (51-53), as well as death or end of life anxiety (54), by enhancing spiritual significance and

meaning, love, self-compassion and acceptance of death, and diminishing the significance of memories of past trauma (55); and

**WHEREAS** social and political pressure in the late 1960s effectively banned scientific inquiry into psychedelic substances (56), despite reports of apparent benefits, but now over 25 years of double-blind placebo-controlled clinical trials of psilocybin therapy for alcohol use disorder have demonstrated strikingly positive outcomes for treating alcohol dependence by decreasing cravings and inflammation and increasing abstinence (57-59); and

**WHEREAS** psilocybin therapy is effective in treating tobacco use disorder, reducing withdrawal symptoms, facilitating long-term smoking cessation and reducing anxiety while increasing liberal attitudes, curiosity and feelings of interconnectedness (60-62); and

**WHEREAS** over 30 million Americans use psychedelics (63) including psilocybin without harm to the brain or other organs, without addiction or compulsive use, and with serious adverse events being extremely rare (64), while the City of Denver, Colorado has decriminalized possession of psilocybin mushrooms (65), and the Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) has designated psilocybin a “breakthrough therapy” because it demonstrates substantial improvement over existing therapies (66), in fact, unprecedented positive relief of anxiety and depression (67); and

**WHEREAS** a Schedule I substance may be removed from scheduling under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) if a medicinal product containing the substance is approved for therapeutic use as a drug by the FDA (68), psilocybin was designated as a breakthrough therapy by the FDA (69), and psilocybin has passed a scientific analysis under the 8 factor test of the CSA (Factor 1: Actual or relative potential for abuse; Factor 2: Scientific evidence of its pharmacological effect; Factor 3: Current scientific knowledge regarding drug; Factor 4: History and current pattern of abuse; Factor 5: The scope, duration, and significance of abuse; Factor 6: Risk to public health; Factor 7: Psychic or physiological dependence liability; Factor 8: Immediate precursor of substance controlled) showing low potential for abuse or harm (70);

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE JACKSON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY THAT:**

**Section 1:** We, the Jackson County Democratic Party, strongly urge Oregon voters to vote in favor of the certified ballot title "Reduces psilocybin criminal penalties; allows licensed psilocybin administration, manufacture, possession, delivery; creates regulatory program, fund" (“The Psilocybin Service Initiative of Oregon”) in the 2020 election cycle (71).

**Section 2:** We call upon the Democratic Party of Oregon to support passage of legislation equivalent to the Psilocybin Service Initiative of Oregon in the upcoming legislative session and encourage our sister parties in Oregon’s counties to urge their Oregon state legislators to support passage of this legislation to eliminate the current law’s freezing effect on the use of psilocybin (72-73).

**Section 3:** We call upon the Democratic Party to support passage of federal legislation removing psilocybin from Schedule I of the CSA because psilocybin has low potential for abuse or harm under the 8 factor test of the CSA.

This Resolution is submitted by Nicholas Francis Phillips, Esq.

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**ADOPTED** by the Jackson County Democratic Party on the 28th day of JUNE, 2019.



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Tonia Moro,  
Chair Jackson County Democratic Party

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Date