



Re: Testimony today? Bridgid McGrath to: LCS Committees 04/27/2023 03:56 PM
Cc: "State 3", "Andrea Shuman"

My written comments are simple.

To ensure equitable, affordable access, Colorado must have grow/gather/gift protections. I uplift Decriminalize Colorado and Spore.org recommendations.

Here in Oregon, there has already been evidence of a corrupt corporate handout, from Advisory board members to lobbyists and the revolving door of government analysts working for the industry they claim to regulate with no disclosure of conflicts of interest.

The public health mandate is to ensure the People can grow and access their own medicine cheaply, without red tape that has therapists like Cathy Jonas of EPIC in Eugene projecting costs of \$3500 to recoup costs on insurance, licensing, security and more.

Please do the right thing and let people be free. The world is watching.

Thank you,

On Thu, Apr 27, 2023, 2:11 PM LCS Committees <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov> wrote:

Hi Bridgid -

The bill is currently being heard. Registration for remote testimony closes when the bill hearing begins, so remote testimony registration is closed. You may still sign up to testify in person through the form, or submit written testimony either through the form or by emailing this address.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Burger
Legislative Council Staff

From: "Bridgid McGrath" <bridgidmcgrath@gmail.com>
To: committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov
Date: 04/27/2023 03:08 PM
Subject: Testimony today?

I'm having trouble with the form, may i still sign up to testify today? Im concerned about sb290, i am advocating for grow/gift/gather for psilocybin medicine.

Thanks,

The Colorado General Assembly has moved to a new email domain. Please replace @state.co.us with @coleg.gov in your address book.



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Thomas Schoolcraft
Transitions Coordinator
Minnesota, USA

Det. Sgt. Neil Woods, Ret.
Derbyshire, England, LEAP UK

Date: April 27, 2022

Re: SB 23-290- Natural Medicine Regulation And Legalization

Position: SUPPORT

To: The Colorado Senate Finance Committee

Distinguished Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am here to represent myself, a former appellate prosecutor and Assistant Attorney General with the Colorado Attorney's General Office, and as a speaker for the Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP). I support SB 23-290 because it would support officer mental health and alternative solutions for civilians as well.

LEAP is a nonprofit group of police, prosecutors, judges, and other criminal justice professionals who speak from firsthand experience. Our mission is to make communities safer by focusing law enforcement resources on the greatest threats to public safety and working toward healing police-community relations.

Patrol officers are called every day to deal with people in mental health crises. Treatment-resistant depression alone impacts millions of Americans. When police respond, they can only offer short-term Band-Aids. Even worse, as a prosecutor, one of us frequently saw cases in which police arrested or used deadly force on people in a mental health crisis. Individuals with untreated mental health issues are [sixteen times more likely](#) to lose their life during a police encounter than the average person.

Mental health is also a personal issue for every police officer. Because officers routinely face trauma on the job, they are 54% more likely to commit suicide than the general public and twice as likely to experience clinical depression.

One promising approach to manage mental health issues is psilocybin, a naturally occurring compound found in some species of mushrooms. Early research demonstrates that clinical psilocybin interventions offer hope for people living with chronic psychological distress.

For decades, though, state laws have prevented the study and use of psilocybin to aid in the treatment of psychiatric disorders. Any officer interested in trying psilocybin to address mental health concerns would be ridiculed, fired, or even arrested.

I am heartened to see that Colorado legislators are moving forward with Prop 122 and regulating natural medicine. SB 23-290 would authorize facilitators to deliver therapy with psilocybin and other natural medicines to individuals 21 years of age and older, in a carefully regulated environment. SB 23-290 has the potential to help thousands of officers, reduce the stigma associated with mental illness, and prevent mental health crises from requiring police resources.

SB 23-290 is a thoughtful plan to provide access to carefully regulated therapy. The bill would create the "Natural Medicine Advisory Board" to provide recommendations and examine new issues on an ongoing basis. The bill would also create the Division of Natural Medicine within the Department of Revenue for regulation and licensing purposes.

SB 23-290 would follow in the footsteps of [Oregon's Measure 109](#), which led the way in allowing police and the general public to access the benefits of psilocybin therapy.

SB 23-390 would also lower the penalties for people who possess or consume natural medicines.

I understand that establishing therapy involving currently illegal drugs may sound scary and dangerous. After prosecuting drug cases for years, I can confidently say that the careful regulation of natural medicine therapy would not negatively impact public safety in our state.

In short, I support SB 23-290 because it would help address the mental health epidemic that our officers and civilians are experiencing, without creating any new public safety problems.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my experience in support of this bill.

Jay Fisher
Assistant Attorney General (Fmr.)
State of Colorado
Speaker, Law Enforcement Action Partnership

House Finance

04/27/2023 Upon Adjournment

SB23-290 Natural Medicine Regulation And Legalization

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Bailey Shelton Against themselves	I am against any changes being made to the personal use section of this bill. By putting more regulations on what people can do personally will give larger companies/corporations the ability to monopolize on yet another form of medicine. People using and growing for personal use to deal with addiction, depression, ptsd, and other medical conditions, shouldn't have to have something so naturally accessible taken away. Please consider the possibilities that come with people healing on a mass level.
Katherine Chabolla Amend themselves	<p>Hi, I'm Katherine. Resident of Boulder, CO. I'm an engineering manager at a large public tech company. I am a mother. I received my undergraduate degrees from Stanford University. I firmly believe that natural medicines (psychedelics) -- when used by adults in personal and communal settings -- make our world, our country, our state a better place.</p> <p>I researched Prop 122 extensively last November, and watching it pass was one of my proudest moments as a Coloradan.</p> <p>But when I read the amendments being proposed today, I am concerned that the bill is moving too fast (towards policing, towards arbitrary fines and restrictions), and without trusted, long-time community experts in the room. My asks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Please, no further amendments undermining communal and personal protections.- Please create an Open Community Taskforce. There are SO many experts and so much deep community knowledge. Tap into it. <p>Thank you for your time.</p>

<p>Ana Cornelius</p> <p>Amend themselves</p>	<p>Buenos días Senators and Committee members.</p> <p>My name is Ana Cornelius and I live in the Capitol Hill neighborhood here in Denver, walking distance from this building. I am a mother and a grandmother. I have worked in community healing in many capacities my entire life. I was one of the community members who developed the STAR program and I am currently one of the chairs on the STAR Advisory Committee. I have been using psilocybin for over 30 years. In that time I have guided individuals and groups using this medicine.</p> <p>How many of you have experience using these medicines?</p> <p>The reason why the STAR program has been so successful is because it was born in community, it is steered by community, and held accountable by community. It's a bottom up approach. It is an example of what can happen when community and government come together. It is of utmost importance that those in our community with the most experience- especially lineages, indigenous practitioners and healers to be protected from criminalization with this bill.</p> <p>When CO voters passed prop 122 what voters wanted was free access to these medicines. Creating personal limits and a heavy regulatory system that limits community access is not the will of the people and it is not what we voted for in Prop 122. I ask that you strike any provision is SB23-290 that recriminalizes ceremonial use and facilitated medicine support, strike any provision that prohibits remuneration for facilitated services of any kind, and strike any provision that criminalizes the display of natural medicines.</p> <p>My name is Ana Cornelius. I am a mother and a grandmother. I have worked in community healing my entire life. Thank you for your time.</p>
<p>Terry Petrovich</p> <p>Amend themselves</p>	<p>I am a retired Marine with over 22 years of active duty. I retired in 2005 and have spent seven years working in the U.S. Senate on legislation for the Navy and Marine Corps. I love our legislative process and thank you for allowing me to give written testimony on SB23-290.</p> <p>I am requesting this Bill be amended to ensure the Advertising of Harm Reduction Services that Receive Remuneration is stricken from the Bill. My first child Ky Crimson has benefitted tremendously from using Psilocybin. Ky was on Active Duty in the Army when sexually and physically assaulted by a fellow Army personnel. This resulted in years of PTSD and Anxiety, and Ky tried to get relief from marijuana and other drugs that only made the situation worse in Kys life and that of the entire family. It was a blessing that Ky found a group of individuals who used Psilocybin in community</p>

	<p>settings and now Ky has stopped using the other drugs and is finding it easier to integrate into society which Ky was unable to deal with on a daily basis before using Psilocybin. If advertising is prohibited, not only is it unconstitutional, but how can former service personnel and the general public go to find legitimate groups that can assist with healing using Psilocybin? Colorado citizens voted last November to allow individuals to use these natural wonder drugs and did not desire for the legislature to make it difficult for people to gain access to them or the groups that help provide support.</p> <p>Thank you for including my written testimony in the official Record.</p> <p>TerrY Petrovich</p> <p>GySgt USMC (Ret)</p>
<p>Bridget Seritt Amend Advocates for Compassionate Therapy Now</p>	<p>ACTnow works with thousands of patients across Colorado. Statistically, we do better with accessible access to holistic care along with western medicine.</p> <p>We would like to be sure that personal protections and community healing are protected more than anything else. We do not want to see this look like Oregon where it costs thousands to access psychedelics or cannabis, which is so over regulated it's a treatment of privilege.</p>



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