



# MASSACHUSETTS PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY

860 Winter Street  
Waltham MA 02451  
(781) 237-8100  
Fax: (781) 464-4896  
Email: [mps@mms.org](mailto:mps@mms.org)

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## Testimony of the President of the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society In Support of H.1726

July 15, 2025

Chairs Edwards and Day and members of the Judiciary Committee,  
Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Dr. Jhila Biswas, and I am the President of the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society, a professional organization representing around 1,400 psychiatrists dedicated to advancing mental health care throughout the Commonwealth.

I am here today to express our Society's support for H1628, H1726, H1858/S1113 bills that allows for the dismissal of certain complaints for the simple possession of psilocybin, provided the individual meets clear, safety-based criteria: being over 21, not operating a vehicle, and not endangering children.

It's important to clarify that our support for this bill does not reflect a blanket endorsement of recreational psychedelic use. In fact, the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society opposed Ballot Question 4 in last November's election, which we believed was too far-reaching and lacked necessary safeguards to protect the health of those in the Commonwealth. That measure raised concerns about broad, premature access to many different substances, all of which still require further study and careful oversight.

In contrast, these 3 bills represent a more balanced and responsible approach. It applies only in narrowly defined situations — to adults over 21 who were not driving, not endangering children, and whose actions caused no harm to others. It gives courts discretion without endorsing unregulated use, and it maintains important public safety protections while avoiding unnecessary criminal penalties.

Moreover, we are encouraged by the growing body of rigorous research exploring the use of psychedelics, including psilocybin, in treating conditions such as treatment-resistant depression, PTSD, and anxiety. Institutions like our local academic hospital and research centers here in Massachusetts are leading groundbreaking studies with promising early outcomes.

We believe the momentum in psychedelic research deserves to be supported — not constrained by policies that may no longer reflect the current scientific understanding. Decriminalization under specific and cautious conditions, like those outlined in these 3 bills, reflects an evidence-based, humane approach that aligns with our values as medical professionals.

We urge the legislature to consider this not just as a criminal justice reform, but as a public health opportunity.