



March 13, 2024

Honorable Chair Pamela Beidle
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Testimony in support of SB1009 - Task Force on Responsible Use of Natural Psychedelic Substances. This bill establishes a task force to study the responsible use of natural psychedelic substances and make recommendations regarding any changes to state law needed to create a Maryland Natural Psychedelic Substance Access Program that enables broad, equitable, and affordable access to psychedelic substances. The Office of Social Equity supports the goals of this task force and specifically would like to see the task force recommend a framework for psychedelics that includes input from members of the indigenous community and other marginalized groups.

Our office is currently charged with supporting an adult-use cannabis market that encourages full participation from communities that have been disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs. In line with this dedication, we are willing to extend our support to the task force, facilitating a seamless transition from the classification of a controlled substance to one that addresses the distinct needs of Maryland.

I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact me at (443) 610-1666 or audrey.johnson1@maryland.gov or Courtney Davis, Deputy Director at (443) 610-1730 or courtney.davis@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Audrey Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Audrey" being more prominent than the last name "Johnson".

Audrey Johnson
Executive Director, Office of Social Equity