



March 5, 2026

The Honorable Alyssa Black  
Chair, House Committee on Health Care  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Chair Black,

We write to you to express our strong support for H.859, legislation establishing the Psychedelic Therapy Advisory Board to review existing research and the cost-benefit profile of psychedelic-assisted therapy on health and well-being, including mental health and substance use disorder; make recommendations regarding a State program to administer psychedelic therapies in the state, and assess the public health impacts of allowing individuals, including veterans, to access psychedelic-assisted therapy legal in the U.S.

Veterans are one of the most vulnerable populations when it comes to mental health. Since 2001, over 125,000 veterans have died by suicide, and 29% of Global War on Terrorism veterans are known to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The disproportionate incidence of PTSD among veterans is also a driver of the disproportionate incidence of suicide among them. We lose no less than 17 and by some estimates as many as 44 U.S. veterans to suicide every day, at nearly double the rate of non-veteran Americans lost to suicide each year.<sup>1</sup>

Clearly, current mental health treatment options available to our veterans through VA healthcare facilities have been far from universally effective. Our veterans and their families need access to alternative therapies that address the complexity of the challenges they face following service to our nation. As demonstrated by ongoing medical and scientific research, psychedelic therapies are rapidly emerging as an effective tool in treating PTSD, traumatic brain injury (TBI), treatment-resistant depression, substance use disorder, anxiety, and other mental health indications that fuel disproportionate rates of suicide among the veteran population.

Founded in 2019, Veterans Exploring Treatment Solutions (VETS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization working to end the veteran suicide epidemic by providing resources, research, and advocacy for U.S. military veterans seeking psychedelic-assisted therapies for TBI, PTSD, addiction, and other health conditions. VETS envisions a world where our veterans have access to the most advanced healthcare options to heal from the mental and physical wounds of war. VETS has supported over 1,000 U.S. Special Operations Forces (SOF) veterans and veteran

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<sup>1</sup> "44 Veteran Suicides a Day - What We're Doing Isn't Working, Alternative Treatments Are Needed! - SOAA." SOAA, 30 June 2023, [soaa.org/44-veteran-suicides-daily/](https://soaa.org/44-veteran-suicides-daily/).

spouses to access psychedelic-assisted therapy (P-AT) treatment abroad, paired with preparation and integration coaching, through our “Foundational Healing Grants” program.

H.859 is a pragmatic step forward in ensuring Vermonters, including the state’s veteran community, have access to breakthrough mental health treatments as they emerge through rigorous scientific research. By supporting clinical research infrastructure and facilitating FDA-overseen clinical drug development, including investigational new drug applications, H.859 helps advance the study of innovative therapies for serious mental health and neurological conditions. Veterans—who experience disproportionately high rates of PTSD, depression, substance use disorders, and suicide—stand to benefit significantly from the expanded research capacity and treatment pathways this legislation would help create.

H.859 positions Vermont as a leader in forward-thinking, evidence-based mental health policy. As states across the country explore responsible frameworks for advancing research into emerging therapies, Vermont has a meaningful opportunity to lead with a science-driven and public health-centered approach. By enacting this legislation, the Green Mountain State will reaffirm its commitment to those who have served and set a strong precedent for careful, research-guided policymaking that has the potential to improve and save lives.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to our nation’s heroes. VETS stands ready to assist in any way possible to support the successful implementation of this vital initiative.

Respectfully,

*Logan Davidson*

Logan Davidson  
Legislative Director

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