Compass Pathways
Testimony to the Senate Health and Welfare Committee
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Good morning, Madam Chair, and members of the committee. My name is Tess Bettler, and I am the Associate Director of Government Affairs at Compass Pathways. Thank you for the opportunity to testify once again to our amendment request.

We respectfully ask the Committee to include language in H.611, the miscellaneous Department of Vermont Health Access bill, which will automatically align Vermont law with federal scheduling decisions, allowing FDA-approved psilocybin therapies to be prescribed and administered in a medical setting in Vermont without delay once approved and rescheduled.

Vermont is facing a significant and ongoing mental health crisis, with treatment-resistant depression (TRD) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) continuing to impact thousands of residents who do not respond to existing treatments. As outlined in prior testimony, investigational COMP360 psilocybin treatment has shown promising clinical results and has received FDA Breakthrough Therapy Designation. If approved, it would represent a fundamentally new treatment option for patients with few alternatives.

However, without proactive state action, Vermonters could face unnecessary delays in accessing this care. Because psilocybin is currently a Schedule I substance, state statute must be updated following federal approval and DEA rescheduling before it can be prescribed. Vermont has taken this step before with cannabidiol, ensuring timely access to new therapies.

Including the proposed language now in H.611 ensures the state is prepared. It creates a clear, regulated pathway for prescribing, dispensing, and administering this treatment under medical supervision, while maintaining appropriate safeguards. Most importantly, it prevents avoidable gaps between federal approval and patient access.

We urge the Committee to act now to ensure that, if approved, this innovative treatment is available to Vermonters as quickly and safely as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and your consideration to our request.

Tess Bettler

(The amendment text appears on the next page)

Requested language:

USE OF U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION- APPROVED CRYSTALLINE POLYMORPH PSILOCYBIN

(a) Upon approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of a composition of crystalline polymorph psilocybin, the following activities shall be lawful in Vermont:

(1) the clinically appropriate prescription for a patient of the FDA-approved composition of crystalline polymorph psilocybin by a health care provider licensed to prescribe medications in this State and acting within his or her authorized scope of practice.

(2) the dispensing, pursuant to a valid prescription, of the FDA-approved composition of crystalline polymorph psilocybin to a patient or a patient's authorized representative by a pharmacist or by another health care provider licensed to dispense medications in this State and acting within his or her authorized scope of practice.

(3) the possession and distribution of the FDA-approved composition of crystalline polymorph psilocybin by a patient to whom a valid prescription was issued or by the patient's authorized representative.

(4) the possession and distribution of the FDA-approved prescription drug composition of crystalline polymorph psilocybin by a licensed pharmacy or wholesaler in order to facilitate the appropriate dispensing and use of the drug; and

(5) the use of the FDA-approved composition of crystalline polymorph psilocybin by a patient to whom a valid prescription was issued, provided the patient uses the drug only for legitimate medical purposes in conformity with instructions from the prescriber and dispenser.

(b) Within 30 business days following approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration of a composition of crystalline polymorph psilocybin the Department of Health must initiate rulemaking to conform to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section.

(c) The term "hallucinogenic drug" does not include the composition of crystalline polymorph psilocybin as approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration under section 21 U.S.C. §355 et. seq. or is being used in a clinical investigation under 21 U.S.C. §355 et. seq.