Compass

Chaiman Carpenter and Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to consider HB 2218. My name is Tess Bettler and I am the Senior Manager of Advocacy and State Government Policy for Compass Pathways, a precommercial biotech dedicated to accelerating patient access to evidence-based innovation in mental health. Compass Pathways is conducting research that has the potential to change the mental health landscape, especially for those who have not been helped by existing treatments. COMP360 is the lead investigational compound and is a synthesized, pharmaceutical grade, proprietary formulation of psilocybin being studied in phase 3 clinical trials for Treatment Resistant Depression (TRD). Compass is also studying COMP360 for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

HB 2218 would move a pharmaceutical composition of crystalline polymorph psilocybin, such as Compass' COMP360, once approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration from Schedule I to Schedule IV in the Kansas Controlled Substances Act. This bill does not decriminalize or legalize psilocybin or any other psychedelic substance, nor does this bill allow access to drugs that have not been FDA-approved.

As you know, psilocybin is currently a Schedule I drug both at the federal level and in Kansas. However, pharmaceutical grade formulations of synthesized psilocybin are currently being studied by pharmaceutical companies for the treatment of serious and difficult to treat mental health conditions, including treatment-resistant depression. Treatment-resistant depression occurs when a patient suffering with major depressive disorder is failed by two or more medications in a single depressive episode and occurs in approximately one-third of patients being treated for major depressive disorder.

In the event that a composition of crystalline polymorph psilocybin is approved by the FDA, the DEA will be expected to make a rescheduling decision soon after approval, allowing for prescription medical use of the FDA-approved product in the USA. As Kansas law currently does not automatically follow the DEA's rescheduling decision, if a composition of crystalline polymorph psilocybin is approved by the FDA, it must be rescheduled in Kansas prior to being made available to patients in the state, slowing down access for your patients to potentially receive access to new mental health treatments. HB 2218 would allow for expedited access to new treatments by moving an FDA-approved, DEA-rescheduled crystalline polymorph psilocybin product to Schedule IV. Doing so will allow patients in your state with difficult-to-treat mental health conditions to have access to new treatments approved by the FDA as quickly as possible after approval.

In short, this bill helps accelerate access for patients to innovative mental health treatments that have been FDA-approved. Unless and until an FDA-approved and DEA-rescheduled product is also rescheduled in Kansas, patients will not have access to it.

Thank you for your service, and I ask that you please vote yes on this bill.

Sincerely,

Tess Bettler
Senior Manager, Advocacy and
State Government Policy
Compass Pathways