

Compassion & Choices Policy Position for Emerging Supportive Therapies and Services

Our Values

Compassion & Choices supports and embraces expanded options for compassionate care in dying and empowers everyone to choose end-of-life care that reflects their values, priorities, and beliefs. We encourage continued clinical research and exploration of therapies and services to ease suffering at the end of life.

To promote quality end-of-life care and provide peace of mind at the end of life, Compassion & Choices looks to ongoing research and patient-directed regulatory approaches related to emerging therapies and services, for example, those using psychedelics and cannabis.¹

Compassion & Choices acknowledges that research into the value of emerging supportive therapies and services as

¹“Psychedelics” is an umbrella term for four drugs being studied for clinical applications: LSD, psilocybin, MDMA and ketamine. The FDA has designated some psychedelic therapies as “breakthrough therapies,” which could expedite development of these therapies for approved uses.

Through June 2025, 40 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, the US Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia legalized cannabis for adult medical use, and 24 states, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the US Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia legalized cannabis for nonmedical use. National Conference of State Legislatures. State medical cannabis laws. Available at: <https://www.ncsl.org/health/state-medical-cannabis-laws>.

therapeutic modalities has been severely impeded by federal regulatory prohibition and applauds recent relaxation of these prohibitions.

Our Recommendations

Compassion & Choices supports emerging health-indicated options for people who are terminally ill, continued research to establish safety and efficacy, and regulatory monitoring of these emerging therapies and services.

We applaud the state of Oregon’s thoughtful regulatory approach for psilocybin services and encourage data reporting and transparency about impacts. Growing data and feedback from the Oregon program include the following points²:

- Training requirements should include clinicians, providers, facilitators, and supporting staff.
- Training must include education on co-morbidities and complicated medical histories to protect safety and access for those using services.

² [Oregon Psilocybin Advisory Board Rapid Evidence Review and Recommendations](#), June 30, 2021.



- Regulations should support access for people who may not be able to seek care in a facility at the end of life, including people with disabilities.
- Costs and payment structures must ensure equitable access.

In addition, psychedelics and cannabis have been recognized as sacred in cultures around the world. Compassion & Choices advocates for end-of-life care aligned with an individual's cultural values, which in this context, coincides with potentially helpful end-of-life options to alleviate suffering. Compassion & Choices supports related protocols, processes, and policies developed with cultural practices in mind, ensuring that cultural practices are protected and access for terminally ill people is equitable for those who need and choose the treatment.

