March 3, 2023

Dear Chair Wiklund, Chair Liebling and members of the committee:

I am writing you in strong support of Representative Smith’s HF 1884, to establish a psychedelic medicine task force in Minnesota for the investigation of these substances for therapeutic potential.

I served in the Marine Corps from 2004-2013 in both the marine corps infantry and as an EOD tech. During my 8 years, I was deployed for OIF/OEF operations in 2007. While I didn’t see multiple combat deployments, I have a lot of friends who made several trips over. Some of those friends are unfortunately no longer with us, as it seems the scars of war aren’t only visible with the eye.

This past year, I personally had to help a very close friend to rehab on multiple instances. In the last instance, I had to intervene at his house where three officers were on site to take him to jail. He had been struggling with the combined effects of alcoholism and a traumatic brain injury. While the VA tried to treat him with psychiatric medication, nothing has helped. We’ve been searching for alternatives, including a trip to Mexico for psychedelic therapy.

There are a lot of great success stories out there surrounding the use of psychedelics to treat PTSD and substance abuse. It would be great if the state could open this up and allow for an avenue for not just veterans, but anyone who may be dealing with a traumatic experience.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith Albrecht