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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Psychedelic Medicine Coalition Supports Bipartisan VA Bill to Expand Veteran Access to Innovative Treatments

Washington, D.C. — Psychedelic Medicine Coalition (PMC) today announced its support for the *Expanding Veterans' Access to Emerging Treatments Act of 2026 (H.R. 7091)*, bipartisan legislation led by Rep. Jack Bergman (R-MI) and Rep. Lou Correa (D-CA), co-chairs of the Psychedelics Advancing Therapies (PATH) Caucus. Rep. Bergman also serves on the Health Subcommittee of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, which has jurisdiction over the VA's health and clinical research programs. H.R. 7091 is the second-ever bill endorsed by PMC, following its support of the Innovative Therapies Centers of Excellence Act, introduced by the PATH Caucus last year.

The bill directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to expand clinical trials and establish a national investigational research and extended access/compassionate use treatment program utilizing innovative treatments and emerging therapies to address conditions facing veterans with urgent unmet medical needs, including PTSD, traumatic brain injury, depression, substance use disorders, and chronic pain. The legislation also enhances accountability through a reporting requirement to Congress.

Moving beyond the one-off pilot programs or studies seen in the past, the legislation creates a VA-system-integrated approach that combines clinical research, compassionate and extended access protocols, medical oversight, and congressional reporting, bringing innovation into the systems that already serve veterans. As part of its accountability measures, the bill directs the VA to provide Congress with a report on the landscape of emerging therapies.

"It is up to us as the legislative branch to pass good laws and fund the appropriations so we can generate the research, find the breakthroughs, and ultimately implement these breakthroughs so patients can receive better care," said Rep. Jack Bergman (R-MI) at PMC's Veterans and Psychedelics event on Capitol Hill on January 14, 2026.

"For the first time, Congress is not just asking whether these therapies might help—it is also beginning to build the structure required for VA to evaluate and deliver them responsibly," said Melissa Lavasani, Founder and CEO of Psychedelic Medicine Coalition.

The bill authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to:

- Conduct clinical trials using innovative treatments and emerging therapies;
- Develop compassionate and extended access protocols for eligible veterans; and
- Report outcomes, safety data, regulatory considerations, and system readiness to Congress.

Covered therapies explicitly include psilocybin, MDMA, MEAI (5-MeO-AI), 5-MeO-DMT, ibogaine, ketamine, and others as designated by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The bill also includes other emerging therapies, investigational pharmaceuticals, and devices that have shown promise in the treatment of the covered indications.

“H.R. 7091 creates a legitimate federal on-ramp for veterans who have exhausted existing options. More than a policy proposal, this bill, with the inclusion of MEAI and other innovative therapies, forges a new vocabulary for evidence-based psychedelic healing.” said Lavasani. “We are so grateful for Reps. Bergman and Correa for the introduction of this transformational bill and for their unwavering, bipartisan approach in bringing these life-saving therapies to America’s heroes.”

The Mission Within Foundation (MWF), a veteran-serving nonprofit providing scholarships for psychedelic-assisted therapy to veterans, joined PMC in supporting the legislation.

Jay Kopelman, USMC veteran and CEO of MWF added, “For years, veterans have been telling us that the current system isn’t enough. This bill finally creates a responsible pathway inside the VA, so veterans can benefit from emerging treatments with medical oversight, data collection, and accountability.”

He noted, “It ensures care is delivered with medical governance, data collection, and accountability, rather than forcing veterans to seek unregulated care outside the system.”

PMC views this legislation as critical to implementing the *Innovative Therapies Centers of Excellence Act*, introduced by the Congressional PATH Caucus last year, which would establish permanent clinical, research, and workforce hubs across federal and civilian healthcare systems. PMC has sent a Letter of Support to House leadership and will continue working with congressional leaders, veterans’ organizations, researchers, and federal agencies to support responsible implementation, and long-term system readiness.

About Psychedelic Medicine Coalition

Psychedelic Medicine Coalition is the only Washington, D.C., advocacy organization dedicated to advancing federal policy that supports the safe, effective, and equitable integration of psychedelic therapies into U.S. healthcare. Through education, coalition-building, and direct engagement with policymakers, PMC works to ensure these treatments are evaluated responsibly and accessible to the communities that need them most.