



Rep. Dailey-Provost:

On behalf of Huntsman Mental Health Foundation, I am writing to express our strong support for the research project outlined in H.B. 390 and led by Dr. Ben Lewis and Dr. Murnane at Huntsman Mental Health Institute. This project represents an important investment in advancing mental health research and innovation in Utah and aligns closely with our mission to support evidence-based solutions that improve mental health outcomes for individuals, families, and communities across the state and beyond.

Huntsman Mental Health Foundation serves as the fundraising and awareness arm of the Institute. Through philanthropic partnerships, we work to accelerate research, expand access to care, and advance innovative approaches to addressing the mental health crisis facing Utah and the nation.

We are prepared to commit private philanthropic matching funds in support of this project. Our Foundation anticipates ongoing donor interest in supporting research initiatives of this caliber, and we are confident in our ability to leverage private contributions to complement public investment and strengthen the long-term impact of this work.

We believe this public-private partnership model is essential to advancing high-impact research while maximizing taxpayer investment. State support through H.B. 390 would not only enable this specific project to move forward but would also serve as a catalyst for continued philanthropic engagement and sustained research funding over time.

We are committed to working closely with Institute leadership, the research team, and state partners to ensure accountability, transparency, and meaningful outcomes as this project progresses.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to advancing mental health research and innovation in Utah. Please do not hesitate to reach out if additional information would be helpful.

Sincerely,

Christena Huntsman Durham

Christena Huntsman Durham
CEO, Huntsman Mental Health Foundation

Utah H.B. 390 | Veterans PTSD Clinical Research

Rep. Jennifer Daily-Provost (D) & Sen. Kirk A. Cullimore (R)

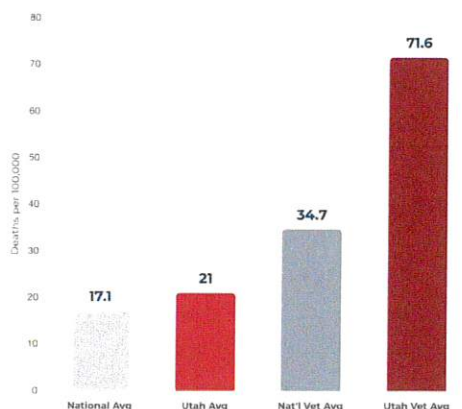
Veteran Suicide Epidemic

Every day, up to 44 Veterans are lost to suicide and overdose — far more than were killed in combat. This is not just a mental health crisis; it is a failure of a healthcare system that has not evolved. With Utah's suicide rate more than double the national average, we strongly urge Utah lawmakers to pass H.B. 390 and help end the Veteran suicide epidemic.

Utah House Bill 390

Bipartisan legislation that authorizes the Huntsman Mental Health Institute at The University of Utah to conduct a clinical study on the safety and feasibility of psychedelic-assisted therapy for Veterans with treatment-resistant post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), under strict FDA, DEA, and IRB oversight.

Veteran Suicide Rate Comparison



Key Insight: Utah's average suicide rate for Veterans (71.6) is more than double the national average (34.7), highlighting urgent clinical need.

Per 100,000 Population

Disproportionate Impact

4.9% OF ADULT POPULATION Are Veterans
13.2% OF SUICIDE DEATHS Are Veterans
Veterans are nearly **3x overrepresented** in suicide deaths.

Statewide Context

+50% Higher than National Average
Utah's average suicide rate is **21 per 100,000** compared to the national average of 17.1. This exacerbates the risk for veteran populations.

The 2021 Tipping Point

In 2021, the Utah suicide rate for Veterans reached its highest rate recorded in history.

71.6 HIGHEST RECORDED

Utah Dept of Health & Human Services / VA Data

What It Does & Doesn't Do

- Creates a legal, yet tightly regulated pathway for Veterans with PTSD to access psychedelic-assisted therapy through a clinical study, overseen by the Health and Human Services Interim Committee.
- Limits the investigational drug to psychedelics showing evidence of therapeutic potential for PTSD.
- Requires a trained therapist to deliver manualized, trauma-informed psychotherapy before and after drug administration, as an additional safeguard for this highly vulnerable population.
- Does not legalize or decriminalize any psychedelic, nor does it create public access to psychedelics.



Why Utah? Why Now?

- **Strong Veteran community:** Utah is home to a large, highly engaged Veteran population, including many living with service-related trauma who rely on state and regional healthcare.
- **Elevated suicide burden:** Veteran suicide rates in Utah are more than double the national average, peaking in 2021.
- **Trial-ready infrastructure:** The Huntsman Mental Health Institute has deep expertise in clinical trials, specialized trauma-informed care, and FDA, DEA, and IRB compliance.
- **A culture of accountability:** Utah has a history of careful legislative engagement when addressing emerging healthcare challenges.
- **Science is at a turning point:** Research increasingly suggests psychedelic-assisted therapy can produce rapid and sustained benefits when delivered in controlled clinical settings.
- **State leadership is critical:** More than \$4 billion in federal research funding has recently been cut, with mental health research disproportionately affected. State leadership is increasingly important to sustain progress and innovation.

Stronger Together

- H.B. 390 was developed in collaboration with clinicians, researchers, and public stakeholders, including more than 15 Veterans.
- This bill is the first in the country to receive unified endorsement from all three leading veteran psychedelic advocacy organizations: Heroic Hearts Project, Veterans Exploring Treatment Solutions (VETS), and the Veteran Mental Health Leadership Coalition (VMHLC), reflecting national support.
- Utah would join a coalition of states passing similar legislation, including Texas, Arizona, New Jersey, Illinois, Connecticut, Maryland, and Georgia.

Utah is uniquely positioned — and uniquely obligated — to lead responsibly in advancing clinical research for Veterans with PTSD

For more info & testimonials:
www.UtahHB390.org

