

H.B. 390

Veterans PTSD Clinical Research Amendments

Bipartisan legislation authorizing a state-led clinical study of psychedelic-assisted therapy for Veterans with treatment-resistant post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)

SPONSORSHIP

Chief Sponsor • Dem – Dist 22

Rep. Jennifer Dailey-Provost

Senate Sponsor • Rep – Dist 19

Sen. Kirk A. Cullimore

PREPARED BY

Lead Scientific Policy Advisor

Anya Marit Ragnhildstveit

Lead Scientific Policy Liaison

Miriam Grace Kaiyo

Overview: H.B. 390

Creating a federally compliant, state-led clinical research pathway to evaluate the safety and feasibility of psychedelic-assisted therapy for Veterans with treatment-resistant PTSD

The Challenge

Veteran Suicide Crisis

Utah's Veteran suicide rate is more than double the national average for Veterans.

Treatment Resistance

Many Veterans do not respond to existing evidence-based treatments for PTSD.

Vulnerable Population

Veterans are seeking psychedelic therapy abroad or underground — often without proper safety or medical oversight.

The Solution

A time-limited, state-authorized clinical study for Veterans with treatment-resistant PTSD, involving the administration of a psychedelic drug with trauma-informed psychotherapy.

PSYCHEDELIC DRUGS

Psilocybin

MDMA

5-MeO-DMT



Conducted by the Huntsman Mental Health Institute at The University of Utah

Expected Outcomes

Safety & Feasibility

Safety, tolerability, and feasibility of implementing to guide future studies.

Preliminary Efficacy

Changes in PTSD severity and functioning over time following treatment.

Regulatory Framework

A repeatable, transparent pathway for state-enabled psychedelic research that fully complies with state and federal law.



TIMELINE

2026 – 2032 (Sunset)



OVERSIGHT

FDA, DEA & IRB Compliance



FUNDING

Public-Private Partnership

WHAT MAKES THIS BILL UNIQUE

First to require trauma-informed psychotherapy

First to include 5-MeO-DMT as an investigational option

First to be endorsed by 25+ national advocacy organizations

Engages Veterans in the study design and research



“This is about the state taking responsibility for a specific, well-defined study that can *inform Utah's policy decisions* and benefit the local *Veteran community*. If the legislature wants clinical evidence it can rely on for future decisions, it makes sense for the state to *commission and oversee* that work directly. This doesn't preclude ongoing research at The University of Utah; rather, it creates a parallel lane for state-directed evaluation with *public accountability*.”

DR. BENJAMIN R. LEWIS, MD

Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Huntsman Mental Health Institute
Principal Investigator, The University of Utah Psychedelic Science Initiative

Why Pass H.B. 390?

THE CRISIS & URGENCY



Veterans are Facing a Suicide Crisis

A large national study estimates that up to **44 Veterans die by suicide** and overdose every day — far more than were killed in combat.



Utah's Veteran Suicide Rate is High

Public health reporting shows that Utah's Veteran suicide rate is consistently **1-2x times higher** than the national average for Veterans (per 100,000).



Utah has a Large Veteran Population

Utah is home to approximately **300,000 Veterans**, many living with service-related trauma and relying on state and regional healthcare systems.



Alternative Treatments are Needed

Despite available care, a significant proportion of Veterans with PTSD **remain symptomatic**, cycle through medications, or disengage from therapy.

THE SOLUTION & OPPORTUNITY



Psychedelic Therapy Shows Promise

Early research suggests that psychedelic-assisted therapy may offer **rapid and long-term benefits** for PTSD when delivered in controlled clinical settings.



Federal Funding has Sharply Declined

More than **\$4 billion** in federal research funding has recently been cut at hospitals and universities, with **mental health research** disproportionately affected.



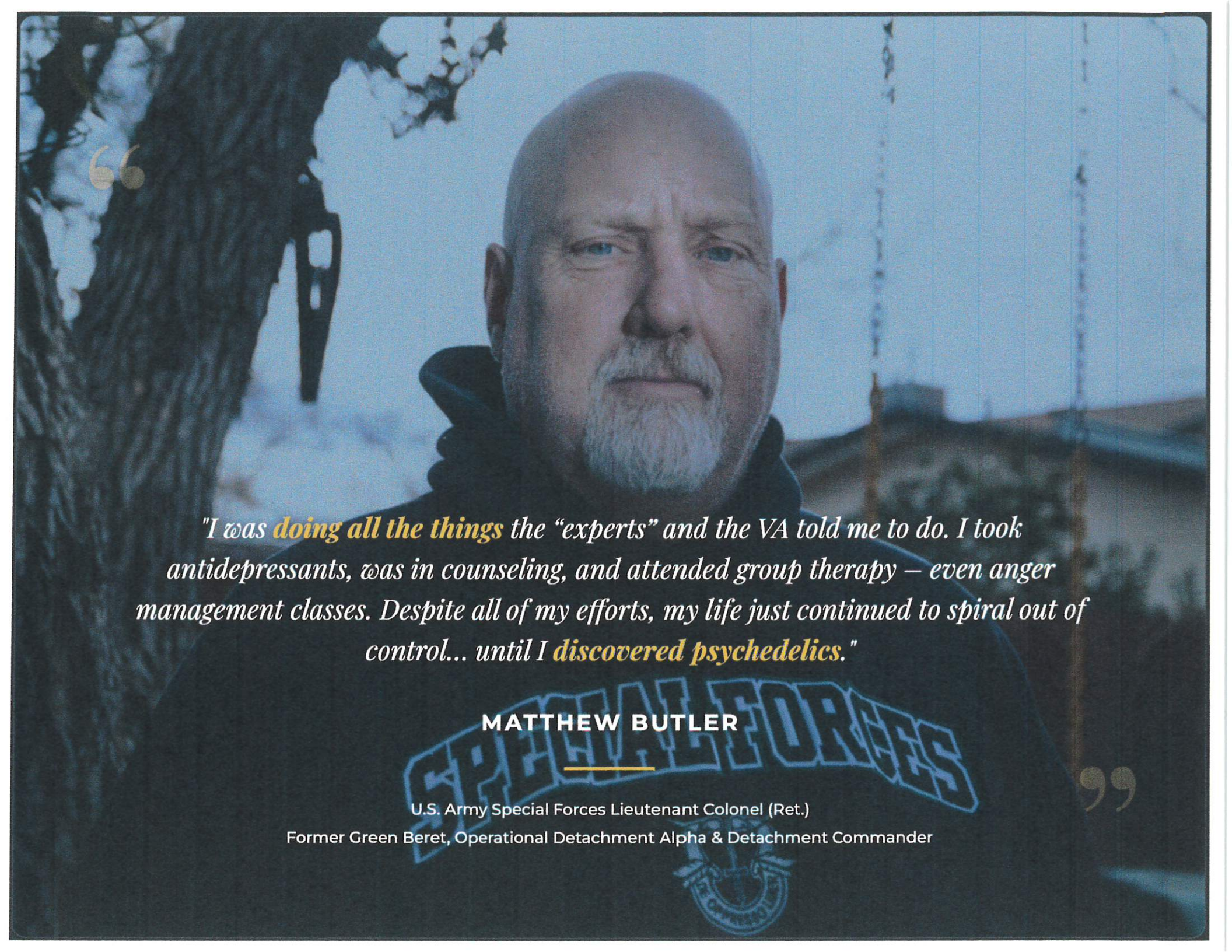
State Leadership is Urgently Needed

As federal investment contracts, state leadership is increasingly important to help **bridge funding gaps** and advance PTSD research for Veterans.



A Responsible First Step

H.B. 390 authorizes a state-led **clinical study** of **psychedelic-assisted therapy** for Veterans with treatment-resistant PTSD, as a **logical first step**.



*"I was **doing all the things** the "experts" and the VA told me to do. I took antidepressants, was in counseling, and attended group therapy – even anger management classes. Despite all of my efforts, my life just continued to spiral out of control... until I **discovered psychedelics**."*

MATTHEW BUTLER

U.S. Army Special Forces Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.)

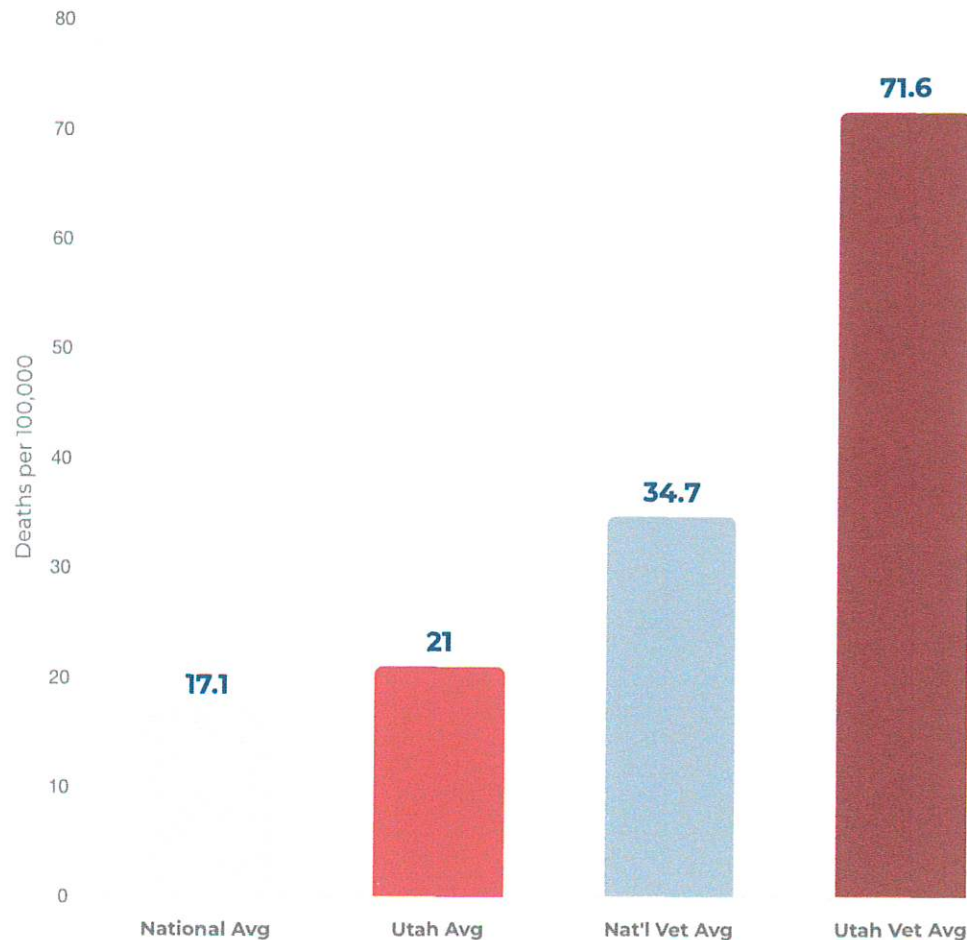
Former Green Beret, Operational Detachment Alpha & Detachment Commander

Utah's Veteran Suicide Crisis

⚠ Critical Disparity Alert

Veteran Suicide Rate Comparison

Per 100,000 Population



Despite similar diagnosis rates, Utah Veterans have more than double the suicide rate of Veterans nationally (71.6 vs 34.7). **Standard care is failing locally.**

Disproportionate Impact

4.9%OF ADULT POPULATION
Are Veterans**13.2%**OF SUICIDE DEATHS
Are Veterans

Veterans are nearly **3x overrepresented** in suicide deaths.

Large Veteran Community

**~300,000**

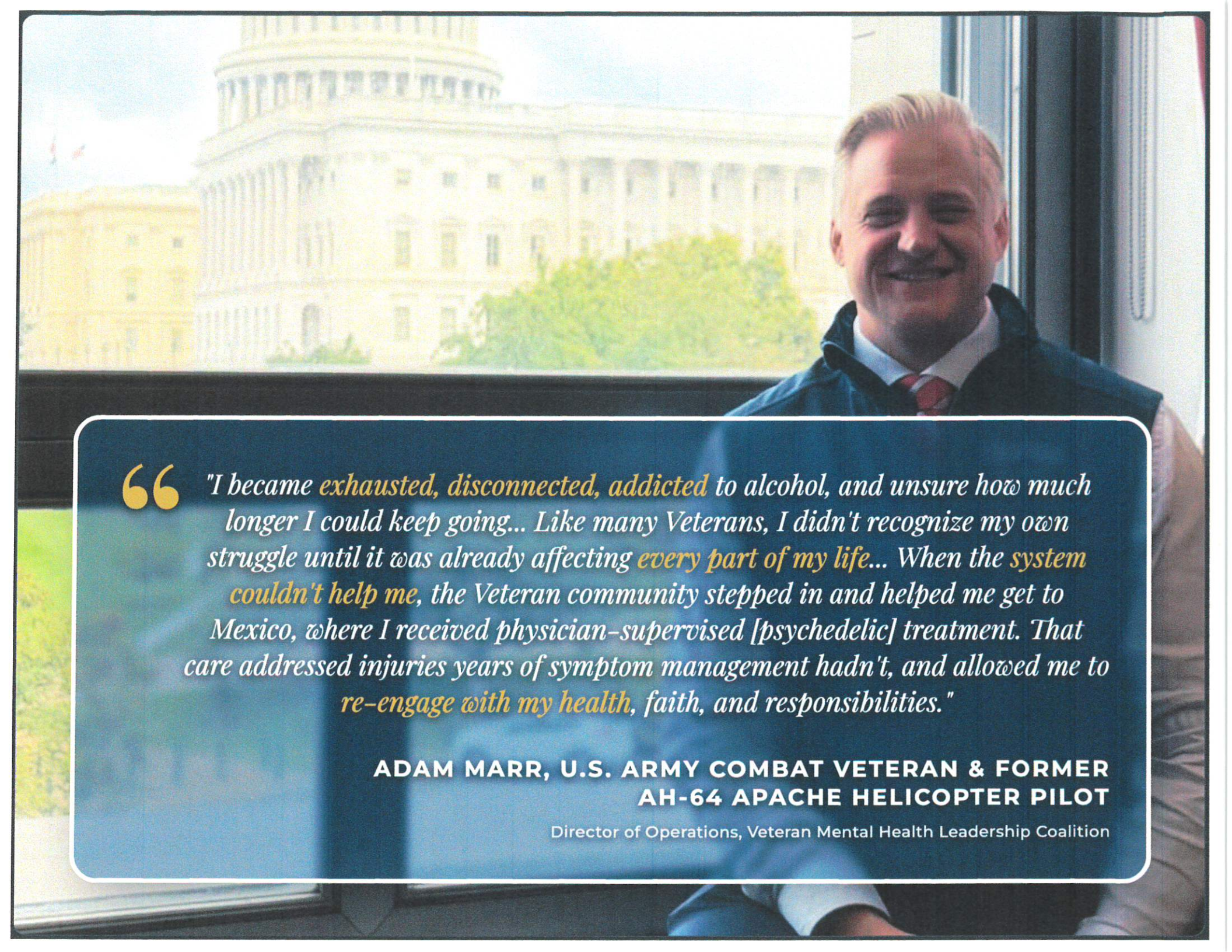
VETERANS CALL UTAH HOME

Utah is one of the largest Veteran catchments in the country. With local suicide rates **double the national average**, this community faces elevated risk.

The 2021 Tipping Point

According to the DHHS, Utah's suicide rate among Veterans reached its highest point in 2021.

71.6**HIGHEST RECORD**

A man with short, light-colored hair, wearing a dark blue jacket over a white shirt and a red tie, is smiling. He is standing in front of a large window that looks out onto the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C. The Capitol's iconic dome and neoclassical architecture are visible in the background, slightly out of focus. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting daytime.

“I became *exhausted, disconnected, addicted* to alcohol, and unsure how much longer I could keep going... Like many Veterans, I didn't recognize my own struggle until it was already affecting *every part of my life*... When the *system couldn't help me*, the Veteran community stepped in and helped me get to Mexico, where I received physician-supervised [psychedelic] treatment. That care addressed injuries years of symptom management hadn't, and allowed me to *re-engage with my health, faith, and responsibilities*.”

**ADAM MARR, U.S. ARMY COMBAT VETERAN & FORMER
AH-64 APACHE HELICOPTER PILOT**

Director of Operations, Veteran Mental Health Leadership Coalition

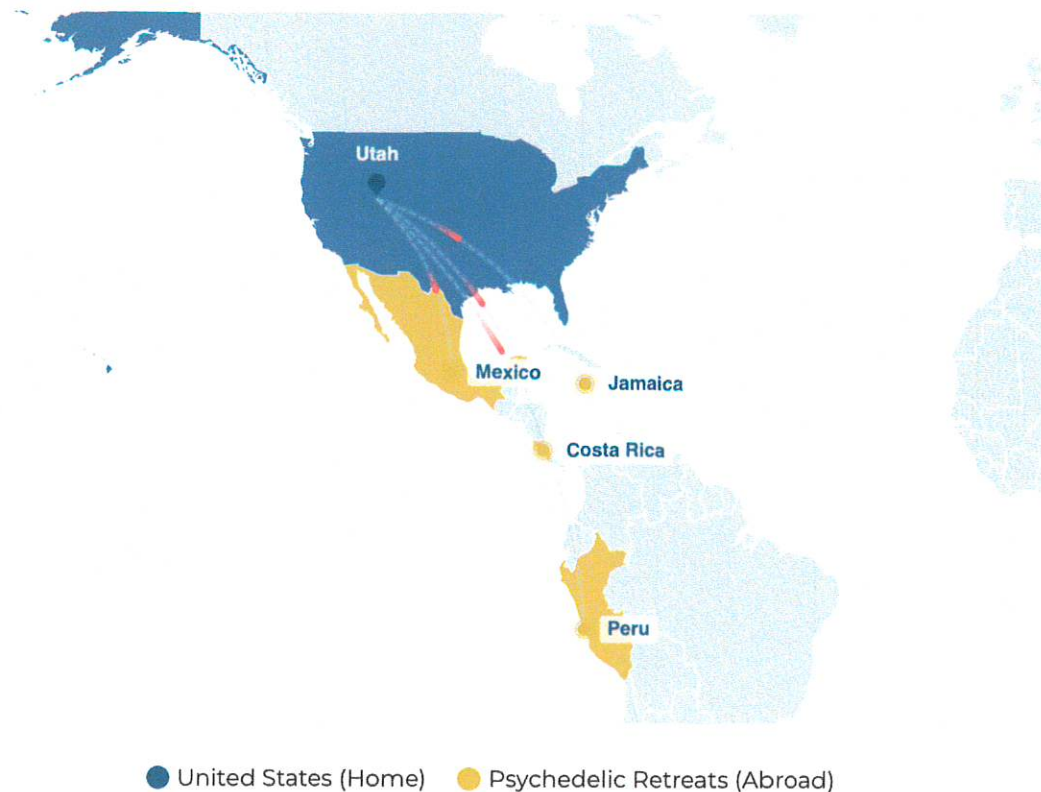
Leaving the Country They Served

 Forced Abroad for Care

"No American Veteran should have to leave the country or rely on informal networks to access carefully supervised care. H.B. 390 addresses that reality in a measured and responsible way."

ADAM MARR

U.S. Army Combat Veteran & Former Apache Helicopter Pilot



Thousands

Of Veterans travel abroad annually to attend legal psychedelic retreats

\$3k - \$15k

Average out-of-pocket cost per retreat, creating massive financial barrier

CURRENT REALITY FOR VETERANS

-  **Unregulated Care:** Safety standards and clinician qualifications vary widely outside the U.S.
-  **Poor Emergency Response:** Limited access to urgent medical care, if complications arise.
-  **Legal & Employment Risk:** Potential legal exposure and job loss when returning home.

WHAT VETERANS DESERVE (H.B. 390)

-  **Regulated Care:** Federally compliant treatment protocols with rigorous safety oversight.
-  **Medical Supervision:** Trained physicians and therapists monitoring treatment and outcomes.
-  **Accessible Treatment:** Ability to pursue emerging treatments without traveling abroad.

A portrait of Anya Ragnhildstveit, PhD(C), a woman with blonde hair, wearing a white lab coat over a black top. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred blue and white.

RESEARCH PERSPECTIVE

"Veterans are frequently excluded from clinical trials evaluating psychedelics and mental health treatments, as strict eligibility criteria often screen out the complex realities of military-related PTSD: intense guilt and moral injury, risky behavior and substance abuse, chronic health issues, past suicide attempts, and high dropout rates."

H.B. 390 would not only allow Veterans to participate in clinical research, but also help Utah train clinicians, establish protocols, and build the infrastructure needed to implement psychedelic-assisted therapy, so we're ready to deliver safe, evidence-based care the moment FDA approvals arrive."

ANYA RAGNHILDSTVEIT, PHD(C)

Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Center for Psychedelic Research, Pneuma Science

State-Authorized Clinical Study

 Rigorous Clinical Framework

Target Population: Who Can Participate?



Treatment-Resistant PTSD

Utah Veterans who have tried at least **one evidence-based treatment** for PTSD without adequate improvement in symptoms.

Intervention: Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy

Step 1



Preparatory Psychotherapy

3 sessions

✓ Trauma-informed psychotherapy to build rapport, prepare participants, and set treatment goals.

Step 2



Psychedelic Administration

1 session

✓ Supervised dosing with safety monitoring and psychological support in a controlled clinical setting.

Step 3



Integrative Psychotherapy

3 sessions

✓ Trauma-informed psychotherapy to process psychedelic experience and apply newfound insights.

Step 4



Follow-Up Assessments

Up to 6 mo

✓ Longitudinal tracking of adverse events and changes in PTSD severity and functioning over time.

Safeguards

Rigorous Oversight Layers



FDA Authorization

Investigational New Drug application for clinical study.



DEA Registration

Schedule 1 drug license and secure chain of custody.



IRB Approval

Ethics approval of study design and consent procedures.



Medical Monitoring

Physician oversight for all drug administration sessions.



Therapy Support

Licensed, trauma-informed therapists trained in PTSD care.



Mandatory Reporting

Regular safety and outcome reports to the Legislature.

PATIENT SAFETY FIRST



“

*"Veterans are often the ones carrying the heaviest **burden of trauma**, and too many are still struggling after everything else has failed. H.B. 390 matters because it ensures **Veterans are prioritized** in research and kept at the center of the conversation. This bill acknowledges both the urgency of the crisis and the **responsibility we have** to pursue better answers for those **who have served**."*

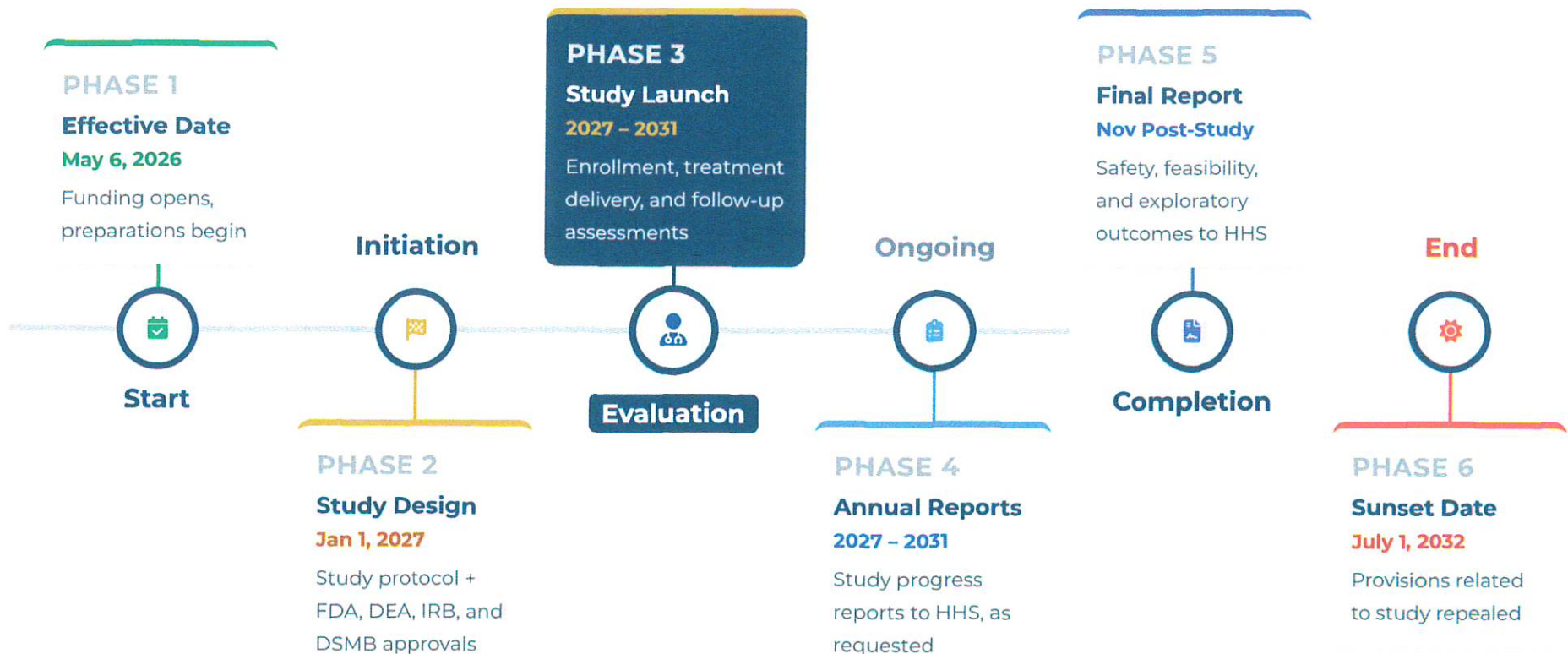
MARCUS CAPONE, U.S. NAVY SEAL VETERAN

Co-Founder & Chairman, Veterans Exploring Treatment Solutions

Clinical Study Timeline

2026 – 2032

A time-limited, legally defined pathway from authorization to completion, ensuring oversight at every stage





“

*"Psychedelic-assisted therapies represent one of the **most promising** advances in decades, and our Veterans should not have to leave the country they served, **assume unnecessary risk**, or seek care outside the medical system to access hope. H.B. 390 is important and **urgently needed legislation** that allows Utah to lead the way through responsible, regulated research — **bringing that hope home** safely and ethically."*

DR. LYNNETTE A. AVERILL, PHD

Chief Science Officer, Reason for Hope • Veteran Mental Health Leadership Coalition

State Funding Commitments

Public Investment by State

2021-Present

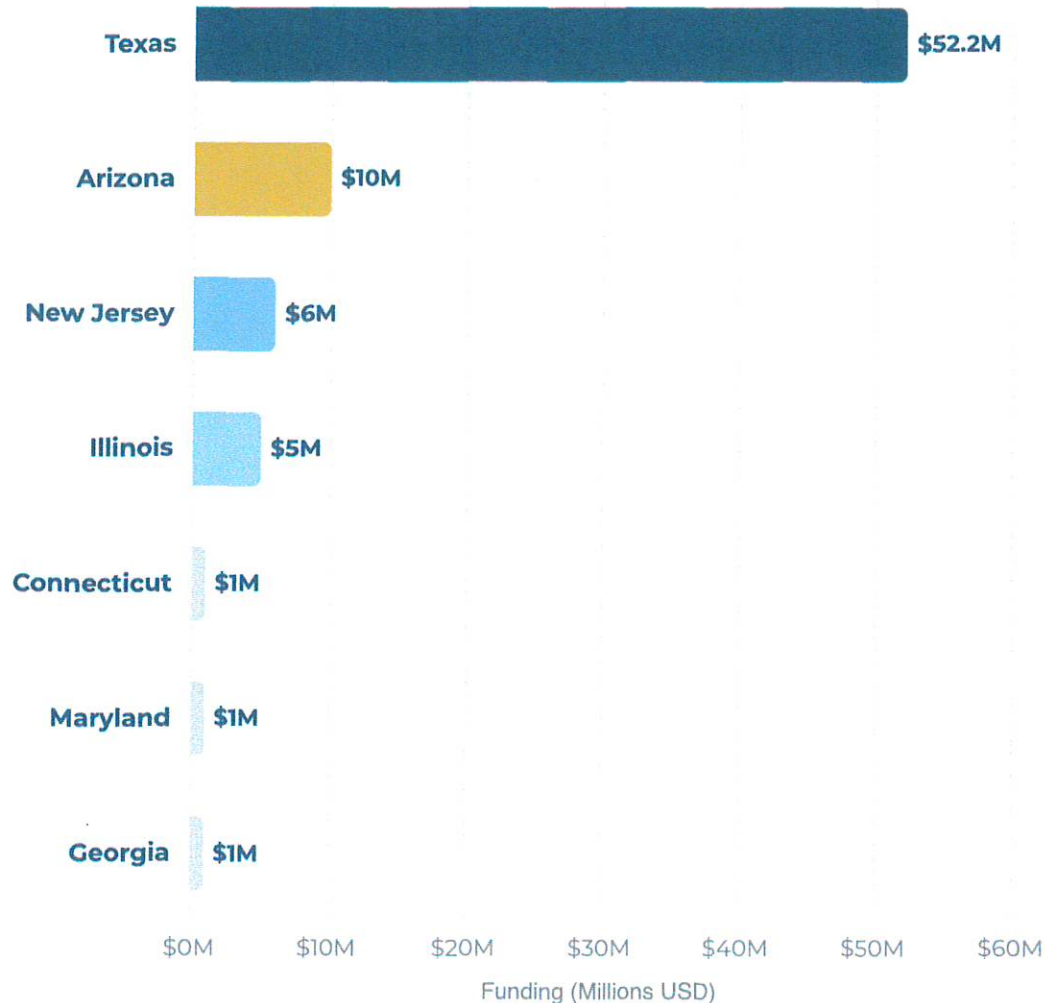


Chart represents total appropriated state funds for psychedelic research & programs.

State Initiatives

Utah joins a well-funded coalition of states.

TX Texas

\$52.2M

HB 1802 (2021): First state funds (\$2.2M).

SB 2308 (2025): \$50M public-private partnership commitment.

AZ Arizona

\$10M

\$5M for psilocybin research grants + \$5M for ibogaine research.

New Jersey
\$6M

Psilocybin research pilot program.

Illinois
\$5M

Therapy pilot for veterans & families.

ADDITIONAL STATE FUNDING (\$1M EACH)

CT

Pilot Pgm

MD

Alt. Fund

GA

Research

"HB 390 positions Utah as a leader in this fiscally responsible research movement."



SANCTUM MED
+ WELLNESS

SANCTUM MED
WELLNESS



“With the passage of H.B. 390, Utah is demonstrating **national leadership** by advancing a careful, research-first approach to investigating new mental health treatments for Veterans with PTSD. By aligning with federal standards and **prioritizing rigorous oversight**, Utah is helping set a responsible example for states across the country. What happens here has the potential to inform how future [mental health] research is **conducted nationwide**.”

LOGAN DAVIDSON, MBA

Legislative Director, Veterans Exploring Treatment Solutions

SANCTUM MED

SANCTUM MED
WELLNESS



“*This is about responsible governance and **Veteran care**. States across the nation are recognizing that we can't wait for federal action while our **Veterans suffer**. This bipartisan bill **reflects Utah values**: evidence-based decision-making, fiscal responsibility, and unwavering support for those who served.*”

REP. JENNIFER DAILEY-PROVOST, PHD

Chief Sponsor • Democrat – District 22 • Minority Whip

Unprecedented Coalition Support

First Legislation to Unite Major Veteran Advocacy Groups

H.B. 390 is the **first bill in the country** to receive simultaneous, unified endorsement from the nation's three leading Veteran advocacy organizations for psychedelic-assisted therapy.



Veterans Exploring Treatment Solutions (VETS)

Helping Veterans with PTSD and TBI access safe, clinically guided psychedelic treatment in legal jurisdictions.

Heroic Hearts Project

Working with leading clinicians and researchers to improve access to evidence-based psychedelic programs for Veterans with PTSD and their families.

Veteran Mental Health Leadership Coalition

Uniting Veteran organizations to advocate for expanded access to safe and effective psychedelic-assisted therapy.

WHY THIS MATTERS

"This unified support signals that Utah's approach — prioritizing safety, research, and rigorous ethics — sets a high bar for responsible policy governing access to psychedelics."

Organizational Supporters

 Unified For Our Veterans

Endorsed by leading institutions, treatment centers, and veteran advocacy groups across the nation



MEDICAL RESEARCH,
EDUCATION & TREATMENT



PSYCHIATRIC RESEARCH,
EDUCATION & TREATMENT



PSYCHEDELIC RESEARCH
FOR MENTAL HEALTH



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PSYCHEDELIC TREATMENT
FOR VETERANS



PSYCHEDELIC ADVOCACY
FOR VETERANS



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PSYCHEDELIC TREATMENT
FOR VETERANS



PSYCHEDELIC ADVOCACY
FOR VETERANS

Legislative Team & Partners

 Bipartisan Support



CHIEF SPONSOR

Rep. Jennifer Dailey-Provost

Utah House of Representatives

● Democrat – District 24 · **Minority Whip**



SENATE SPONSOR

Sen. Kirk A. Cullimore

Utah State Senate

● Republican – District 19 · **Majority Leader**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Anya Ragnhildstveit

Lead Scientific Policy Advisor



Miriam Grace Kaiyo, Ph.D.

Lead Scientific Policy Liaison



Benjamin R. Lewis, M.D.

Clinical Policy Advisor



Kevin Murnane, Ph.D.

Scientific Policy Advisor



Lynnette A. Averill, Ph.D.

Sr. Scientific Policy Advisor



Logan Davidson, M.B.A

State Legislative Advisor



Aspen Warden

Scientific Policy Ambassador



Matthew Butler

Veteran Representative