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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

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*Elizabeth May*  
Member of Parliament / Député(e)  
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The Honourable Patty Hajdu  
Minister of Health  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

September 24, 2020

Re: Access to Psilocybin for Health Care professionals via Section 56 exemption

In May and July of this year, my fellow Green MP Paul Manly (Nanaimo - Ladysmith) and I wrote to you regarding a constituent (██████████) seeking an exemption to Section 56 of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) to access psilocybin as an end-of-life palliative treatment. Thanks to your intervention, ██████████ and others received this life-altering treatment when they needed it most.

Psilocybin has proven to be an effective palliative for those suffering from end-of-life anxiety due to a terminal diagnosis, and the word is spreading. TheraPsil, an organization based in Victoria which helps people, including our constituents, access therapeutic psilocybin, has been overwhelmed with an influx of requests for this treatment. Currently, an insufficient number of medical professionals know enough about psilocybin to be able to meet the requests to use it. TheraPsil feels at a loss in its efforts to help terminal patients who are desperate for relief.

As psilocybin becomes more widely accepted and used as a treatment, medical professionals need to be able to access it for their own use, so that they can better prescribe it and counsel a growing number of patients in taking it. The Green caucus asks that you grant medical professionals who seek it access to Psilocybin through the same section 56 exemption.

We also urge you to consider more permanent measures. We are not the first MPs to make this request. MP Marcus Powlowski also [wrote to you](#) on this same subject in July 2020, noting that in the future, psilocybin should be accessible as a medical treatment



through more than just exemptions to the current law. The CDSA should be amended to allow access to psilocybin for therapeutic purposes to those facing the end of their lives, and to medical professionals for educational purposes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth May, O.C.  
Member of Parliament  
Saanich-Gulf Islands  
Parliamentary Leader of the Green Party of Canada



Jenica Atwin  
Member of Parliament  
Fredericton  
Green Party of Canada



Paul Manly  
Member of Parliament  
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