



**Resolution No: 2**

**Resolution Title:** Support the use of opioid settlement funds to research Breakthrough Therapies for Treating Opioid Use Disorder and PTSD in Veterans

**Origin:** Lakeside, MT

**Submitted by:** American Legion Dept of Montana Post # 426

**Ratified:** \_\_\_\_ January 12, 2024

WHEREAS VA research shows that pain, combat trauma, pain treatment, and the often challenging process of reintegration after military service are contributory factors in opioid dependence among veterans; and

WHEREAS pain medication used to treat combat-related injury and the prevalence of over-prescribed opioids led to a 50 percent increase in overdose mortality among veteran populations between 2010-2019; and

WHEREAS PTSD symptoms, physiological pain, interpersonal relationships, and life events are synergistically producing behaviors that create a risk for overdose; and

WHEREAS the VA reported about 11-20% of Veterans who served in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom have PTSD in a given year; and about 12% of Gulf War (Desert Storm) Veterans have PTSD in a given year; and about 30% of Vietnam Veterans have had PTSD in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS there are several privately funded studies that show treatment of opioid use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorders with ibogaine and 5MEO-DMT-assisted therapy with trauma-exposed Special Operations Force Veterans; and

WHEREAS the VA reported about 11-20% of Veterans who served in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom have PTSD in a given year; and about 12% of Gulf War (Desert Storm) Veterans have PTSD in a given year; and about 30% of Vietnam Veterans have had PTSD in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS the Department of Veterans Affairs' most recent study in 2020 shows that over 125,000 have committed suicide since the Global War on Terror started in 2001 and that psychedelics have the potential to reduce that rate; and

WHEREAS Further research in a controlled setting to study ibogaine and 5MEO-DMT is desperately needed; and

WHEREAS MDMA and psilocybin were recently granted the FDA's coveted "breakthrough therapy designation" for the treatment of PTSD and Treatment Resistant Depression (TRD) and

Major Depressive Disorder (MDD), respectively, representing a significant improvement over currently available interventions for the treatment of PTSD and depression.

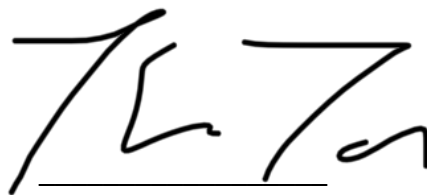
WHEREAS Phase 3 clinical trials of MDMA-assisted therapy have found that a significant majority of participants with severe PTSD have experienced very large reductions in symptoms and many participants report being "healed"; and

now, therefore;

**BE IT RESOLVED, By the American Legion Dept of Montana Post # 426, that the American Legion urges the National Association of Attorneys General NAAG to support the use of opioid abatement funds to further research on safety/effectiveness of psychedelic-assisted therapies. These should include Natural Psilocybin Mushrooms, Ibogaine Root and LSD/5MEO-DMT-assisted therapy, as well as cannabis to treat OUD/opioid use disorder & other drug addiction. Also should support continuing research of MDMA (alone or in combination)-assisted therapy for PTSD/drug dependence in Vets and their partners.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt B. Gye", written in a cursive style.

**Commander, Post 426**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. L. T.", written in a cursive style.

**Adjutant, Post 426**