

**From:** Megan Lingle <[meganlealingle@gmail.com](mailto:meganlealingle@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 2, 2024 2:17 PM

**To:** Rep. Jennie Armstrong <[Rep.Jennie.Armstrong@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Jennie.Armstrong@akleg.gov)>

**Subject:** Support and Inquiry Regarding Psychedelic Decriminalization in Alaska

Dear Representative Armstrong,

I trust this message finds you well. I was delighted to learn about your efforts to introduce a bill aimed at decriminalizing psychedelic medicines in Alaska. I am reaching out to express my enthusiasm as I embark on a new journey in the M. Ed. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program at UAF, with my first semester set to commence this month. My ultimate goal is to contribute to the field of psychedelic-assisted therapy upon completion of my degree.

Given the challenges ahead, I am eager to inquire about the current initiatives to pass legislation legalizing psychedelics in Alaska. Currently residing in Juneau and hailing from Kake, AK, my personal experiences have fueled my passion for advocacy. Having grown up in a rural village in Southeast Alaska, I witnessed the profound impact of substance abuse and suicide on our community. I aspire to serve the Alaska Native community in Southeast Alaska as a Clinical Mental Health Counselor with the Indian Health Service (IHS), pivotal in providing healthcare services to our community. However, there is an urgent need for improvement in mental health care. I am deeply committed to facilitating healing, particularly among the younger generations who bear the burden of intergenerational trauma caused by racism, colonialism, and the legacy of boarding schools.

The trauma resulting from these experiences has led to pervasive issues such as high poverty rates, substance abuse, domestic violence, depression, and suicide in our communities. Considering these challenges, I am contemplating contacting my legislators, Senator Jesse Kiehl and Representative Andi Story, to discuss this matter. However, before doing so, I seek your insights and guidance.

I am eager to contribute in any way possible to support your mission. Please let me know if there are specific actions or campaigns I can actively participate in or promote. Your counsel on navigating the legislative landscape and any pertinent information you can share would be immensely valuable. Additionally, I wanted to bring to your attention the recent announcement by MAPS PBC regarding the submission of a New Drug Application to the FDA for MDMA-Assisted Therapy for PTSD on December 13, 2023. Here is the link for your reference: <https://mapsbcorp.com/news/mdma-for-ptsd-fda-submission/>

I wholeheartedly endorse your mission and am dedicated to supporting the availability of psychedelic-assisted therapy in Alaska. Thank you for the crucial work you are undertaking, and I look forward to the possibility of collaborating with you in the future.

I am wishing you a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,  
Megan Lingle

907-723-0537

## Sethan Tigarian

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**From:** Bailey Stuart <stuartconsultingak@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 15, 2024 4:51 PM  
**To:** Sen. Forrest Dunbar  
**Subject:** SB 116 Public Support Letter

Good Afternoon Senator Dunbar,

I wanted to reach out to you and show my support for SB 116. I have been a supporter of alternative medicines for years and thought I would never see the day that the State of Alaska would see a bill of this kind introduced. I want to thank you and your staff for taking on a bill that will educate so many on mental health issues in Alaska and the use of psychedelic medicine. This is no easy task, and I wanted to express my sincere gratitude for the work and education you and your staff have taken on. Alaska was the 3rd state to legalize cannabis and I would love to see the State of Alaska lead the way again with strong mental health support for our residents and to legalize psilocybe for therapeutic work.. I will be watching this bill closely and submitting public comments when appropriate. If I can ever be of assistance please feel free to reach out.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bailey Stuart  
Stuart Consulting  
(907) 671-4884

## Sethan Tigarian

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**From:** Sara Kozup-Evon <sara@alaskacompass.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 2:43 PM  
**To:** Sen. Forrest Dunbar  
**Subject:** SB 166

Senator Dunbar,

Thank you for the introduction of HB 228/SB 166, for the establishment of a psychedelic task force. Mental health and safe drug policy are serious concerns in Alaska- and your introduction of this bill is an exciting turn for public health.

I am a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner in private practice in Anchorage who currently provides medication assisted therapy in a psychedelic framework with the only compound, ketamine, that is currently federally legal in the United States. I have completed a year long fellowship in psychedelic assisted therapy and have completed the highest level of MAPS training currently available outside of research setting to provide MDMA assisted therapy for post traumatic stress disorder.

I am concerned about the bill's language that the health care representative be from the Alaska Psychiatric Association. This organization represents only physicians in the state of Alaska. Physicians are poorly equipped to speak for the health care workers who actually do the work of providing psychedelic assisted therapy.

Physicians are trained in the medical model, which involves significant power dynamics and hierarchy. This is a poor fit for psychedelic healing work. Physicians are also more likely to have certain financial expectations for themselves, which makes them incredibly unlikely to actually provide the time consuming services of psychedelic therapy.

Health care workers are currently providing psychedelic assisted therapy in Alaska today, and these people are Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and therapists, not physicians. Please include these experienced voices in the psychedelic task force.

With thanks,

Sara Kozup-Evon  
Doctor of Nursing Practice  
Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner- Board Certified  
907-744-0749

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## Sethan Tigarian

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**From:** Joel Wieman <joelwieman@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 27, 2024 8:05 PM  
**To:** Sen. Forrest Dunbar  
**Subject:** Psychedelic Talk Force

I would like to urge you to include a nurse and a psychologist on the psychedelic task force on the bill you are sponsoring. Each profession has information to add that physicians may not have. Nurses are frequently those who administer medications and psychologists do far more actual therapy than physicians.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joel B, Wieman Ph.D.

Sent from my iPad

## Sethan Tigarian

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**From:** Paige Begich <paige.begich@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 27, 2024 5:15 PM  
**To:** Sen. Forrest Dunbar; Jennie.Armstrong@akleg.gov  
**Subject:** Alaska mental health and psychedelic task force

Thank you both so much for sponsoring SB 166 and HB 288 establishing a psychedelic task force for Alaska! This is a great first step for thinking through the public health opportunities found in psychedelics for Alaskans with mental health concerns. You all have done an admirable job of including diverse voices.

Unfortunately the only health care worker seat on the task force is chosen by the Alaska Psychiatric Association. This organization only represents physicians.

At this time, the only federally legal compound allowable for psychedelic therapy/medication assisted therapy in Alaska is ketamine. The health care workers who are investing their time to become certified in psychedelic assisted therapy and provide this care are actually advanced practice nurses and therapists. Medication assisted therapy is time consuming and requires a specialized skill set. Sessions last between two to eight hours. Again- it is the nurses and therapists who do this work, and physicians do not understand our independent practice, scope and licensing concerns.

The medical model has not actually met the mental health needs of Alaskans, and psychedelic care is an opportunity to do things differently. Placing a physician in a position where they speak for all health care workers is a replication of a very tired and ineffective model of care.

Please consider to add a nurse and a therapist for full representation on the task force. Examples of organizations could nominate a nurse include The APRN Alliance, the Alaska Board of Nursing, and the Alaska Nurse Practitioner Association.

Thank you for your consideration, and I am happy to discuss this further if you would like.

Paige Begich  
907-360-5352

Sent from my iPhone

## Sethan Tigarian

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**From:** Patricia Chapman <chapman.patricia87@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 28, 2024 12:28 AM  
**To:** Sen. Forrest Dunbar  
**Subject:** Psychedelic Assisted Therapies

Forrest,

I appreciate that you're helping to bring the use of psychedelic assisted therapies into the political discussion, please know that the actual therapy is facilitated by either a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner solo or with the aid of a licensed clinician. The medical doctor (psychiatrist) does not provide psychadelic assisted therapy. They may prescribe and monitor use of the psychedelic, but they do not undergo the extensive training and education to make that experience actually beneficial for the patient.

Please consider expanding the board to include both a Psych Nurse NP and a licensed clinical therapist (or Psychologist). We need the actual experts in this field speaking on the issue.

Regards,

Tricia Chapman  
1335 Sunrise Dr

**Sethan Tigarian**

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**From:** Rachael Langerman <rachaellangerman@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 28, 2024 7:52 PM  
**To:** Sen. Forrest Dunbar  
**Cc:** Rep. Jennie Armstrong  
**Subject:** SB 166 and HB 288

I do not believe a physician is able to represent all healthcare providers. I believe a nurse, nurse practitioner, or therapist who practices these types of therapy should be a representative on the task force.

Examples of organizations could nominate a nurse include The APRN Alliance, the Alaska Board of Nursing, and the Alaska Nurse Practitioner Association.

Thank you,  
Rachael Langerman MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC  
907-205-1525

~Sent from Rachael's iPhone~

## Sethan Tigarian

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**From:** Juniper <mellingbar@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 29, 2024 4:17 PM  
**To:** Sen. Forrest Dunbar; Rep. Jennie Armstrong  
**Subject:** HB 288/SB 166

Dear Senator Dunbar and Representative Armstrong,

Thank you for your time and dedication to raising awareness to the important topic of mental health to our legislative body.

My name is Jennifer Talley, I am a Mental Health Nurse Practitioner providing services for Alaskans. I have lived in the state most of my life and feel a strong conviction to share thoughts regarding SB166/HB 288.

While I stand in support of the therapeutic uses of plant entheogens and other “psychedelics”, it is time we rethink what the experience of the medical model of mental health treatment has been. Under the medical model of treatment, profits have been prioritized over people. Evidence of this act of structural violence can be witnessed throughout our country and Alaska is no different. Many people lack access to care because of the way the system is arranged.

Community and individual healing can happen when we look to a more connected pattern of engagement, rather than a single point of contact such as a physician. It is difficult to shift our approach to healing in the face of institutional pressure for conformity, however, working in community, envisioning a new approach brings hope.

Addressing systemic roots of distress, engaging in community based healing, cultivating a holistic approach to well-being, and creating a multi-stakeholder governance are concepts to consider when addressing language in a bill and how psychedelics can work in creating healing in community.

In the bill's language, it states that the only healthcare representative will be chosen by the Alaska Psychiatric Association, which represents only Physicians. This does a grave disservice to all those involved in the work of the movement to create social and economic reconnection such as nurses, therapists, coaches, and advanced practice nurses (APRN), like myself. APRNs make a large contribution to the care of the people and are not represented by physicians.

I propose adding a therapist and APRN position to the psychedelic task force for a more holistic approach to caring for our state.

I would be happy to discuss more on this topic anytime.

Thank you for your time,

Jennifer Talley, PMHNP  
POBox 1086  
Haines, AK 99827  
907-314-0864





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[aprnalliance.org](http://aprnalliance.org)

February 2, 2024

Senator Dunbar  
State Capitol Room 125  
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Senator Dunbar,

The Alaska Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Alliance (Alaska APRN Alliance) supports the passage of SB166 and its companion bill HB228 introduced by Representative Armstrong with an **amendment to include a dedicated seat on the psychedelic task force for an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, as selected by the governing body of the Alaska APRN Alliance.**

- Advanced Practice Registered Nurses are licensed to practice in Alaska and, because of specialized education and experience, are certified to perform acts of medical diagnosis and the prescription and dispensing of medical, therapeutic, or corrective measures under regulations adopted by the board of nursing (Sec. AS 08.68.850). In addition, we have specialty training in clinical public health, ethics, developing systems of care, and patient advocacy. We would like the opportunity to speak for our profession and our patients.
- Psychedelic therapy sessions last between two to eight hours. The health care professionals most likely to provide this care are advanced practice registered nurses and licensed therapists.
- As currently written, the only dedicated healthcare provider seat on the psychedelic task force is chosen by an organization that represents only physicians.
- The mental health needs of Alaskans have not been met with our current system. Psychedelics are a promising new approach to meet this need and provide an alternative approach. The strengths-based, whole person approach of the advanced practice registered nurse role is an important voice to add when developing new systems of care and treatment, increasing access to care and promoting the public's health.

We hope you will take our proposed amendment into consideration. Thank you for your time and the focus you have placed on the important public health concern of psychedelic care.

Sincerely,

Marianne Johnstone-Petty, DNP, FNP-C, APRN, ACHPN  
President Alaska APRN Alliance

Sara Kozup-Evon, DNP, PMHNP-BC, APRN  
President-Elect Alaska APRN Alliance

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Date: February 3, 2024

To: Senator Forrest. Dunbar, Representative Jennie Armstrong

Co-Sponsor Senator Elvie Grey Jackson

RE: HB228 and SB166

Comment: Thank you for your proactive leadership to address the emergence of psychedelic treatments in the mental health delivery sector.

Request: Inclusion in the taskforce a seat for a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, (PMHNP, APRN) specializing in the care and treatment of our community members suffering from treatment resistant depression, chronic suicidality and post traumatic stress disorders.

Comment: As a practicing clinician and business owner of private outpatient mental health clinics in Fairbanks, Kenai and now Anchorage, I am keenly aware of the need for improved options for treatments. Serving clients with coverages that include Medicaid, Medicare, TriCare, and commercial insurances PMHNP, APRN's are well positioned to understand the barriers to access for services. As well as the need for functional and well-funded, collaborative models of care.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Teresa Lyons, PMHNP, APRN

CEO ND Systems Inc.

Cc: Senator Scott Kawaski, Representative Maxine Dibert; Senator Jesse Bjorkman, Representative Justin Ruffridge, Senator Cathy Giessel, Representative Craig Johnson