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California State Senate

SENATOR
KELLY SEYARTO
THIRTY-SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



September 21, 2023

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Governor Gavin Newsom
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Veto Request – Senate Bill 58

Dear Governor Newsom:

I am writing today to respectfully request that you veto Senate Bill 58.

This bill, if implemented, would permit the possession, cultivation, transport or ingestion of various hallucinogenic substances in California starting in 2025.

It has been found that psychedelic drugs may be used for some beneficial medical purposes, such as treatment of PTSD. However, these substances must be administered with great care as the human body is extremely sensitive to improper use and may experience severe health effects, including death. The expectation that general consumers have the equivalent judgement and expertise as a doctor in responsibly administering these drugs is far too optimistic at best and grossly negligent at worst.

The language of this bill as written permits anyone over the age of 21 to use these substances however they see fit within the bounds of some future state regulations that currently do not exist in writing or concept. Undoubtedly, this will facilitate an increase in drug related health emergencies and deaths. The public health ramifications of such broad access to these drugs are too great to be granted flippantly and without discretion.

Furthermore, I question why widespread public access to these drugs is appropriate before hearing the agency recommendations for safe legalization that are commissioned in this very same bill and not available for legislative review until the legalization has already gone into effect. This bill fails to address many known uncertainties. A far more measured approach is necessary to deal with this issue responsibly.

I respectfully request that you veto SB-58, and I thank you for your time to read this letter. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at (916) 651-4032.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly Seyarto".

Kelly Seyarto
Senate, 32nd District