



Statement from the National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC) on Expanding Access to Psychedelic Drugs

The National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC) recognizes the crisis of serious mental illness and suicide facing American communities, challenges our members witness firsthand every day. We appreciate the Administration's commitment to expanding treatment options for vulnerable individuals, including veterans who have long carried a disproportionate burden.

At the same time, NNOAC has concerns about the Administration's recent Executive Order accelerating approval pathways for psychedelic drugs. Expanding access to controlled substances carries significant public safety implications. Narcotics officers nationwide see the consequences of substance misuse daily, including addiction, impaired driving, mental health crises, and illicit markets tied to organized crime. Psychedelic compounds present unique enforcement and community safety considerations that cannot be overlooked as treatment goals are pursued.

Those concerns are compounded by the resource pressures already facing state and local law enforcement agencies. Our members are stretched thin confronting fentanyl trafficking, synthetic drug proliferation, and the continuing overdose crisis. Federal support through programs like the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program is critical to sustaining narcotics task forces, investigations, equipment, and interagency coordination. As federal drug policy expands into new areas, agencies operating with limited resources will face additional demands in enforcement, training, and public safety.

We are concerned about a slippery slope in which premature normalization of psychedelic use outside established medial frameworks could outpace the evidence and create public safety and public health risks, including increased risk of misuse among youth. Any consideration of psychedelics for medical prescription must follow the same rigorous standards applied to all controlled substances, including thorough clinical research, clear safety protocols, formal FDA review and approval, and appropriate controls on prescribing and distribution.

Responsible drug policy must balance treatment innovation with public safety and the operational realities facing those charged with enforcement. NNOAC urges the Administration and Congress to engage frontline narcotics officers and state and local law enforcement leaders throughout implementation, particularly on enforcement guidance and training needs. NNOAC stands ready to work with the Administration, Congress, and federal health agencies as this policy moves forward.