



## **Verbal Testimony in Support of SB242**

I'm speaking on behalf of the Libertarian Party of Nevada, in support of SB242 WITHOUT proposed amendment 354. We support this bill both from a first principles standpoint and also because of its practical effects.

SB242 without the proposed amendment would decriminalize a number of substances that are currently controlled. These substances have shown great promise in treating devastating mental health issues like PTSD, depression and addiction, but because of their controlled status, it has been impossible to fully explore their potential. This is a senseless and cruel prohibition that lawmakers now have the opportunity to overturn.

Decriminalization would prevent otherwise peaceful people from being incarcerated for mere possession. It would allow the therapeutic benefits of these substances to be fully explored. It also honors the fundamental truth of self-ownership. By the fact of our existence as unique individuals, each of us has the inherent right to control our own bodies. Prohibition policies do not protect the public, they simply force the creation of black markets run by criminals and make every aspect of trade and consumption more dangerous.

The Libertarian Party fully supports this bill as originally drafted. We oppose the amended language being proposed, as it would remove the "decriminalization" aspect of the bill and thereby neutralize many of the benefits of this bill. If these substances remain broadly prohibited, it precludes a decentralized exploration of these substances. No innovation or breakthrough originates from a top-down bureaucratic approach. Entrepreneurship and discovery are emergent features of market processes.

Please vote in favor of SB242 without the proposed amendment. Thank you!