

June 24, 2021

The Honorable Reggie Jones-Sawyer, Chair
Assembly Committee on Public Safety
1020 N Street (LOB), Room 111
Sacramento, California 95814

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San Francisco Bay Area
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

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RE: SB 519 (Wiener) Controlled substances: decriminalization of certain
hallucinogenic substances. (SUPPORT)

Dear Chairman Jones-Sawyer,

My name is Evodio Walle, and I am writing in the capacity of President/CEO of the San Francisco Bay Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in support of SB 519 (Wiener), which will decriminalize the possession and personal use of psilocybin, psilocyn, MDMA, LSD, ketamine, DMT, mescaline, and ibogaine. SB 519 will also require the State Department of Public Health to convene a working group to research and make recommendations to the Legislature regarding, among other things, the regulation and therapeutic use of these substances in a manner that maximizes public health, safety, and healing.

The Hispanic Chamber advocates for the socio-economic prosperity of the 9-county, 101-city region known as the San Francisco Bay Area, now home to 7 million Californians. We believe SB 519 advances cognitive liberty and implements a comprehensive, statewide scheme authorizing and regulating the cultivation, processing and distribution of entheogens and the chemical compounds contained therein for personal, spiritual, religious, dietary, therapeutic, and medical use, and we believe the matter to be of state-wide socio-economic concern.

With SB 519 we aim to support the People of California to:

- a) Prevent the distribution of entheogens to minors, except in appropriate cases when they have been recommended by a physician or psychologist;
- b) Prevent the profits from the sale of entheogens from going to criminal enterprises, gangs, and cartels;
- c) Prevent driving while impaired by entheogens and other adverse public health consequences associated with entheogens;
- d) Enact legislation allowing non-violent prisoners who were convicted of buying, selling, growing, manufacturing or possessing entheogens to have their sentences reviewed and criminal records expunged;
- e) Ensure that local jurisdictions may not define as a nuisance, per se, any action or conduct authorized by this Act; rather, a showing of an actual nuisance shall be required;
- f) Support the therapeutic and medical research of entheogens

For the aforementioned reasons, the San Francisco Bay Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests your "AYE" vote on SB 519.

Sincerely,



Evodio Walle
President/CEO
San Francisco Bay Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

CC: The Honorable Scott Wiener
Members, Assembly Committee on Public Safety
David Billingsley, Counsel, Assembly Committee on Public Safety
Gary Olson, Republican Consultant, Assembly Committee on Public Safety