



Decriminalize California
The California Psilocybin
Decriminalization Initiative 2020

in partnership with



BECKLEY
FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – MONDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2019, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

Decriminalize California announces a partnership with the Beckley Foundation.

Decriminalize California (the California Psilocybin Decriminalization Initiative 2020) today announced a partnership with the Beckley Foundation, a pioneer in psilocybin research and evidence-based drug policy reform. Decriminalize California is an open-source citizens' initiative which would legalize psilocybin mushrooms for medical and therapeutic use, and decriminalize them for personal, spiritual, and religious use, allowing adults to cultivate and use psilocybin mushrooms in their own home, and enabling those convicted of past psilocybin-related crimes to have their sentences reviewed and, when appropriate, have their criminal records expunged.

The initiative would only decriminalize psilocybin for adults aged 18+; for minors found in possession of psilocybin mushrooms, the initiative reduces the penalty to a mandatory drug education program, without the charge being added to their permanent record. In addition, the initiative would create the foundation for a comprehensive system in which psilocybin mushrooms would be regulated by the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the California Department of Public Health.

For the measure to qualify for the ballot, Decriminalize California will need to gather at least 625,000 valid signatures from registered voters in California. Once qualified, the initiative will be put to voters for approval in November 2020, alongside the Presidential election.

The Beckley Foundation is a non-profit organization set up by Amanda Feilding in 1998 to initiate and carry out pioneering research into the therapeutic potential of psychedelics such as psilocybin. The Foundation's other primary aim is to create a scientific evidence base for the reform of global drug policies, in order to mitigate the devastating collateral damage of the prohibitionist approach.

Collaborating with leading scientific institutions worldwide, including Imperial College London and Johns Hopkins University, the Foundation has initiated and sponsored some of the greatest breakthroughs in psychedelic science, including pioneering brain imaging studies on LSD, psilocybin, DMT, and MDMA, as well as clinical trials into psilocybin for depression and addiction, and more recently, laboratory-based research into the potential benefits of microdosing.

Amanda Feilding has described the partnership as “a timely collaboration for California to expand its forward-thinking drug policies and further reduce unnecessary law enforcement and expenditure against harmless activities. After years of rigorous scientific research demonstrating the safety and medical potential of psilocybin, and the recent decriminalization of psilocybin in Denver and Oakland, state-wide decriminalization is the next step in reforming drug policies to reflect scientific evidence. The time for change is now!”.

Decriminalize California's Campaign Director Ryan Munevar commented that “to have the support of Amanda Feilding is to bring the weight of fifty years of the failed drug war to bear. She is the mother of the psychedelic renaissance and a visionary in the field. To be in partnership with the Beckley Foundation just before the signature campaign begins is a blessing in itself. We are privileged to have her and her team's insightful wisdom at this extraordinary transition in history”.

Following successful decriminalization in Denver, Colorado and Oakland, California, this campaign to decriminalize psilocybin at the State-level in California is the most ambitious attempt to change drug policy in the United States. California has a history of being at the forefront of drug policy reform, with voters being the first to legalize medical

cannabis in 1996; if psilocybin decriminalization is approved by California voters, such a policy would be globally unprecedented and would pave the way for other States to follow.

Decriminalize California welcomes the knowledge and expertise that Amanda and the team at the Beckley Foundation bring to the campaign and looks forward to implementing evidence-based drug policies, via the democratic consent of the people of California.

For more information on the campaign and the partnership, and to read the full legal text of the initiative, visit decrimca.org or contact Decriminalize California's Outreach Director, Zach Topley, at zach@decrimca.org. To learn more about the Beckley Foundation, go to beckleyfoundation.org or contact Vivian Kear at office@beckleyfoundation.org. Decriminalize California have also released a video of Amanda Feilding announcing the partnership, available [here](#).

In accordance with Federal law, Decriminalize California receives no funding from the Beckley Foundation.