Cross-Sector Collaboration:
Turning Psychedelic Science Into Federal Policy and Patient Access

Melissa Lavasani, Founder and CEO, Psychedelic Medicine Coalition
Rocky Mountain Poison & Drug Safety – Annual Meeting
August 26, 2025

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POISON & DRUG SAFETY
Saving lives with answers.™

About Psychedelic Medicine Coalition

MISSION

Psychedelic Medicine Coalition (PMC) is a Washington, D.C.-based, nonpartisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the research, policy, and responsible implementation of psychedelic medicine in U.S. healthcare through federal and state advocacy. PMC is committed to expanding treatment options by integrating psychedelic medicines into mainstream healthcare through evidence-based policy, strategic partnerships, and public education.

The only nonpartisan 501c(3) advocacy organization based in Washington DC.

Lead federal advocacy & education: engage Congress, federal agencies, and national stakeholders.

Convene the ***Federal Summit on Psychedelic Medicine.***

Psychedelic Medicine Coalition

About Melissa

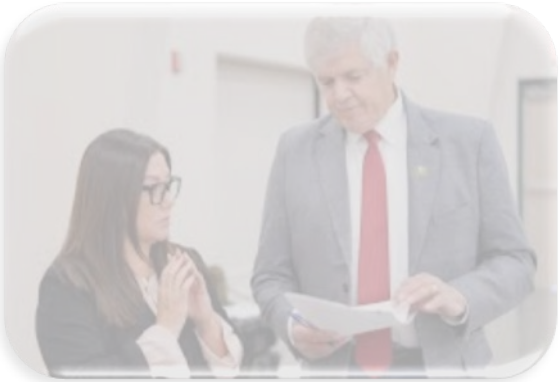
Melissa Lavasani is the Founder and CEO of the Psychedelic Medicine Coalition (PMC). Inspired by her own experience of a working mother using psychedelics to heal her severe postpartum depression, Melissa championed Initiative 81, the Entheogenic Plant and Fungus Policy Act of 2020, which broke records as the largest ballot initiative win in Washington DC's history with 76% approval.

Melissa is Founder and President of the Psychedelic Medicine Political Action Committee and a Founding Board Member of the Psychedelics and Healing Initiative at the Global Wellness Institute.



Born in Washington, DC to Iranian immigrants, Melissa has a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Macalester College, a Masters degree in Management from the University of Denver, and a Masters in Public Policy from George Mason University.

Why We're Here



FDA Approvals Are on the Horizon

- Likely within the next 1–2 years.
- Urgency to prepare systems before approval

Science alone doesn't equal access.

- Data doesn't automatically shift coverage or clinical adoption.

Federal policy is the bridge from research → patients.

- Agencies + Congress set pathways for access.
- Without policy, therapies remain siloed in trials.

Collaboration is essential to avoid fragmentation and delay

- State-by-state patchwork risks inequity.
- Unified cross-sector voice needed for scale.

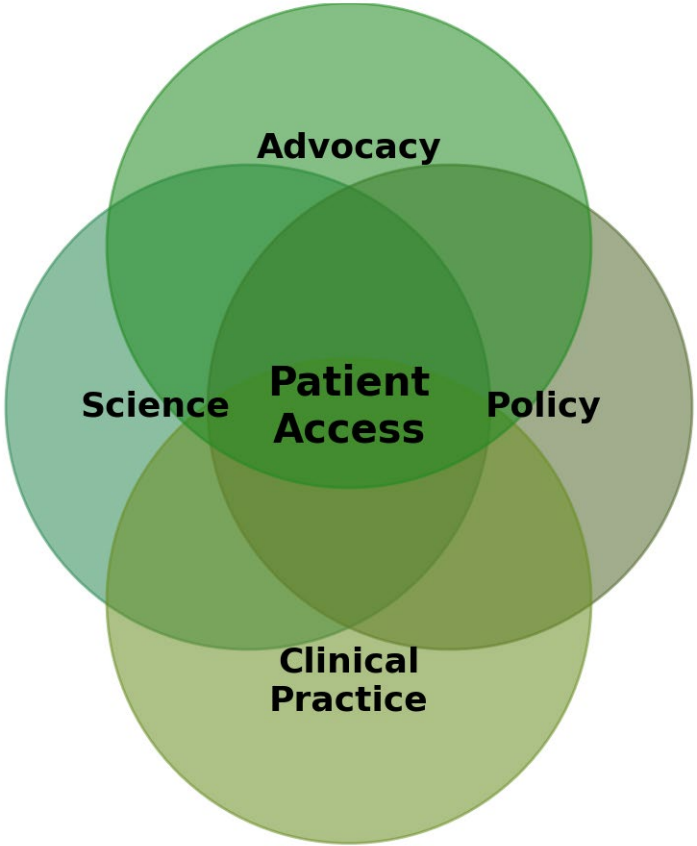
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Why Psychedelics Are Different

Multi-Domain Impact
- Medicine, regulation, reimbursement, culture
- Requires coordination across silos

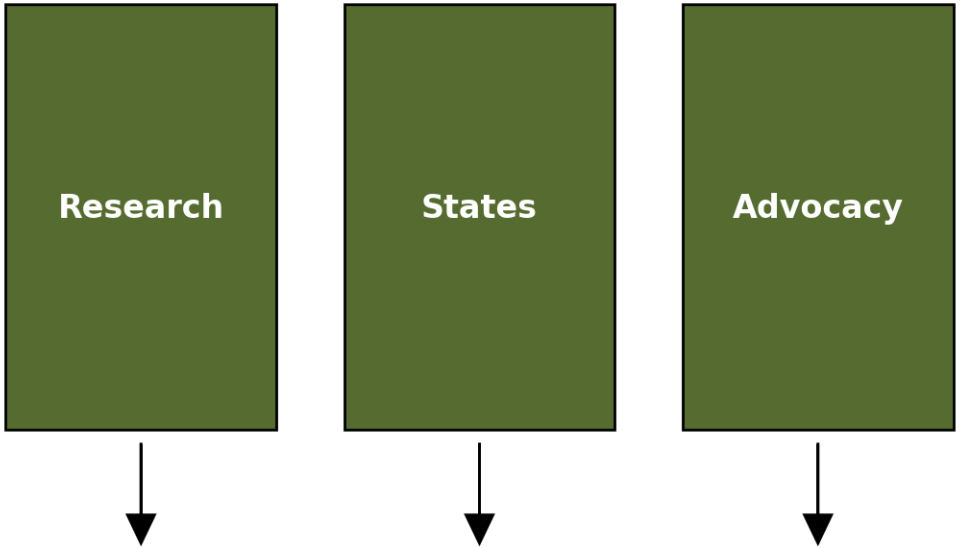
High Public Interest + Lingering Stigma
- Demand for new solutions is strong
- Need for transparency and trust is higher than ever

No Single Sector Can Advance Alone
- Researchers: generate data, but need reimbursement
- Advocacy: build momentum, but need clinical systems
- Policy: sets pathways, but depends on science + practice



The Risk of Silos

Research Without Reimbursement
• Strong data, but therapies remain out of reach
• Patients and clinicians can't access treatments



Advocacy Without Data
• Political enthusiasm without evidence risks backlash
• Policymakers need credible science to act

State Programs Without Federal Alignment
• Patchwork of rules across states
• Creates inequity and confusion for providers & patients

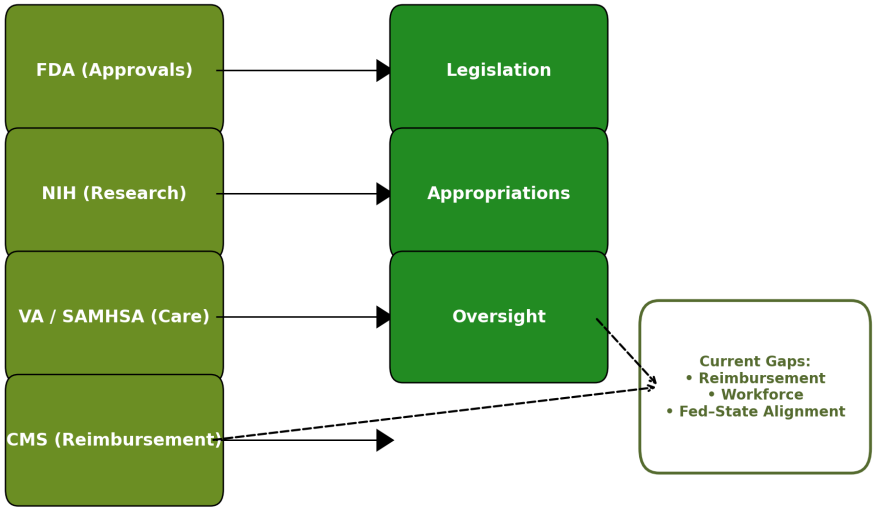
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Federal Policy Lens

Federal Agencies
• FDA → approvals & labeling
• NIH → research funding
• VA & SAMHSA → veterans & community care
• CMS → reimbursement & coverage

Congress
• Legislation to set frameworks
• Appropriations to fund research & programs
• Oversight to ensure accountability

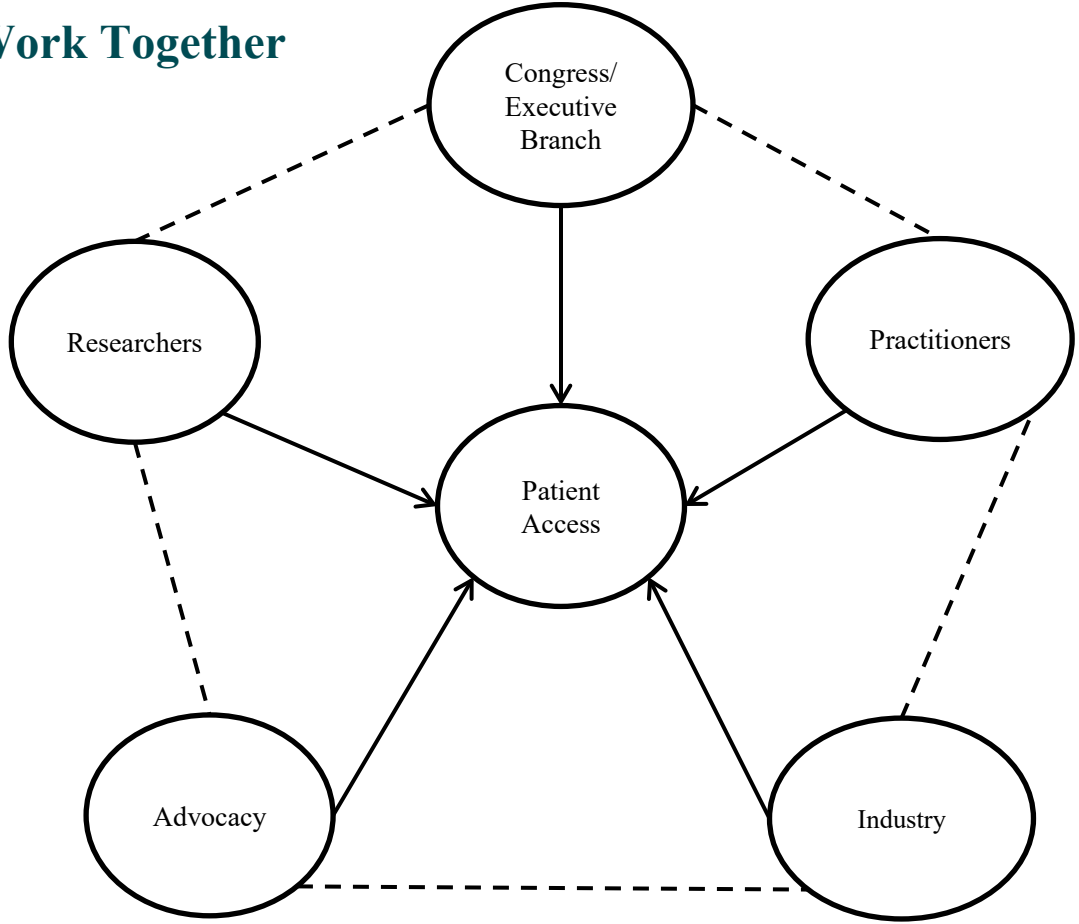
Current Gaps
• No reimbursement codes for psychedelic-assisted therapy
• No federal workforce or training standards
• States advancing faster than federal systems



Federal alignment is the bridge from science to access.

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Who Needs to Work Together



Each sector contributes a piece, and together, we unlock access.

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Collaboration in Action

RMPDS
- Provides trusted safety & data insights
- Directly informs policymakers with real-world evidence

PMC
- Leads federal advocacy and coalition convening
- Hosts the **Federal Summit on Psychedelic Medicine**

Veterans & Patient Voices
- Bipartisan political force for action
- Humanizes the policy debate

Universities & Practitioners
- Supply evidence + clinical perspectives
- Ensure policy reflects real-world care needs together
- Build readiness for federal implementation



Federal Summit on Psychedelic Medicine, May 8th 2026,
Melissa Lavasani, with Rep. General Jack Bergman (R-MI) and Rep. Lou Correa (D-CA)

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Path Forward

Break Down Silos
• Convenings like this summit connect science and policy

Federal Summit on Psychedelic Medicine
• National cross-sector forum led by PMC
• Brings Congress, agencies, researchers, clinicians, and veterans together

Shared Roadmaps
• Link research → reimbursement → real-world practice

Engage Congress Early
• Provide trusted data (RMPDS) to shape evidence-based policy

Build Bipartisan Coalitions
• Grounded in science and patient need

Call to Action

Science is necessary, but not sufficient. Without collaboration, patients will wait.

Researchers, practitioners, advocates, and policymakers must act **together.**

Federal policy is the bridge to safe, affordable, and timely access.

Thank You

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In partnership with Rocky Mountain Poison & Drug Safety

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