

California State Senate

SENATE MINORITY LEADER BRIAN W. JONES
FORTIETH SENATE DISTRICT



September 8, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Veto Request of SB 58 (Wiener)

Dear Governor Newsom:

I respectfully write to request a “friendly” veto of Senate Bill 58, which received bipartisan opposition in both the Senate and Assembly. This bill proposes to decriminalize the possession, cultivation, transport, or ingestion of some hallucinogenic drugs by persons over the age of 21, commencing January 1, 2025.

Hallucinogenic drugs, commonly referred to as psychedelics, may indeed be helpful to persons suffering from mental illness, particularly veterans and others affected with post-traumatic stress disorder. However, the idea of allowing the widespread, uncontrolled and unsupervised use of these powerful drugs for “self-medicating” purposes is a scary prospect to many Californians. One law enforcement organization even pointed out that this would “put people’s lives at risk.”

Your veto of SB 58, perhaps with a statement suggesting that the bill be narrowed to only allow therapeutic use under the direction and treatment of medical professionals, would be appreciated by many of us in the Legislature and our constituents.

For these reasons, I respectfully request your veto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Jones".

Brian Jones
Senate Minority Leader
40th Senate District