

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 16, 2026

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

We are writing to bring to your attention a significant opportunity to address the national crises of treatment-resistant mental health and substance addiction, particularly for our veterans. Every day, an average of 17 veterans take their own lives. These are men and women who survived combat, who came home, and who then lost a quieter and longer war against the invisible wounds they carried with them. Evidence is mounting that neuroplastogen medicines, such as ibogaine, can provide a durable path to healing where traditional medicine has failed.

This breakthrough rests on a new understanding of how these medicines interact with the brain. Unlike traditional treatments that manage symptoms, ibogaine appears to work at a deeper level, stimulating the brain's own repair mechanisms and encouraging the growth of new neural connections that can bypass the damaged pathways underlying PTSD, depression, TBI, and addiction. A 2024 study from Stanford University found that a single ibogaine treatment produced dramatic reductions in PTSD, depression, and anxiety among veterans with traumatic brain injuries, along with meaningful improvements in cognitive function. No approved treatment has come close to this level of impact, and larger controlled trials are needed to fully understand it.

Nowhere is that effect more visible than among the Special Operations veterans who have returned from the brink of despair. Many now credit ibogaine with saving their lives and restoring them to their families. Their advocacy has already moved mountains at the state level. Texas has committed up to \$100 million to conduct the first FDA-directed clinical trials of ibogaine, the largest public investment in ibogaine research in American history. Many other states are now following Texas's lead.

However, these state initiatives need the necessary tools to work in conjunction with federal law. Veterans who have exhausted their options domestically are faced with an impossible choice: continue with treatments that have not worked, or travel abroad to receive a medically complex treatment without the safe oversight American medicine would provide. For veterans with security clearances, that journey carries serious professional consequences as well. It is a national tragedy that those who fought for this country are forced to leave it to access the healing they were promised here.

Congress has already acted as well. The FY2024 National Defense Authorization Act directed the Department of War to establish a research program on ibogaine and related treatments for servicemembers with PTSD and TBI. The Biden administration dragged its feet on this mandate, leaving veterans waiting while the bureaucracy stalled. While we understand initial steps are now being taken, we ask that you direct the Department of War

and all instruments of power within the federal government to fully implement the clear intention of Congress and ensure that clinical trials move forward with the urgency our veterans deserve.

We ask that your administration pursue avenues to expand access to ibogaine for our nation's veterans. Establishing a path to give our veterans a legal route to a treatment that is already saving lives is necessary.

Thank you for your commitment to the health and wellbeing of our Nation.

Sincerely,



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



Morgan Luttrell
Member of Congress