

Marcus Capone, SEAL (Ret.)

Founder

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Washington DC Board of Elections

1015 Half Street SE, Suite 750

Washington, DC 20003

Dear Washington DC Board of Elections,

My name is Marcus Capone. I am a medically retired United States Navy SEAL with 13 years of military service. At the pinnacle of my career, I was a member of Naval Special Warfare Development Group, an elite counterterrorism task force responsible for the nation's highest priority missions. It was my great honor to serve and defend our incredible nation; something I will carry with me for the remainder of my life.

After multiple combat deployments in support of the War on Terror, I was riddled with a host of injuries, primarily invisible, which inevitably forced my early retirement in 2013. These injuries were misunderstood and misdiagnosed both during my time of service and in the subsequent years following my retirement. When traditional medicine failed me time and time again, I found myself in the middle of the perfect maelstrom... failed avenues to healing, lack of purpose, lack of community, familial distress, financial difficulties, depression, and hopelessness that, at times, made me wish I'd died overseas defending our country. Unfortunately, many veterans find themselves in the same perfect storm, and eventually succumb to the unrelenting thoughts of suicide. I was there, myself.

Seemingly out of options, and by the grace of God, my wife stumbled upon the promise of entheogenic medicine as a true last ditch effort to save me and our family. In 2017, I left the US for what we both knew was our final chance of surviving the fallout of the previous sixteen years.

I humbly report that this desperate intervention undoubtedly saved my life.

Not only did this natural, entheogenic treatment save my life, but it saved my marriage, my family, and generations to follow. In fact, the number of lives saved and impacted at this point is in the hundreds, perhaps thousands, due to the fact that we went into

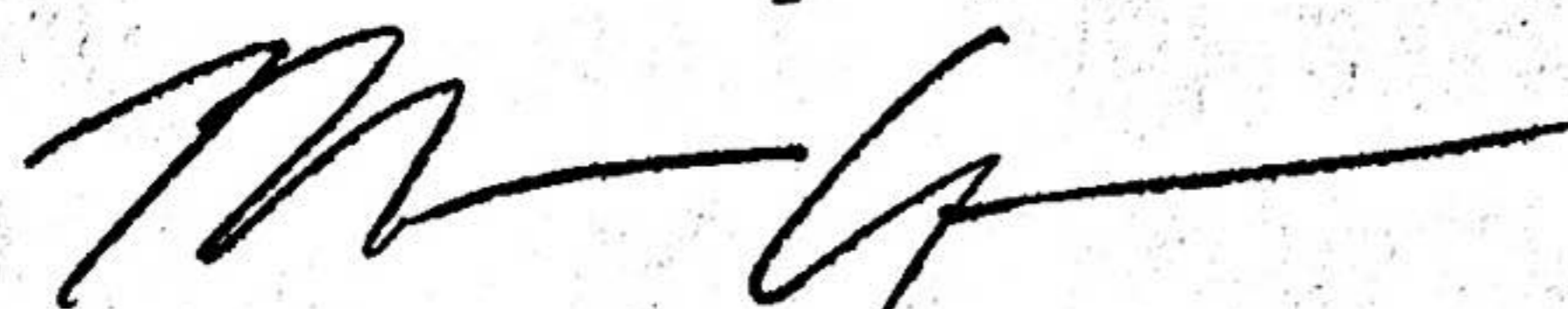
immediate action helping other SEAL veterans access these lifesaving modalities, as well. Each day we are racing against a cruel and relentless clock in the fight against veteran suicide. We will do whatever it takes ... and we believe we are winning.

I've discovered many new realities over the past two years, perhaps the most significant being the idea that true strength is actually found in vulnerability. I also believe that common sense, just purpose, and the human spirit will unite to find common ground in combating many of the challenges we face in today's world. If my vulnerability stirs you to unite in helping us end veteran suicide, I've served one of my most important and inspiring missions yet. I'm honored to share my story and to be an advocate for those who are dangerously close to the end. The hell we've endured will have proven to be well worth the fight if our voices aid in the chorus of change.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Thank you for contemplating the practicality of making these naturally occurring, lifesaving interventions accessible to our nation's most war weary generation of soldiers. Thank you for consideration in allowing access to healing within the borders of the country they fought so valiantly to defend. They deserve that.

I believe in your commitment to the betterment of our nation's capital and to our country as a whole. On behalf of my wife, Amber, and the growing number of Navy SEALs we've assisted, we implore you to support the decriminalization of naturally occurring, entheogenic substances, and thank you for joining us in being part of the solution.

With much respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Capone', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Marcus Capone, U.S. Navy SEAL (Ret.)