Two bills debated and approved in the House last week within a 24-hour period exemplified the General Assembly’s habit of making incongruent policy decisions.

On Tuesday, the House overwhelmingly approved legislation that would inject public safety-related changes into the commercial marijuana market, including stronger labeling and packaging requirements. And most crucially, banning the sale of synthetic THC products often found outside of legal state-licensed dispensaries. The latter is particularly important, given growing concern over poison control cases involving children who didn’t understand the potency of something they bought at a gas station.

But the day after acknowledging and trying to address safety concerns in the retail marijuana landscape they created, my Democratic colleagues acted on legislation that will only compound some problems we’re seeing today—a bill to decriminalize psilocybin, also known as psychedelic mushrooms. This means someone caught with less than a half ounce will face a fine, not a criminal charge. The bill’s proponents say more people are turning to psilocybin because it offers therapeutic benefits to individuals suffering PTSD. Maybe so, but that science is still very much emerging.

This push is reminiscent of the incremental steps that led to legalization of recreational marijuana in 2021, which also began with decriminalization legislation back in 2011. Those of us who shared concern then were brushed off, told it was a harmless step. Today, however, marijuana is everywhere, from youth athletic fields to the workplace. And just last week, a major study in the journal Psychological Medicine described an alarming link been schizophrenia and heavy marijuana use among young men.

A notable difference between the decriminalization of marijuana and the current legislation covering mushrooms, is that the former came with carve outs focused on kids—to make thorough interventions into the lives of those caught with it.

Make no mistake, if this legislation to decriminalize mushrooms receives approvals from the State Senate and the Governor, a push for legalization will quickly ensue.

I shudder to think of the impact on children, and what science will reveal to us after if legislature let’s another genie out of the bottle.

Some might say the legislation comes from Democrats at a surprising time, given the bipartisan alarm about the spike in wrong-way driving problems and case after case of serious substance-influenced crashes we’ve seen on Connecticut highways.

After all, this session lawmakers have contemplating lowering the blood alcohol threshold for impaired driving, and spending millions to install wrong-way driving mitigation tools such as lights, signs, and rumble strips.

The normalization of hallucinogens, I suspect, will be of little help.

Yet, such is life at the state capitol—a place where a governor can gleefully tout retail marijuana sales in the news media as his administration spends time, energy, and money warning parents their children about the dangers the drug poses.