



KRATOM WORKING GROUP

Friday, August 7, 2026
Roughrider Room, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

Senator Michelle Axtman, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members present: Senators Michelle Axtman, Dick Dever; Representatives Pat D. Heinert, Todd Porter, Robin Weisz*

Members absent: None

Others present: Representative Glenn Bosch, member of the Legislative Management
Representatives Lawrence R. Klemin, SuAnn Olson, Bernie Satrom,* Eric J. Murphy,* and Kathy Skroch*; Senators Kristin Roers,* Claire Cory,* and Todd Beard*

**Attended remotely*

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Co-Chairmen Axtman and Heinert provided introductory remarks on the working group's assignment.

KRATOM REGULATION

Ms. Victoria Christian, Counsel, Legislative Council, presented a memorandum entitled [Kratom Regulation](#).

Representative Lawrence R. Klemin provided testimony regarding House Bill 1101 (2025), scheduling kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance, and House Bill 1566 (2025), establishing a regulatory framework for kratom. He noted both bills were discussed at length during the 2025 regular session and urged members of the Legislative Assembly to review the testimony provided at each bill's standing committee hearings.

Representative SuAnn Olson provided testimony regarding the potential benefits of natural kratom and reiterated the need for members of the Legislative Assembly to review testimony related to kratom provided as part of the standing committee hearings for House Bills 1101 and 1566.

Representative Bernie Satrom provided testimony regarding the potential impacts of the recent kratom bans and expressed concern for individuals who may be withdrawing from kratom, noting the need for access to detox facilities and medication therapy.

Senator Kristin Roers provided testimony regarding health care system capacity to help individuals who may be addicted to kratom and time constraint concerns related to the development of an adequate framework to address kratom during an abbreviated special session.

Representative Eric J. Murphy provided testimony regarding the pharmacological effects of kratom ([appendix](#)). He noted natural kratom has clinical uses and emphasized the core issue lies with adulterated and highly concentrated products.

In response to a question from a committee member, Representative Murphy indicated withdrawal from natural, unadulterated kratom is generally minimal.

Senator Claire Cory provided testimony regarding the importance of including kratom substances, if permanently scheduled, in the state Good Samaritan Law for those who seek help in the event of an overdose.

Senator Todd Beard provided testimony regarding concerns related to the marketing of adulterated, synthetic products that are marketed as natural and being proactive in crafting regulations. He noted legal substances also can be abused and cause adverse effects, including death.

Chairman Axtman noted the landscape has evolved since the last legislative session as communities are experiencing increased kratom-related impacts. She noted the change in federal kratom-related enforcement and the need to hear from parents and members of the health care community who have been impacted by kratom.

Representative Kathy Skroch provided testimony regarding a constituent suffering from posttraumatic stress disorder who was able to regain stability using natural kratom. She noted the temporary scheduling of kratom impacted her constituent and emphasized the need to balance regulating harmful synthetics with keeping natural kratom products accessible.

No further business appearing, Chairman Axtman adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Victoria Christian
Counsel

Austin Gunderson
Counsel

ATTACH:1