

Support 1628

1 message

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Draft

Please Support 1628

Hello,

I heard that you are considering whether to ban or regulate kratom and I would just like to urge you to please go with regulation over prohibition. While I support a ban on synthetic derivatives they are not the same thing as natural kratom tea and they shouldn't be treated the same. Natural kratom helps the community. So so many people use it to stay healthy in so many different ways you might not expect, it's a really good tool for people with chronic conditions that don't respond well to traditional treatments and it helps keep people with addiction issues away from hard drugs and alcohol. I feel it's really important that as many places as possible put in good KCPA style regulations and keep natural kratom available for adults 21+ who could be helped by it. It's a fantastic harm reduction tool and we don't need less of those. It has also been a blessing for people with chronic pain and disability who are being let down by our failing medical systems. I'm one of the people whose life was saved by access to this plant and I want everyone to have the same chance at recovery I got when I found natural kratom.

I'm a 40 year old woman, I'm disabled and suffer from agoraphobia, panic disorder, and treatment resistant depression. I also have several allergies and medication sensitivities which limit what I can take. There has never been a medication that I've found that works without making me so impaired I'm not able to function anyway. I used to use alcohol trying to make the panic stop but a little over five years ago I developed severe acute pancreatitis and they told me if I kept drinking I was going to die an agonizing death. Because of the agoraphobia I couldn't really go to any kind of support groups or anything like that and was completely on my own. When desperately searching for a safe alternative I found kratom. Not only did it completely eliminate my alcohol cravings (and I now have over five years sober) I noticed it was having a positive effect on my anxiety and mood disorder. Up to this point exposure therapy had just been too painful to attempt and with no medication that worked I was too scared to try. But after I found kratom I knew I finally had something to help with the pain and symptoms and was able to start slowly working on exposures. Recently I was able to go to a Dr appointment by myself, I've been able to visit my elderly father, I even finally went to the dentist, it had been so long I almost lost my teeth. I had been housebound for literal years trapped in one room before this, so many Drs failed to help me, there just isn't anything else that works as well as this plant that doesn't also cause extreme fatigue or impairment. I don't know what I would have done if kratom hadn't been available when I needed it, I almost certainly would have started drinking again and I would have died.

Now that it's banned here in Massachusetts I can tell you I'm scared. I wake up scared every day now that the alcohol cravings are going to come back and I'll have a bad day and drink. If that happens I'm going to die. They were very clear at the hospital, even once could be fatal. I didn't have to worry about that when I had kratom, for five years it kept me safe. And I know I'm far from the only person who's going through this, I really don't want to see this keep happening to people. Please don't let this happen in your state.

I hope you will listen to all the people telling you this plant helps them, that it saved them. I know so many people who got their lives back thanks to kratom. My younger sister has a similar story and now is also coming up on five years sober, my experience is not unique. Please preserve access to natural kratom and enact regulations that set a good example and serve everyone including responsible kratom consumers. We matter too, our families matter too.

Sincerely,

Ashley Davidson

