

Support of North Dakota HB 1628

Dear North Dakota Lawmakers,

My name is Deborah Chesney, and I am a chronic pain patient who has lived with chronic pain and autoimmune disease for more than 30 years.

I am here today to strongly support HB 1628 and the responsible regulation of natural kratom products. I believe this bill represents the right approach: protect consumers without taking away access from responsible adults who rely on natural kratom.

I especially support measures such as age restrictions, proper labeling, consumer protections, and oversight of kratom sales. These safeguards can help ensure that adults have access to properly manufactured and responsibly marketed natural kratom while protecting children and consumers.

I know firsthand what prohibition looks like. I live in Tennessee, where kratom has been banned, and that decision has severely limited my ability to manage my chronic pain. Natural kratom has given me a way to function and live a fuller life without returning to prescription opioids. Because of Tennessee's ban, my husband and I have had to spend more time away from our home simply so I can continue accessing natural leaf kratom.

North Dakota has an opportunity to choose a better path.

Please support HB 1628 and choose responsible regulation over prohibition. Protect natural kratom, establish reasonable consumer safeguards, and keep this important option accessible to responsible adults who depend on it.

Thank you for listening to the voices of patients like me.

Respectfully,

Deborah Chesney