

I support HB 1628. My name is Dawn Avellis and I am fully in support of regulating natural leaf Kratom. It has helped so many people get their lives back, including myself. I have a L4 and L5 discs in my back that are completely gone and only have a small chance with a risky surgery, and I do not have insurance. I have spinal stenosis and arthritis from my neck down my spine. The pain is excruciating and I had a period of 3 years I could not get out of bed and it was so miserable. I was so desperate for relief because the pain clinics started letting everyone go because of the new laws and I had no relief and could not do anything by myself any longer. I started researching and I tried cbd to no avail it did not help at all. I came across an article about Kratom I started doing a ton of research because I am very sensitive to things, so I am always afraid to try something new, but I had also reached the point where I had nothing to lose. So, I decided I was going to try it the first attempt I didn't know what kind or how much I should take so it did not do much but I decided to go back to the research and found that I should try again I got a different kind and brand and adjusted a dose which is not very much and it was like a complete miracle. My pain went from 10 to a manageable 1 or 2 and I was able to get up and do short walks longer with support and I can shower alone and take care of my grandchildren and for 8 years I have never had to adjust the dose beyond some bad days that I took a touch more. I absolutely cried tears of joy and hit my knees to thank God for giving me my life back. I realized that we take so much for granted until it happens to us. I have never once been impaired my children would never let me watch their kids if that was the case, it was just relief. Please do not take something that is safe and the only option so many of us have left there are professionals, lawyers teachers, and so on and veterans and elderly and people that have got off dangerous substances and have got sober from natural leaf Kratom that this will affect. Some are only able to work because they finally found something that works. Now that I can travel, I go all over and have been to your beautiful state. The more bans that happen the smaller the world becomes for us. I just recently traveled and had to go all the way around a different route to not encounter banned states and that also loses money for the states the kratom community is way bigger than people realize because some people are unable to come forward because of their jobs and the stigmatization that has come with this recently. Just me not going to these states will not lose you too much money but there are a lot of us so that's where you will see it. It would hurt so many things and so many people and sending people back to the streets is a death sentence the way things are now. Thank you for your time and please take these things into consideration.