

Dear Chairman Klemin and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Connie Sanford and I'm a senior citizen. I don't live in North Dakota but my experience with kratom may be helpful as you decide on this important issue.

After a career of hard physical labor, my body broke down, leaving me bedridden with severe chronic pain and inflammation. Twelve years ago, I discovered kratom. Under the direct supervision of my doctors, I have taken it safely ever since. Thanks to this natural plant, I am back on my feet able to shop, take care of my housework, and even manage my yard.

While some consumers can order kratom online, many vulnerable people lack the resources to do so. They may not be tech-savvy or have access to credit cards. Allowing local brick-and-mortar businesses to sell these products using strict age-gating and behind-the-counter storage ensures that everyone has safe, equitable access to a product that made so much difference in my quality of life.

I respectfully urge the committee to support strict regulation and age restrictions for unadulterated leaf kratom, rather than a total ban.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sincerely,

Connie Sanford