

Good Morning,

I support HB1628

The reason I am writing in to you today I am a lifelong resident of Massachusetts and as you know our Governor just banned all kratom and scheduled 1 here in MA (synthetic and natural organic whole leaf). I am all for banning the synthetics like 7-OH but now people here in MA are terrified because so many lost access to natural whole leaf kratom this will effect chronic pain patients all together if natural whole leaf kratom is banned in North Dakota. Please remember each state that bans the natural whole leaf is a domino effect for the whole country we do not want it federally banned so nobody will have access to it at all that would be catastrophic. Please listen to the testimonies and the people reaching out to you their stories matter and your vote to keep natural leaf kratom matters for the very people who count on you.

Please keep Natural leaf kratom legal for the chronic pain patients in ND. I will tell you this doctors, nurses, veterans even the elderly are now going to suffer in agony due to this ban here in my state and we do not want that to happen in North Dakota we want people to have access and not be terrified of a ban or a scheduled 1 ban and not only to suffer but become a criminal... This is not right what our Gov did here and if I have to advocate for each state in this beautiful country, we live in to save the very ppl that suffer on a daily basis then that will be my duty.

(Please take a second to read my short testimony below)

Please see my true testimony below...

My name is Shannon. I know that you are discussing kratom. I wanted to reach out and tell my success story. I have been taking natural organic leaf kratom powder which is tested and vetted for many years now since 2017. I have had many issues with my lower back due to working in healthcare as a CNA/ HHA. Over time, lifting and moving patients caused a number of issues and resulted in a considerable amount of extreme pain. I went to many different doctors in hope of finding ways to ease my chronic lower back pain. I have had MRIs, CAT scans, and X-Rays and I was formally diagnosed with degenerative disc disease and many other painful permanent back injuries. There is no permanent solution to my immense pain.

Because the pain was so severe in 2017, I was put on a pain medication regime to try and reduce the extreme pain I was experiencing. Unfortunately, OTC medication, prescribed pain medication and even injections did not work. I decided to stop taking everything since there was no point in medicating with no results. That's when I discovered natural leaf kratom powder. My doctor and I spoke about it. He said he had other patients that were using natural leaf kratom for their pain management. My doctor was excited that it was helping my pain. My lower back pain went from a steady 10 to a 0! It was a miracle! Natural Kratom has drastically improved my quality of life. I was able to return to work without suffering in agony on a daily basis.

The DEA just released their recent ban on Synthetics and did NOT add natural Leaf organic kratom leaf to that list please look into the DEA's newest memo regarding the ban.

Synthetic 7-OH marketed as "kratom" is not the same as Natural Organic whole leaf Kratom they are two totally different things. The synthetic is dangerous and acts like an opioid and that is the reason why there is so many issues with people over dosing,,,,, Natural whole leaf Kratom is the safe plant that has been around centuries, consumed by pain patients on a daily basis and is not dangerous.

A total ban would be devastating if you decided on a total possession ban, ban or even a sales ban in your town will have a domino effect on other nearby states and all across ND. Without Natural Organic Whole Leaf Kratom so many chronic pain patients like me would suffer in agony. The last ordeal we need in our community is for many people already suffering to get into trouble seeking natural pain relief and or suffer even more. And we do not want these chronic patients to run to the streets overdosing on street drugs or synthetic products looking for pain relief as you know doctors are not writing for pain medication due to the opioid epidemic that has and is happening. Please think about the many people lives this natural plant is saving out here and please make the right decision to regulate Natural whole leaf Kratom for the sake of the very people that depend on you to listen to them and come up with a great ordinance to regulate Natural Organic whole leaf kratom.

Yours Truly,

Shannon Hareld