



NORTH DAKOTA

Family Alliance LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Testimony in Support of House Bill 1628

Jacob Thomsen, Director of Public Policy
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action
September 1, 2026

Chairmen Klein and Ruby and honorable members of the committee,

North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action would like to testify in support of House Bill 1628 and respectfully request that you would render a DO PASS on this bill.

In recent years, there has been an increase in awareness and availability of a substance known as kratom. Kratom has been referred to by various colloquialisms, including “gas station heroin,” due in part to concerns surrounding its addictive potential and withdrawal symptoms associated with its use. These symptoms have been reported to be similar to those found in opioid users experiencing withdrawal¹.

Kratom is described by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as a substance used by some individuals to self-treat numerous conditions, although the FDA does not recommend using it for these purposes². In fact, the FDA warns against use of kratom due to “risk of serious adverse events, including liver toxicity, seizures, and substance use disorder.”³

We recognize that there may be individuals who believe alternative treatments, like kratom, provide relief from various medical disorder. However, due to the risks aforementioned, we believe substances like this must be appropriately regulated to reduce the risk of exposure to children and young people in our state. House Bill 1628 provides reasonable safeguards to help accomplish this goal.

For these reasons, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action respectfully requests that you would render a DO PASS on House Bill 1628.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony, and feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jacob Thomsen
Director of Public Policy
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action

¹ <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/prescription-drug-abuse/in-depth/kratom/art-20402171>

² <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/public-health-focus/fda-and-kratom>

³ *Ibid.*