

Why Kratom Consumer Protection Matters to Me:

From 2008 to 2019, I lived in the grip of FDA-approved pain pills, benzodiazepines, and muscle relaxers prescribed for my degenerative disc disease. For 11 years, chronic pain management fueled an addiction that gradually became a destructive cycle of misery, misuse, and despair.

In April 2019, I was dismissed from pain management after failing a required pill count. I was 11 pills short. Cut off from my prescriptions, I turned to the streets in desperation and eventually began using cocaine while desperately searching for another doctor.

Then, in June 2019, while suffering through cocaine withdrawal, I stumbled upon the documentary A Leaf of Faith. That moment changed the course of my life. The very next day, I began my journey with whole-leaf Kratom, not synthetic 7-hydroxymitragynine (7OH). I walked into a smoke shop where the Kratom was kept in a locked glass case, and I was carded before purchasing it.

Kratom quieted the relentless cravings, the constant voice telling me, one more pill, one more escape. For the first time in more than a decade, I experienced peace. Kratom gave me the space and clarity to confront the deeper reasons behind my addiction and begin rebuilding my life from the ground up.

I have not returned to pain management in more than seven years. Today, I use one teaspoon of whole-leaf Kratom once a day, and I regularly take several days off each week. I am intentional about my use. I control Kratom; it does not control me.

Today, I am a thriving mother, a proud first-time grandmother, a functioning member of society, and a tax-paying citizen. Most importantly, I am no longer a burden on my children. I am an example of hope, recovery, and what can happen when someone finds a tool that helps them regain control of their life.

I will forever be grateful that I found whole-leaf Kratom products that I could purchase from a responsible retailer. Now, I share my story, my knowledge, and the science surrounding Kratom to help others who are facing addiction, chronic pain, and other challenges.

North Dakota is especially personal to me because my grandmother lives there. The decisions being made about Kratom in North Dakota could directly affect my ability to travel there to visit her and introduce her to her new great-grandchild.

That is why a Kratom Consumer Protection Act is so important to me.

I believe we can protect consumers without taking away responsible adult access to natural, whole-leaf Kratom. A comprehensive KCPA can establish reasonable standards for age restrictions, product testing, accurate labeling, contaminant limits, and responsible manufacturing and retail practices.

My story is one example of why I believe lawmakers should look at the science, distinguish natural whole-leaf Kratom from concentrated or synthetic products such as 7OH, and create thoughtful regulations that protect consumers rather than unnecessarily eliminating access.

For me, this is not simply about a plant or a piece of legislation. It is about recovery. It is about natural options for chronic pain, anxiety and depression. It is about responsible regulation. And, on a very personal level, it is about being able to remain connected to my family, including my grandmother and the newest great-grandchild in our family.

Saved By Kratom,

Misty Brown