

I'm submitting public testimony to urge lawmakers to consider supporting a regulation bill and keep natural kratom products available for the countless people who are benefiting from it.

I would like to share a few important points while considering regulation.

There is a significant difference between natural kratom products and 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) products. The growing concerns and reported issues are largely tied to 7-OH products, which are often marketed as a more pure or more potent form of kratom. This has led many consumers — including long-time natural kratom users — to unintentionally develop addiction and dependency on these highly concentrated products and experience negative consequences.

Reasonable regulations such as age restrictions, keeping products behind the counter, proper labeling, and mandatory lab testing are appropriate measures. In fact, most reputable natural kratom vendors already follow these standards. The key is clear differentiation between natural kratom and 7-OH products.

On July 1, 2026 the DEA announced that they would be scheduling 7oh products and stated clearly in the press release they are NOT targeting Natural kratom: "These actions are not intended to regulate natural leaf kratom that does not contain enhanced levels of 7-OH. Although 7-OH occurs naturally in trace amounts in the kratom plant, scheduling 7-OH above a certain threshold level does not intend to capture the kratom botanical leaf in the present temporary scheduling recommendation."

Link to the DEA press release:

<https://www.hhs.gov/press-room/hhs-fda-support-dea-7-oh-scheduling.html>

Natural kratom is simply a leaf from a tree that is dried and ground into powder, traditionally prepared as a tea. In contrast, 7-OH products are typically sold in tablet form, often in brightly colored packaging with names like "Perks" or "Opia," and frequently display "7" prominently on the label. These products are distinctly different in both form and effect.

The reason

Twenty years ago, I was diagnosed with transverse myelitis and became a chronic pain patient. After years of struggling to find relief, I discovered natural kratom. It gave me a second chance at life. Because of that, I made a promise to myself to use my voice to advocate for kratom.

One of the biggest things that gets overlooked in these conversations are the people who are benefiting from natural kratom. There are countless chronic pain patients who, for one reason or another do not have access to adequate pain management and they will be left behind to suffer, if this is banned— not because of anything they did, but because the 7-OH industry chose to

market these products as "kratom," creating confusion and causing harm in communities across the country.

Many who rely on natural kratom, particularly those in the chronic pain community, may not even be aware that discussions like this are taking place. I felt it was important to speak on behalf of those individuals and share my experience.

I hope that you'll consider following other areas who have decided to restrict the 7oh products and keep natural kratom available for those who are able to live a better quality of life because of it.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jennifer Gillis