

Support SB 2408

1 message

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Draft

Hello ,

I am writing from Massachusetts where our governor recently declared all kratom, both natural kratom and the dangerous synthetic derivatives, schedule 1 without acknowledging they are different things with different safety profiles. This has already begun to have a negative effect on my life and endangered the lives of many of my fellow residents and sewn fear across the country in everyone that has gotten their quality of life back thanks to kratom. I am hoping you will reconsider blanket banning everything and instead focus on the dangerous synthetics, I fully agree those meet the criteria to be scheduled and banned. But natural kratom does not, please regulate and keep natural kratom available for adults 21+ who benefit from it. It doesn't make any sense to get rid of a harm reduction tool and it won't make anyone safer. Don't make the same mistake Massachusetts made.

I'm one of the people who's life was saved by access to this botanical and I want everyone to have the same chance at recovery I got when I found natural kratom. I'm a 40 year old woman, I'm disabled and suffer from agoraphobia, panic disorder, and treatment resistant depression. I also have several allergies and medication sensitivities which limit what I can take. There has never been a medication that I've found that works without making me so impaired I'm not able to function anyway. I used to abuse alcohol trying to make the panic stop but a little over five years ago I developed severe acute pancreatitis and almost died, they told me if I kept drinking I was going to die an agonizing death. Because of the agoraphobia I couldn't really go to any kind of support group meetings or anything like that and was completely on my own. After I got out of the hospital I started desperately searching for a safe alternative and I found kratom. Not only did it completely eliminate my alcohol cravings (and I now have over five years sober) I noticed it was having a positive effect on my anxiety and mood disorder. Up to this point exposure therapy(which is the treatment for agoraphobia) had just been too painful to attempt and with no medication that worked I was too scared to try. But after I found kratom I knew I finally had something to help with the pain and symptoms and was able to start slowly working on exposures. Recently I was able to go to a Dr appointment by myself, I've been able to visit my elderly father, I even finally went to the dentist. I had been housebound for literal years trapped in one room before this, so many Drs failed to help me, there just isn't anything else that works as well as this plant that doesn't also cause extreme fatigue or impairment. It has only improved my life, my blood work has only improved, I have never felt the need to raise my dose and I don't suffer any kind of withdrawal if I don't take it. I can't describe what it's like to go from being completely housebound to being able to walk outside again after years. To be completely free of the horrible alcohol cravings. I firmly believe I would have started drinking again and would have died if I hadn't found kratom.

With it banned I fear the alcohol cravings coming back. Alcohol cravings are relentless and maddening to the point people regularly give up everything they've ever known or loved and drink themselves to death to avoid them. Kratom completely eliminated them for me. What if they come back? If I mess up and drink alcohol again because I don't have access to kratom I'm going to die. They were very clear at the hospital that drinking alcohol again even once could be fatal. It's an ugly death too, one of the more painful kinds you can experience. I haven't had to worry about that once in the five years since I found kratom, until now. Now I wake up scared, thinking what if the cravings come back and I can't take it one day? And I know countless others are living with this same fear right now. People who were trying to turn their lives around.

I hope you will listen to all the people telling you this plant helps them, that it saved them. I know so many people who have gotten their lives back thanks to natural kratom, my younger sister has a similar story and now is also coming up on five years sober after an alcohol addiction almost took her life as well, my experience is not unique. Please preserve access to natural kratom and enact regulations that serve everyone including responsible kratom consumers. We matter too, our families matter too.

Sincerely,
Ashley Davidson