

I support this bill as long as it keeps natural kratom leaf legal. I strongly believe concentrated 7-OH products should be treated differently from natural kratom leaf.

I want to share why this is personal for me.

I have lived with severe chronic pain for most of my life. I have also struggled with addiction and experienced serious physical trauma that changed me both physically and emotionally. In my recovery, natural kratom leaf became something that helped me stay away from much more dangerous substances, including heroin, crystal methamphetamine, and alcohol.

Today, I use natural kratom leaf moderately once a day and I have built a completely different life around recovery, exercise, spirituality, and service. I am active in my church and serve as a lay minister. I am a father with custody of my two children, and today my kids get to have their dad present in their lives. I have also remarried, and we have a home and a life that I honestly never thought I would have when I was struggling with addiction.

I don't claim that kratom is the answer for everyone, and I don't believe concentrated 7-OH products should simply be treated the same as natural leaf. But I know what natural kratom leaf has meant for me. It has been one part of the tools that helped me move away from addiction and toward the life I have today.

I respectfully ask lawmakers to recognize the difference between natural kratom leaf and concentrated 7-OH products. Please keep natural kratom leaf legal and accessible for responsible adults while addressing the concerns surrounding concentrated 7-OH.

I desperately needed hope when I was at my lowest. Natural kratom leaf became one of the tools that helped me find some of that hope. I want other people who are struggling with pain and addiction to have the opportunity to find a healthier path forward, too.

Please don't take natural kratom leaf away from people like me who are using it responsibly and have found meaningful benefit from it.