

Dear North Dakota Lawmakers,

SUPPORT SB 2408

My name is Deborah Chesney, and I am a chronic pain patient who has lived with chronic pain and autoimmune disease for more than 30 years.

I support scheduling and banning synthetic 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) products. I believe these highly concentrated, synthetically altered products should be kept out of the marketplace. I also urge you to protect **natural kratom leaf** and keep it safe and accessible for responsible adults who depend on it for quality of life.

I know firsthand what happens when natural kratom is prohibited. I live in Tennessee, where possession of kratom is a criminal offense. This has severely limited my ability to manage my chronic pain in my own home state.

Natural leaf kratom has given me the ability to function and enjoy life without returning to prescription opioids. Because of Tennessee's prohibition, my husband and I have had to travel out of state more than we would like simply so I can continue to access what helps me manage my pain. We have a lovely home in Tennessee, but we find ourselves staying away as much as possible because I need access to natural kratom.

Please learn from states that have chosen prohibition. **Do not let synthetic 7-OH products become the reason responsible adults lose access to natural kratom leaf.**

I urge you to take strong action against synthetic 7-OH while protecting natural kratom through reasonable regulation, testing, labeling, and age restrictions.

Thank you for listening to the voices of patients like me.

Respectfully,

Deborah Chesney