

I support HB 1628 & SB 2408

My name is Kathy Magliaro, and I am writing to you from Massachusetts as a chronic pain patient who has experienced firsthand what it means to finally find something that helps you live again—and then have that option threatened by prohibition.

In 2007, I was diagnosed with Trigeminal Neuralgia, a neurological condition often called “the suicide disease” because of the devastating pain and hopelessness it can cause.

For years, my life revolved around pain. Simple things most people never think twice about—talking, eating, touching my face, or even receiving a kiss from my family—could trigger unbearable pain. I underwent two brain surgeries and tried numerous medications and treatments. Despite all of this, I continued to struggle.

There were times when I honestly didn't know how I could continue living with that level of pain.

Then I found natural botanical kratom leaf.

I am not claiming that it is a cure, or that it is appropriate for everyone. I can only tell you what it did for me.

It helped me function.

It helped me participate in my family's life.

It helped me feel like myself again.

For a period of time, I wasn't simply surviving chronic pain.

I was living.

That is why what has happened in Massachusetts has been so frightening.

The possibility of losing access to something that helped me function has created an enormous amount of stress and anxiety. For people like me, it isn't simply about losing a product. It is about remembering exactly what life was like before we found something that helped—and fearing that we will be forced back into that life.

There is a psychological component to that fear that is difficult to explain unless you have lived through debilitating pain. We remember the isolation. We remember the things we lost. We remember the hopelessness.

And now we are being asked to contemplate returning there.

North Dakota doesn't have to put its citizens through that.

You have the opportunity to protect people while choosing regulation rather than prohibition.

Please consider reasonable safeguards such as age restrictions, testing, accurate labeling, manufacturing standards, and protections against adulterated or dangerous products. And please consider treating natural botanical kratom leaf differently from highly concentrated or synthetic kratom-derived products.

I understand that legislators have heard heartbreaking stories from families who believe kratom played a role in the loss of a loved one. Those families deserve compassion. But protecting vulnerable people does not necessarily require eliminating access for every responsible adult who uses natural kratom leaf.

You can protect your children without abandoning your adults.

You can address legitimate safety concerns without unnecessarily taking away an option that some chronic pain patients believe has given them their lives back.

I respectfully ask you to listen to patients like me before deciding what North Dakota's kratom policy should look like.

Please choose reasonable regulation, consumer protections, and responsible access over prohibition.

Because behind this legislation are real people—and for some of us, this isn't about a product.

It's about being able to live.

Sincerely,

Kathy Magliaro

Massachusetts

Chronic Pain Patient & Kratom Consumer