



NORTH DAKOTA

Family Alliance LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2408

Jacob Thomsen, Director of Public Policy
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action
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Chairmen Klein and Ruby and honorable members of the committee,

North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action would like to testify in support of Senate Bill 2408 and respectfully request that you would render a DO PASS on this bill.

In recent years, there has been an increase in awareness and availability of a substance known as kratom, along with concentrated synthetic derivatives like 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH). These substances have been referred to by various colloquialisms, including “gas station heroin,” due in part to concerns surrounding their addictive potential and withdrawal symptoms associated with usage. These symptoms have been reported to be similar to those found in opioid users experiencing withdrawal¹.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warns against use of kratom due to “risk of serious adverse events, including liver toxicity, seizures, and substance use disorder.”² The risks associated with kratom are greatly enhanced in substances like 7-OH due to the fact that they are chemically processed to be far more potent than the natural plant. These synthetic products have been linked to the deaths of 50 people in the state of North Dakota since 2019.³

The synthetic derivatives of kratom which are targeted by this bill are far more potent than the natural leaf itself, thus presenting a higher risk to the public. These substances are also especially dangerous to children and young people considering they have had easy access to these products leading up to the Governor’s executive order. We believe that this bill successfully demonstrates a proper response to the dangers of these substances.

For these reasons, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action respectfully requests that you would render a DO PASS on Senate Bill 2408.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony, and feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

¹ <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/prescription-drug-abuse/in-depth/kratom/art-20402171>

² <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/public-health-focus/fda-and-kratom>

³ <https://www.kfyrvtv.com/2026/08/03/gov-armstrong-uses-executive-powers-ban-kratom-local-smoke-shop-reacts/>

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Sincerely,
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