

# SUPPORT SB 2408

## Please Keep Plain-Leaf Kratom Legal

I support SB 2408 and the effort to address products that may present legitimate safety concerns. I am asking you to make sure that whatever regulations are put in place do not criminalize chronic pain patients for using products they have found help them manage their pain and maintain their quality of life.

Consumers deserve access to clean, accurately labeled, independently tested products. Plain-leaf kratom should remain legal and responsibly sold with appropriate age restrictions, identification requirements, testing, and labeling. I believe extracts, highly concentrated products, and other products that have not been properly tested should not be sold in gas stations or convenience stores. Products should be regulated in a way that protects consumers rather than punishing responsible adults.

I also believe appropriate product standards and thresholds should be established using sound scientific evidence as research continues at the federal level. We should allow the science to guide those standards rather than rushing to criminalize consumers.

I have lived with chronic pain for decades. I spent 17 years trying to prove my pain was real. Nine and a half years ago, I found plain-leaf kratom tea, and it gave me something I had spent years fighting to get back: the ability to function and participate in my own life.

That is what so many other chronic pain patients are afraid of losing. They want to get out of bed, work, participate in their families, care for their children, make memories, and live with dignity instead of being defined by their pain.

My fellow advocates and I facilitate conversations and support for people who use kratom, and I hear from people who are terrified of losing their ability to function. These are people who are not looking to get high. They are looking for relief from chronic pain and a way to maintain their quality of life. **These are your constituents.**

**Please understand that responsible consumers should not become criminals simply because they are trying to address their chronic pain, maintain their quality of life, and live with dignity.**

I believe regulation should protect consumers, not punish them. Keep these products regulated and legal for responsible adults, while keeping high-potency, concentrated, and inadequately tested products out of gas stations and convenience stores.

Taking away something that allows a person to function does not make their pain disappear. It can leave them suffering, unable to participate in their families, and with even fewer options than they had before.

Please support SB 2408 while ensuring that responsible adult consumers of natural plain-leaf kratom remain legal.

For peer-reviewed information about kratom and the science surrounding it, please visit **KratomIndex.com**.

Thank you for listening to the people whose lives will be directly affected by this legislation.

**Sincerely,**

**Venus Usher**