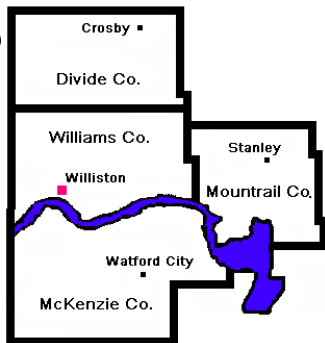




Upper Missouri District Health Unit

"Your Public Health Professionals"

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Testimony

Special Ad Hoc Policy Committee

Bills SB 2408 and HB 1628 – Relating to regulation of kratom

September 1, 2026

Good afternoon, Chairs Ruby and Klein and members of the Special Ad Hoc Policy Committee. I am Javayne Oyloe, Executive Officer of Upper Missouri District Health Unit (UMDHU). I have worked in public health for 30 years. UMDHU provides local public health services to Divide, McKenzie, Mountrail and Williams Counties.

On July 28, 2026, the UMDHU Board of Health adopted a resolution urging the prohibition of the sale of kratom and 7-OH in North Dakota. Without a full ban loopholes will be created, and an unnecessary burden will be placed on law enforcement. It is also worth mentioning that currently UMDHU does not currently have the capacity to assist with compliance check efforts.

UMDHU strongly **supports Senate Bill 2408** to classify mitragynine synthetic derivatives as Schedule I controlled substances. We encourage the Legislature to include all mitragynine/kratom products under Schedule I. Anything short of full scheduling of kratom products will create unnecessary exposure to serious and potentially fatal health risks.

Consideration of limiting sales to 21 years or older, as presented in **House Bill 1628, needs to be weighed against the alarming fact** that emergency room visits related to kratom occurred in males (75%) 20–39-year-old age group (75%) and in western North Dakota (92%). The negative impact especially to young men in the UMDHU area could be avoided with a total ban.

UMDHU respectfully encourages the Legislative Assembly to take meaningful statewide action to protect North Dakotans from the risks associated with kratom with a total ban on these products with resources in place to care for people who are addicted regardless of their ability to pay.