

## North Dakota HB1101.

I support HB1101 ban on Kratom.

My 22 year old son Matthew Eller died from using Kratom powder (the least potent form of kratom). Kratom caused him to have a seizure, go into cardiac arrest and die. His autopsy/toxicology results read: "TOXIC EFFECTS OF MITRAGYNINE" (an alkaloid found only in kratom). His toxicology showed he had no prescription drugs, no street drugs nor alcohol in his system when he died, and that he had no underlying health conditions.

The American Kratom Association claims to be for the consumer, however their website promotes over 40 of the leading kratom vendors, and several of those are currently in kratom wrongful death lawsuits.

Kratom seems to benefit some people, but it disturbingly sounds a lot like other pain relievers like opioids where you might need more & more to achieve the same effect & to stave off withdrawals. Kratom works on the same part of the brain as opioids, and according to over 46,000 kratom users on Reddit's Quittingkratom it's withdrawals are horrible with many comparing them to Heroin and other opioids.

Kratom advocates have been known to be exploitative with emailing government. In Iowa City hundreds of emails were sent to stop a kratom ban, but council members recognized some of the names on the emails and contacted the people directly and they all said they didn't send the emails.

### Red Flag #1

Kratom is illegally imported into the United States by falsely labeling it as tea, fertilizer, incense etc., and labeling "NOT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION".

### Red Flag #2

If it does things that people say like cure or mitigate alcohol or opioid addiction, and relieve pain that can only be alleviated by opioids; that by itself indicates it should be prescribed by a doctor, not a gas station attendant with unlimited supply to the patient.

Kratom Lobbyist fight to keep kratom legal by lightly regulating it, and they desperately fight against any type of significant regulation. They push for the age limit to be 18 or 21 which is a good thing, however most kratom users who died from kratom were over the age of 21 including my son. So this light regulation won't likely make a significant impact on the kratom death toll.

Kratom effects are liver damage, rapid weight loss, aggression, nausea, vomiting,

hair loss, brain damage, anxiety, depression, dizziness, drowsiness, hallucinations, delusions, muscle pain, psychosis, seizures, cardiac arrest, coma and death.

Testing for kratom post mortem in many cases is by request only, this combined with the fact that many people hide their Kratom use makes it impossible to know the actual number of people dying from Kratom. Please view the FDA Adverse Event Reporting System to view the injuries and deaths from kratom that have been reported.

Sincerely,

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