

Testimony in Favor of Kratom Regulation

My name is Christopher Deaney, and I am here today to share my personal story and advocate for reasonable kratom regulations instead of a ban. Kratom tea has been a lifeline for me, helping me manage chronic pain and improve my quality of life when nothing else could.

When I was just 8 years old, I was in a devastating car accident that left me with severe injuries, including damage to my knees that required multiple surgeries. Over the years, I endured chronic pain that affected every aspect of my life. I tried countless treatments, from physical therapy to prescription pain medications, but none provided lasting relief. Worse, some medications brought side effects that left me feeling detached and unwell.

In 2015, I discovered kratom tea. Initially, I was skeptical, but I was desperate for a solution that would allow me to live my life without debilitating pain. I began using plain leaf kratom powder, prepared as a tea, and the results were transformative. For the first time in decades, I experienced significant pain relief without the side effects I had endured with traditional medications. Kratom not only helped with pain but also improved my overall sense of well-being and allowed me to reclaim my life.

I understand the concerns surrounding kratom, but banning this natural plant is not the answer. Like any substance, kratom should be regulated to ensure safety and quality. Standards for labeling, testing for contaminants, and age restrictions are essential to protect consumers. Responsible regulations can ensure that people like me, who genuinely benefit from kratom, can continue to access it while minimizing risks.

Kratom has been a beacon of hope for millions of Americans dealing with chronic pain, anxiety, and other challenges. I urge policymakers to consider the positive impact it has had on lives like mine and to focus on regulation rather than prohibition. By working together, we can create a framework that ensures safe access to kratom while addressing public health concerns. A ban would strip away an invaluable tool that has allowed me to live a fuller, healthier life—and many others would lose the same opportunity.

Thank you for listening to my story and for considering a balanced approach to kratom policy.