

*Dear legislators of North Dakota. I am asking for your support in passing HB 1101 on January 13th.

My son recently died from taking kratom. Kratom is unregulated and is readily available for purchase in convenience stores. Kratom should be classified as a drug not as a nutritional supplement. My son was a chronic user of kratom and was physically addicted. He tried many times to quit,,even seeking help from his physician. I am appaled most health care professionals know very little or nothing at all about the dangers of KRATOM. I am horrified that this deadly, very addictive substance can be purchased so easily. My son died from this poison,,,he thought it was safe. After my son's death I tried to learn as much as possible about kratom. Below I have listed some facts that are the truth about kratom. Please don't be persuaded by Mac Haddow and his lobbying group, American Kratom Association.

- Much remains unknown about how to safely consume kratom and people are left on their own to determine product safety. Product labeling lacks dosing instructions, potency, or warnings about possible interactions with other drugs or warnings about existing medical conditions.
- Kratom businesses compete with luring marketing messages like “natural”, “organic”, “supplement”, ..boasting about “therapeutic benefits.”
- There are no non-bias scientific studies to back the claims of kratom’s therapeutic benefits.
- Scientist are currently trying to determine how and why people are dying from kratom.
- Chronic use can cause physical and psychological addiction. Kratom has been linked to seizures.
- There is no widely recognized diagnosis for “kratom use disorder,” and if you’re lucky enough to find a treatment facility, kratom withdrawal is treated with Suboxone which is a drug used to treat people trying to withdraw from opioids. (This fact alone makes it a no brainer that HB 1101 should be passed)
- There are no laws at the federal level requiring companies to alert people to the risk of combining kratom with other substances or warnings about existing medical conditions.
- Kratom is basically unregulated by the FDA, leaving consumers on there own to determine its safety.

Please support HB 1101 to keep the people of North Dakota safe.

Respectfully, Susan Cave