

Hello, I am writing in opposition to H.B. 1101. I realize the authors of this legislation have the best intentions in mind—there are definitely issues with certain kratom products on the market—but classifying it as a Schedule 1 substance would be a terrible mistake. I am writing on behalf of a close friend of mine who uses this product and who lives in Fargo; it has helped immensely with his pain and PTSD. Before he found kratom, he was on several opioid drugs that made him lethargic and unable to work; he could barely get off the couch. He found kratom and drinks it in a tea and it turned his life around. He is not “high” or intoxicated when he uses it, he’s just back to his old self. He is able to work and provide for his family again. Please do not take this away from people like him. An ideal solution would be stronger consumer protections, enforcing age limits, product testing, etc. Kratom itself is safe, but there are very bad actors in the marketplace enhancing their products with unsafe amounts of extracts or adulterants. These are the products that need to be removed from the shelves, not kratom itself. Please, I am asking you to think of people like my friend who rely on this product to function. Thank you for your time and God bless.