



North Dakota House of Representatives

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Representative Jeremy Olson

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Mr. Chairman and members of the Judiciary Committee, I am Jeremy Olson, State Representative, District 26, representing most of McKenzie and Dunn Counties. I am the prime sponsor for HB 1101 at the request of my constituents who manage Providence House, an addiction treatment center in Western North Dakota. The goal of HB 1101 is to classify mitragynine, commonly known as Kratom, as a schedule I controlled substance.

It is appropriate to classify Kratom as schedule I because it has no acceptable medical treatments in the US, has been identified with a high potential for abuse, and for a lack of safety. As the presenters behind me will describe in more detail, Kratom is a substance that can be purchased easily, has a opioid-like effects, and has caused physical harm and death to people.

One other thing to consider, at the end of the day, it is often the government, either state or local, who ultimately pays the bill for the addiction treatments of drugs such as Kratom, when the patient does not have insurance, which is often the case.

At this time, I would like to introduce McKenzie McCoy from Watford City and Amber Marquardt from Minot, to describe the need for this legislation in more detail and to answer any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeremy L Olson".

Jeremy L Olson MBA, CSP
ND House of Representatives, District 26

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