

Dear Members of the North Dakota Legislature,

My name is Luke DiDio, and I am strongly opposed to the scheduling of kratom. As someone whose life has been profoundly impacted by kratom, I implore you to reconsider the proposed ban and instead focus on regulating this natural, life-saving plant. A ban would not only strip North Dakotans of a crucial tool for health and well-being, but it would also reflect a failure to examine the facts and science objectively.

The opposition to kratom, while perhaps well-intentioned, is rooted in misinformation propagated by agencies like the FDA. Despite years of scrutiny, the FDA has failed to provide a single shred of credible evidence demonstrating that kratom is inherently dangerous. If such evidence existed, kratom would have been banned years ago. Instead, what we see is a campaign of fear and misinformation, as the FDA moves state by state to push its agenda without substantive proof.

Consider this: the so-called "kratom-related deaths" often cited in arguments against it have never been conclusively linked to kratom alone. Autopsies consistently reveal the presence of other substances, such as fentanyl or other dangerous drugs, at levels sufficient to cause death independently. In fact, there is no scientifically established lethal dosage of kratom, and the mechanisms by which kratom is alleged to cause harm remain entirely unexplained. When you ask medical examiners for concrete evidence or toxicology reports detailing how kratom could have been the direct cause of death, you will find vague answers unsupported by science.

The reality is that millions of Americans rely on kratom for relief from chronic pain, anxiety, and addiction to far more harmful substances. The American Kratom Association and other advocates have tirelessly worked to educate legislators and the public about the benefits and safety of this plant. We stand ready to provide you with the facts, the studies, and the testimonies of countless individuals whose lives have been transformed by kratom. All we ask is that you hear us out before making a decision.

Banning kratom would not eliminate its use; it would drive it underground, creating a black market rife with adulterated and unsafe products. This is a public health risk we can avoid by enacting reasonable regulations, such as those outlined in the Kratom Consumer Protection Act. Measures like age restrictions (18 or 21+), proper labeling, and quality control standards can ensure that kratom remains safe and accessible while protecting consumers from unscrupulous actors.

I urge you to see through the FDA's unfounded claims and demand real evidence before considering a ban. Regulation, not prohibition, is the responsible path forward. It safeguards public health, respects individual choice, and prevents the unnecessary suffering of those who depend on kratom for their well-being.

To those who have tragically lost loved ones, my heart goes out to them. But it is crucial to recognize that these heartbreaking stories are often exploited by those seeking to ban kratom, despite a lack of scientific support. These families deserve honesty and transparency—not misinformation.

Before casting your vote, I ask you to do one critical thing: request the toxicology reports and demand clear, evidence-based answers from medical examiners and agencies advocating for this ban. Ask them to explain, with scientific backing, how kratom allegedly caused harm. I am

confident that you will find their answers lack the rigor and substance required to justify such drastic action.

North Dakota has the opportunity to lead by example, demonstrating that decisions affecting public health are made based on facts, not fear. Kratom is a miracle plant that has saved countless lives, including my own. Please choose regulation over prohibition. Protect access to kratom while ensuring it is used safely and responsibly.

Thank you for your time, your willingness to listen, and your commitment to seeking the truth. I trust you will make the right choice for the people of North Dakota.

Sincerely,
Luke DiDio