

My name is Walker Gallman and I am the Legislative Director for the Global Kratom Coalition. Today, I'm speaking in opposition to HB 1101 and urge the Committee to hold this bill until they've consulted with 3rd party kratom experts. Kratom, as a supplement, particularly when taken in a natural whole leaf form, has hundreds of years of safe use in Asia with more than 5 decades of safe use in the United States. In its traditional use kratom, which is part of the coffee family, is taken for energy and focus, much like caffeine. Even the FDA recently conducted a single ascending dose study on natural, whole leaf kratom in a clinical trial and found it as well tolerated by humans, in large doses, with no serious, adverse side effects.

The real concern are synthetic kratom products, known as "7" synthesized from an alkaloid called 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) that exists in negligible amounts in natural kratom but when synthesized and amplified it becomes a potent opioid twelve times more potent than morphine.

Rather than ban kratom, I urge you to seek a better understanding of the situation and consider taking a regulatory approach instead. Bans are an ineffective tool which often leads to unintended consequences due to a lack of enforcement and bad actors' desires to make a profit.

Sincerely,

Walker Gallman