

To whom it may concern,

I am opposed to the bill HB 1101. I want to keep kratom legal in North Dakota because my mother in law desperately needs this plant. She is disabled, living with SLE lupus, needing spinal surgery, etc and in constant pain, and without kratom she couldn't be the wife, mother, or grandmother that she is today.

She wouldn't even be able to drive her car if it weren't for the pain relieving benefits of kratom. We have all researched kratom and know that this is her saving grace. Opioids KILL people in this country every day. In fact, 130 Americans die every day from an opioid overdose, accounting for two thirds of all overdoses. Her ex brother in law, that she tried to get to take kratom, is now a victim to opioids. She doesn't have to have the blame for that loss, but of course she wears it because we know it could have saved him. We would all be lost without her.

If you could adopt a bill to protect kratom consumers that would hold vendors, growers, manufacturers responsible for not adulterating it and test it to make sure it doesn't have salmonella or mold, that\* would be extremely beneficial. We need\* to get it out of the gas stations which it pretty much is now because of the 2016 federal bill.

PLEASE do not ban kratom. Do not prevent people from living their lives without pain. Do not continue the cycle of opioids and numbing the American people until they die premature deaths and hurt the people around them. It is cruel and it won't go without noticing where your priorities lie.

Thank you for your time.  
Trisha Hartley