

I am opposed to HB1101.

Back in 2012 I was diagnosed with Hodgkins's Lymphoma and kratom was one of the best tools I had during that very challenging time. I found it to have way more therapeutic value than most if not all of the other medications I was prescribed during that time. It really helped me wean off pain killers that I was taking for a few months while I was going through chemotherapy. I also used it on and off for a few years after I achieved remission for a number of things but most notably depression and anxiety following that whole ordeal. I still use it to this day for smaller injuries that I sustain while running full time.

Kratom is not as addictive as the opposition thinks that it is. I had a harder time stopping some of the medications that I was taking during my cancer journey much less alcohol and nicotine. Kratom is a huge harm reduction tool that people can use in place of harder drugs out there. Given that this country lost 100,000+ people to fentanyl last year we need to give these people as much help as they can get to help them stop. To my knowledge there have been zero overdose deaths strictly related to active ingredients in kratom. Most of the overdose deaths related to kratom are either poly drug overdoses or having a tainted product. I do think that there needs to be tighter regulation with the drug so people are more informed about what they are buying but I don't think this drug needs to be scheduled. Making this product a scheduled 1 controlled substance which classifies it with much harder drugs is not the way.

Thank you for taking the time to read my statement.