

My name is Scott Newcomb. I am a bank officer in Minot. I was born and raised in Mandan, ND and I have lived in Minot for the last 20 years.

In support of my wife and daughter, **I am opposing HB 1101.**

My wife has SLE Lupus that causes severe chronic pain and debilitating exhaustion. She has been able to safely manage these symptoms with Kratom for the last 8 years.

Before she discovered this plant in 2016, my wife was at the point of giving up and was severely depressed because her opioid pain medication that she was prescribed for the Lupus chronic pain, was no longer working.

Back then, I researched this issue trying to find answers and solutions to help my wife. It wasn't long into this process that I learned opioids are not suited to provide long term pain relief for most chronic pain patients.

Thankfully, my wife was also researching and learned about the pain relieving benefits of the Kratom plant that did not have the life threatening side effects and dangers of opioids.

This discovery was life changing! I had my wife back! Kratom helped to lower her pain levels while increasing her energy. All of this from Kratom leaves that are dried and then grounded to a powder.

Now that my daughter is headed down the same auto-immune path as my wife, it is very important that both of them have the opportunity to purchase, possess, and use unadulterated safe Kratom in North Dakota.

I can't even begin to think how horrible my daughter's quality of life will be if she is denied access to this life altering plant in her home state. And for my wife to lose the ONLY thing keeping her Lupus pain at bay, would be absolutely devastating for us.

Please do not schedule Kratom and instead adopt the Kratom Consumer Protection Act. This is truly a matter of life and death.

Thank you,  
Scott Newcomb