

Good morning, I'm John Shinholser, advocacy director of American Veterans for Kratom Safe.

I am a Marine Corps veteran and an old-timer in a 12-step recovery program, clean and sober for over 42 years. I am also the co-founder of The McShin Foundation (2004), a peer-run recovery community organization, a national model, and a pioneer in the modern treatment and recovery industry.

I have spent the last ten years studying Kratom, and these are the pertinent facts:

- Upward 20 million adult consumers (very few underage/teen consumers)
- Kratom is one of the reasons for opiate death reduction
- Consumers choose Kratom over more harmful prescription and illegal drugs, including a reduction in abusive alcohol consumption
- There is absolutely no comparison to flipping use from “one pill kills” illegal drug to an FDA-regulated GMP Kratom product, a natural plant
- Felonizing Veterans and responsible adult consumers is absurd
- Banning an FDA-regulated GMP plant product because the pharma and treatment industry complaining of losing business can't pass “the smell test.”
- Prohibition was a miserable failure, driven by religious ideologists and angry wives and mothers, A law that sparked organized crime that is rampant to this day

The most practicable solution for ND is to pass the Kratom Consumer Protection Act, KCPA, which by law would only permit FDA regulatory guideline Good Manufacture Practice, GMP products, have age restrictions with behind-the-counter sales.

Furthermore, for the few ND mentally ill citizens with substance use disorders who choose to abuse Kratom and become addicted, have them slow down or stop abusing it or send them to treatment. Please stop demonizing and stigmatizing a valuable plant product that is a solution for most consumers.

Respectfully submitted:

John Shinholser,

Advocacy director of American Veterans for Kratom Safe