

Name: Anonymous Anonymous

Title:

Organization or Agency: American Kratom Association

Topic: SB00920 - AA PROHIBITING THE SALE OF KRATOM PRODUCTS TO INDIVIDUALS UN...
Opposes

Testimony:

Hello and thank you for reading this comment about SB00920- banning anyone under 18 to purchase Kratom, I don't think it should be passed from my personal experience, other people's stories, and from new science coming out everyday, also importantly it hasn't killed or hospitalized anyone (only Kratom NOT tested by a third party which is required by the Kratom consumer protection act, KCPA.)

My story —Kratom has saved my life from the treachery of the opiate epidemic and the legalized use of alcohol. Without Kratom I would have never been able to leave behind not only my addictions, by my anxiety and depression. I am happy and sober now with an apartment, dog, and a job for almost 7 years. I can live my life normally!

I DO believe children should NOT be allowed to buy Kratom, BUT an 18 year old adult in society, who can buy cigarettes and serve and die for our great country should be able to buy Kratom, a simple plant. Especially when some of those are veterans who come back with anxiety, depression, PTSD or worse from being in a war and they are denied a simple plant: Kratom, which may alleviate these symptoms without risk of death or major side effects, or even to manage physical pain and not get addicted into the pharmaceutical tornado of opiate addiction which as you now has taken over this country and I wouldn't wish on any human being. Kratom is the cheapest and easiest way for many addicts to quit drinking or taking opiates or other drugs. Kratom also can help peoples mental conditions. It's not a cure all but I firmly believe that an 18 year old ADULT american citizen should be afforded the same legal rights as any other citizen: to vote, serve in our military, buy cigarettes or tobacco, but Kratom.

There have been ZERO deaths from Kratom. The ONLY reported deaths are from Kratom that has not been tested which the Kratom Consumer Protection Act is align with. They want to make sure Kratom is tested by third party companies and prevent children from purchasing Kratom also. Banning it to be illegal for 18-20 year olds - an age that many people become opiate addicts or even possibly overdose when they could have had a simple way out or never became addicted to opiates in the first place.

The American Kratom Association and KCPA is funding scientific research and has been very successful in many states. I incline you to not ban Kratom for those under 21, it could create an underground market for those underage and increase crime rates. —Alcohol kills more people yearly than drugs (sadly with fentanyl and opiates catching up) and it's legalized while Kratom has killed none and helped hundreds of thousands, possibly more.

This would also put a larger stigma on addiction and also Kratom itself. Please listen to someone who has had this fight in real life and actually won without the help of rehabilitation which failed previously. I left behind over a decade of addiction to be who I am now and I'm happy. Don't take that away from other people possibly, everyone deserves to try to do better.

Finally, the DEA accessed the Kratom situation in 2016 and halted the entire ban. The first time that has ever happened. Now Big Pharma and the FDA are trying to ban it in favor of the opiate industry and it's sickening. People are hurting and dying because of the corporate greed or pharmaceutical lobbyists. During this awful opiate epidemic and insane, fentanyl crisis, I beg that you allow all citizens 18 or older to purchase Kratom. I guarantee it has caused less problems in any community compared to alcohol, opiates, cocaine, or any drug at all. It saves lives, it saved my life. Please, beg do not support SB00920, the Kratom Consumer Protection Act and the American Kratom Association are doing their very best to

keep Kratom and everyone safe during these times where the KCPA has passed and it is working very well for many states and people. I promise you will be saving lives, or it's possible many people will go back to alcohol or opiates if they are not able to taper off their drug use with the help of Kratom.

Thank you for reading and I hope my words inspire a change before this law is passed,

Take care!