



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Meeting of the Board of Pharmacy

Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Third Floor
Henrico, Virginia 23233

(804) 367-4456 (Tel)
(804) 527-4472(Fax)

Tentative Agenda of Full Board Meeting

June 25, 2024

9AM

TOPIC

PAGES

Call to Order of Public Hearing: Dale St.Clair, PharmD, Chairman

- Welcome & Introductions

Public Hearings:

- Placing Certain Chemicals into Schedule I
- Proposed regulations for exemption of automated dispensing devices stocked solely with emergency or stat-use medications from certain requirements of 18VAC110-20-555.

103-111

185-189

Adjournment of Public Hearings

Call to Order of Full Board Meeting: Dale St.Clair, PharmD, Chairman

- Approval of Agenda

Approval of Previous Board Meeting Minutes:

- May 2, 2024, Full Board Meeting
- May 2, 2024, Public Hearings
- May 2, 2024, Formal Hearing
- May 15, 2024, Telephone Conference Call
- May 24, 2024, Telephone Conference Call
- June 5, 2024, Telephone Conference Call

3-19

Call for Public Comment: The Board will receive public comment at this time. The Board will not receive comment on any regulation process, including petitions for rulemaking, for which a public comment period has closed, or any pending disciplinary matters.

DHP Director's Report: Arne Owens

Legislative/Regulatory/Guidance: Erin Barrett, JD/Caroline Juran, RPh

- Chart of Regulatory Actions
- Consideration of petition for rulemaking to add Kratom to Schedule I
- Adoption of emergency regulations for central fill pharmacies and remote processing by pharmacy technicians
- Adoption of final action on allowances for centralized warehouse/wholesale distributor to verify Schedule VI drugs for ADDs in hospitals
- Adoption of proposed regulatory amendments for licensure fee increase
- Adoption of exempt action conforming scheduling regulation(s) to 2024 General Assembly actions
- Adoption of final regulatory action – implementation of 2022 legislation for pharmacists initiating treatment
- Adoption of exempt regulatory action – addition of chemicals to Schedule I
- Amendment of Guidance Document 110-9
- Discussion regarding pharmacy technician educational standard and workforce challenges and amend 2024 Pharmacy Technician Workforce Survey Report

20-23

Attachment 1

24-50

51-61

62-65 with handout

66-89

90-102

103-111

112-129

130-184

New Business:

- Discussion regarding 2024 map of pharmacy permit locations
- Elections of Chairman and Vice-Chairman, July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025
- Schedule 2025 meeting dates
- Consideration of agency subordinate recommendations

190-200

201

Confidential Attachment

Reports:

- Chairman’s Report –Dale St.Clair, PharmD
- Report on Board of Health Professions – Sarah Melton, PharmD
- Report on Licensure Program– Ryan Logan, RPh
- Report on Inspection Program – Melody Morton, Inspections Manager, Enforcement Division
- Report on Disciplinary Program – Ellen B. Shinaberry, PharmD
- Executive Director’s Report – Caroline D. Juran, RPh

202-205

206-209

210-216

Handout

Consideration of consent orders, summary suspensions, or summary restrictions, if any.

Adjourn

****The Board will have a working lunch at approximately 12pm.****

*****A panel of the Board will tentatively convene at 2:00pm or immediately following adjournment of the board meeting, whichever is later. *****

(DRAFT/UNAPPROVED)

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF PHARMACY
MINUTES OF FULL BOARD MEETING**

Thursday, May 2, 2024

Department of Health Professions
Perimeter Center
9960 Mayland Drive
Henrico, Virginia 23233

CALL TO ORDER: A full board meeting was called to order at 9:15AM.

PRESIDING: Dale St. Clair, PharmD, Chairman

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cheri Garvin, RPh, Vice Chair
Shannon Dowdy, PharmD
Michelle Hoffer, JD
Larry Kocot, JD
Wendy Nash, PharmD
Kristopher Ratliff, DPh
Patricia Richards-Spruill, RPh
Ling Yuan, PharmD

MEMBER ABSENT: Sarah Melton, PharmD

STAFF PRESENT: Caroline Juran, RPh, Executive Director
James Rutkowski, JD, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Erin Barrett, JD, Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, DHP
James Jenkins Jr., RN, Agency Deputy Director
Sorayah Haden, Executive Assistant
Ellen Shinaberry, PharmD, Deputy Executive Director
Ryan Logan, RPh, Deputy Executive Director
Annette Kelley, MS, CSAC, Deputy Executive Director
Beth O'Halloran, RPh, Deputy Executive Director

**PHARMACISTS AWARDED
1-HOUR OF LIVE OR REAL-
TIME INTERACTIVE
CONTINUING EDUCATION
FOR ATTENDING MEETING:** Gill Abernathy
Katrina Trelease

QUORUM: With 9 members present, a quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The chairman stated that several handouts had been provided at the board

members' seats and on the public table which included: a 2024 updated legislative report; revised draft emergency regulatory amendments related to emergency medical services; revised draft emergency regulatory amendments for crisis stabilization services and use of automated drug dispensing systems and remote dispensing systems; and several written public comments submitted prior to the meeting. No additional amendments were offered. The agenda was approved as presented.

Amendments were offered to the draft minutes included in the agenda packet.

The chairman stated the minutes for the meetings held between March 28, 2024 and April 11, 2024 were approved as presented and amended as follows:

- **Change the respondent's name from "Lewis" to "Turner" in meeting minutes for the Telephone Conference Call held on April 11, 2024.**

In response to Mr. Kocot's inquiry regarding educational standards and workforce challenges of pharmacy technicians, the chairman stated this issue is already tentatively scheduled for the June full board meeting.

Michael Player, Executive Director, Peninsulas EMS Council, Inc. and co-chairman of a regional EMS task force thanked the board and staff for their efforts to accommodate the requests of the EMS stakeholders during the drafting of emergency regulations.

Gill Abernathy, Pharmacy Manager, Inova Health System thanked the board and provided the following public comments:

- Amend 18VAC110-20-500 B to state "Unless prohibited by federal law and regulation, a hospital pharmacy may prepare a kit for an EMS agency provided...",
- Requirements to place only Schedule VI in a drug kit and Schedule II-V in a separate drug kit did not previously exist and may be problematic,
- Insert headings to distinguish the different models,
- Amend 18VAC110-20-721 C1 to remove "emergency" stating.

Josh Crawford provided public comment on behalf of the Virginia Society of Health-System Pharmacists consistent with the written comment previously provided as a handout.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MOTION:

ACTION ITEM:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

**LEGISLATIVE/
REGULATORY/GUIDANCE**

**2024 UPDATED
LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Erin Barrett briefly reviewed the handout of the updated legislative report.

**CHART OF REGULATORY
ACTIONS**

Ms. Barrett briefly reviewed the chart in the agenda packet and provided updated information. Ms. Barrett stated the proposed 18VAC110-20 regulations regarding the Pharmacy Working Conditions is now at the Governor's Office for review.

**ADOPTION OF EMERGENCY
REGULATORY
AMENDMENTS
REGARDING EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SERVICE
AGENCIES**

The Board carefully reviewed and discussed the adoption of the emergency regulatory amendments regarding Emergency Medical Service Agencies. The following documents were taken into consideration: Excerpts of USC §823, DEA Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, written comments received as of 4/18/2024, additional written comments received prior to the board meeting, and the revised draft regulatory amendments provided as a handout.

MOTION:

The Board voted unanimously to adopt emergency regulatory amendments and a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action for replacement regulations regarding emergency medical service agencies as presented in the handout and amended as follows:

- **18VAC110-20-10, amend last sentence of the definition of “other EMS vehicle” by inserting “, regional EMS council” after “...registered to an EMS agency”;**
- **18VAC110-20-10, amend definition of “registered location” by inserting “Schedule II-VI” prior to “controlled substances” and replace “distributors” with “those entities authorized to distribute”;**
- **18VAC110-20-500 A, strike “emergency” after “obtain”;**
- **18VAC110-20-500 B, replace “the US Food and Drug Administration” with “federal law”, strike “hospital” prior to “pharmacy”;**
- **18VAC110-20-500 B1, strike “hospital”, “and Schedule VI controlled devices”, and “The Schedule VI controlled devices may be provided in a kit separate from the prescription drugs.”;**
- **18VAC110-20-500 B2, strike “or Schedule VI controlled devices”;**
- **18VAC110-20-500 B2a, strike “hospital”;**
- **18VAC110-20-500 B3, strike “and devices”;**
- **18VAC110-20-500 B7, strike “and devices”;**
- **18VAC110-20-500 B9, strike “or device”;**
- **18VAC110-20-500 B10, insert “pharmacy technician” before “or prescriber”;**
- **18VAC110-20-500 B11, strike “hospital”;**
- **18VAC110-20-500 C, separate paragraph into the three different scenarios and replace “with written approval from the DEA” with “consistent with federal law”;**
- **18VAC110-20-500 E and E2, strike “hospital”;**
- **18VAC110-20-500 E4, strike “and devices”;**
- **18VAC110-20-500 E5, strike “or devices” in three places;**
- **18VAC110-20-500 E6, strike “or devices”, replace “Schedule II,**

- III, IV, or V” with “such Schedule VI”, and strike “sealed”,
- 18VAC110-20-500 F, strike “and devices”,
- 18VAC110-20-500 should no longer be included in the hospital section of the regulations now that restrictions to “hospital” have been removed. 18VAC110-20-500 will be repealed, moved to a new section, and incorporate the aforementioned amendments.
- 18VAC110-20-690 B, after “agencies” insert “and regional EMS councils”,
- 18VAC110-20-720, insert “unusual” prior to “loss”,
- 18VAC110-20-720 2, insert at the beginning “Except as provided in subsection 9,”,
- 18VAC110-20-720 9, restructure wording to accommodate electronic storage allowance in 2,
- 18VAC110-20-721 B, strike “hospital”, correct lettering of subsection,
- 18VAC110-20-721 D1, strike “emergency”,
- 18VAC110-20-721 E, at the beginning insert “To the extent permitted by federal law,”, and
- 18VAC110-20-505, strike “hospital”. In A1, after “supervising practitioner” insert “or responsible party”, restructure section by creating a new subsection B that applies only to EMS and ensure subsection A applies to pharmacies. (motion by Nash, seconded by Garvin)

REPEAL GUIDANCE
DOCUMENT 110-41,
“EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES DRUG KITS”

The Board discussed the consideration of repealing Guidance Document 110-41, “Emergency Medical Services Drug Kits”, as it may conflict with the adopted emergency regulatory amendments to EMS-related regulations. Staff indicated it can develop a policy document for educational purposes if needed.

MOTION:

The Board voted unanimously to repeal Guidance Document 110-41. (motion by Richards-Spruill, seconded by Garvin)

ADOPTION OF EMERGENCY
REGULATIONS
REGARDING CRISIS
STABILIZATION SERVICES,
USE OF AUTOMATED DRUG
DISPENSING SYSTEMS AND
REMOTE DISPENSING
SYSTEMS

The Board reviewed and discussed the handout of the draft emergency regulatory amendments regarding crisis stabilization services, and use of automated drug dispensing systems, and remote dispensing systems, along with the relevant information in the agenda packet.

MOTION

The Board voted unanimously to adopt the emergency regulatory amendments regarding crisis stabilization services, use of automated drug dispensing systems, and remote dispensing systems as presented

and amended as follows:

- 18VAC110-20-555 3, replace “for the purpose of stocking or reloading” with “as designated by the PIC or pharmacist on duty”,
- 18VAC110-20-555 11, after “envelope” insert “and if not self-administered.”, and
- 18VAC110-20-555 13, replace “cannister” with “placed in bulk bins”. (motion by Yuan, seconded by Hoffer)

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT
110-19:

The board discussed identifying “other facilities” that may use automated dispensing systems and remote dispensing systems pursuant to 54.1-3434.02 in Guidance Document 110-19. The board reviewed the draft version on page 135 of the agenda packet.

MOTION:

The Board voted unanimously to amend Guidance Document 110-19 as presented. (motion by Garvin, seconded by Dowdy)

ADOPTION OF FAST-TRACK
REGULATION OF QUALITY
STANDARDS FOR
LABORATORIES TESTING
SAMPLES FOR
PHARMACEUTICAL
PROCESSORS

Staff indicated there is a requirement for the board to establish quality standards for laboratories pursuant to § 4.1-1602 that was previously in 54.1-3442.6. The standards were previously adopted in 18VAC110-60-300 A but were inadvertently repealed when the medical cannabis program transitioned to the VCCA on January 1, 2024. Staff recommends the board re-adopt the quality standards previously included in 18VAC110-60-300 A to satisfy the statutory requirement for the board to establish quality standards.

MOTION

The Board voted unanimously to adopt a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action for fast-track regulation to establish quality standards for laboratories testing samples of pharmaceutical processors. (motion by Nash, seconded by Garvin)

AMEND GUIDANCE
DOCUMENT 110-33,
“PHARMACY INTERNS AS
PHARMACY TECHNICIANS,
PHARMACY TECHNICIAN
RATIO, DOCUMENTATION
OF PREVIOUS PRACTICE”

Staff sought clarification regarding whether an out-of-state applicant must hold a current active license or registration in another U.S. jurisdiction at the time application is submitted to Virginia for a pharmacy technician registration and if Guidance Document 110-33 needed to be amended. Board counsel advised that the law and regulations do not require an out-of-state applicant to hold a current active license or registration in another U.S. jurisdiction at the time application is submitted to Virginia for a pharmacy technician registration and therefore, such restriction could not be required in guidance. Therefore, no action was taken on Guidance Document 110-33.

**CONSIDERATION OF
CONSENT ORDERS,
SUMMARY SUSPENSIONS,**

**OR SUMMARY
RESTRICTIONS**

CVS Pharmacy #2691
CVS Pharmacy #3794

Sean Murphy, Assistant Attorney General, presented consent orders for Board consideration regarding CVS Pharmacy #2691 (License #0201-003705) and CVS Pharmacy #3794 (License #0201-003379).

DECISION

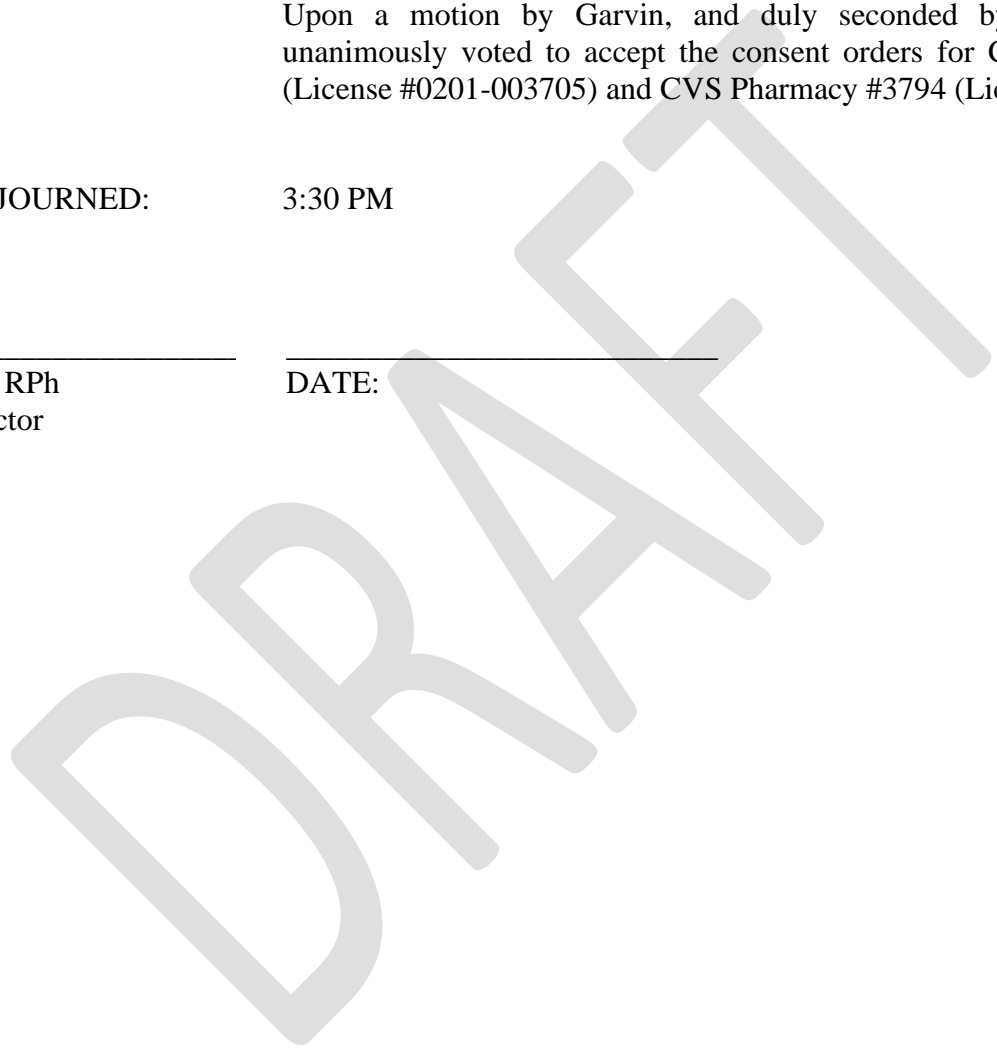
Upon a motion by Garvin, and duly seconded by Hoffer, the Board unanimously voted to accept the consent orders for CVS Pharmacy #2691 (License #0201-003705) and CVS Pharmacy #3794 (License #0201-003379).

MEETING ADJOURNED:

3:30 PM

Caroline Juran, RPh
Executive Director

DATE:



(DRAFT/UNAPPROVED)

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF PHARMACY
MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS REGARDING
ALLOWANCE FOR CENTRALIZED WAREHOUSER OR WHOLESALE
DISTRIBUTOR TO VERIFY SCHEDULE VI DRUGS FOR AUTOMATED DISPENSING
DEVICES IN HOSPITALS AND
PROPOSED REGULATIONS FOR 2022 LEGISLATION REGARDING
PHARMACISTS INITIATING TREATMENT**

Thursday, May 2, 2024

Department of Health Professions
Perimeter Center
9960 Mayland Drive
Henrico, Virginia 23233

CALL TO ORDER: A full board meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM.

PRESIDING: Dale St. Clair, PharmD, Chairman

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cheri Garvin, RPh, Vice Chairman
Shannon Dowdy, PharmD
Michelle Hoffer, JD
Larry Kocot, JD
Wendy Nash, PharmD
Kristopher Ratliff, DPh
Patricia Richards-Spruill, RPh
Ling Yuan, PharmD

MEMBER ABSENT: Sarah Melton, PharmD

STAFF PRESENT: Caroline Juran, RPh, Executive Director
James Rutkowski, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Erin Barrett, JD, DHP Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs
James Jenkins Jr., RN, DHP Deputy Director
Sorayah Haden, Executive Assistant
Beth O'Halloran, RPh, Deputy Executive Director
Ellen Shinaberry, PharmD, Deputy Executive Director
Ryan Logan, RPh, Deputy Executive Director
Annette Kelley, MS, CSAC, Deputy Executive Director

QUORUM: With 9 members present, a quorum was established.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The Chairman indicated the public hearing is being held to consider the following proposed regulations:

- Allowance for centralized warehouse and wholesale distributor to verify Schedule VI drugs for automated dispensing devices in hospitals, and
- 2022 legislation regarding pharmacist initiating treatment.

Natalie Nguyen, PharmD, MSHA, President of Virginia Society of Health-System Pharmacists provided comment consistent with written comment that was provided to the board as a handout. VSHP requested the board amend the proposed regulation regarding allowances for centralized warehouse or wholesale distributor to verify Schedule VI drugs for automated dispensing devices in hospitals as scanning each unit dose is not feasible at the time of restocking within automated dispensing devices. They support scanning one unit dose from the group of doses needed and visually inspecting the remaining doses.

Pharmacist Gill Abernathy provided public comment in support of VSHP's comment regarding the scanning of units.

Pharmacist Courtney Fuller provided public comment in support of VSHP's comment regarding the scanning of units. Dr. Fuller also requested an allowance for pharmacists to provide digital signatures and she recommended establishing a threshold of 90% for barcode scanning.

No comments were offered regarding the proposed regulations for 2022 legislation regarding pharmacist initiating treatment.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:12 AM

Caroline Juran, RPh
Executive Director

DATE:

(FINAL/APPROVED)
VIRGINIA BOARD OF PHARMACY
FORMAL HEARING

Thursday, May 2, 2024
Commonwealth Conference Center
Second Floor
Board Room 2

Department of Health Professions
Perimeter Center
9960 Mayland Drive
Henrico, Virginia 23233

Orders/Consent Orders referred to in these minutes are available upon request

CALL TO ORDER:

A meeting of a panel of the Board of Pharmacy ("Board") was called to order at 3:55 PM for the purpose of a formal hearing in the matter of Selena Beals to discuss allegations that she may have violated certain laws and regulations governing the practice of pharmacy technician trainees in Virginia as provided in the notice dated February 16, 2024.

PRESIDING:

Dale St. Clair, Chairman

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Michelle Hoffer
Mrs. Patricia Richards-Spruill
Ms. Cheri Garvin
Dr. Ling Yuan
Dr. Kris Ratliff
Dr. Wendy Nash
Dr. Shannon Dowdy

STAFF PRESENT:

Caroline D. Juran, Executive Director
Ellen B. Shinaberry, Deputy Executive Director
James Rutkowski, Assistant Attorney General
Jess Weber, Adjudication Specialist
Sorayah Haden, Executive Assistant
Annette Kelley, Deputy Executive Director

PANEL:

With eight (8) members of the Board present, a panel of the board was established.

SELENA BEALS
REGISTRATION NO.: 0245008313

Jess Weber, Adjudication Specialist, presented the case on behalf of the Commonwealth.

Selena Beals was not present at the hearing and was not represented by counsel.

WITNESSES: Meghan Wingate, Senior Investigator for DHP testified in person on behalf of the Commonwealth.

CLOSED MEETING: Upon a motion by Ms. Garvin, and duly seconded by Mrs. Richards-Spruill, the Board voted 8-0, to convene a closed meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code of Virginia ("Code"), for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision regarding the matter of Selena Beals. Additionally, she moved that Ellen Shinaberry, Caroline Juran, Jim Rutkowski, Annette Kelley, and Sorayah Haden attend the closed meeting.

RECONVENE: Having certified that the matters discussed in the preceding closed meeting met the requirements of § 2.2-3712 of the Code, the Board reconvened an open meeting and announced the decision. (Garvin/Ratliff)

DECISION: Upon a motion by Dr. Dowdy, and duly seconded by Dr. Nash, the Board voted 8-0 to accept the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of law as presented by the Commonwealth and amended by the Board.

Upon a motion by Ms. Hoffer, and duly seconded by Mrs. Richards-Spruill, the board voted 8-0 to revoke the pharmacy technician trainee registration of Selena Beals.

ADJOURNED: 4:13 PM

Caroline D. Juran, Executive Director

Date

(DRAFT/UNAPPROVED)

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF PHARMACY
MINUTES OF TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL**

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Department of Health Professions
Perimeter Center
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300
Henrico, Virginia 23233-1463

Orders/Consent Orders referred to in these minutes are available upon request

TIME & PURPOSE: Pursuant to § 54.1-2408.1(A) of the Code of Virginia, a telephone conference call of the Virginia Board of Pharmacy ("TCC") was held on May 15, 2024, at 9:00 AM, to consider the summary suspension in case number 236862.

PRESIDING: Dale St. Clair, Chairman

MEMBERS PRESENT: Larry Kocot
Kristopher Ratliff
Sarah Melton
Cheri Garvin
Shannon Dowdy
Michelle Hoffer

STAFF PRESENT: Ellen Shinaberry, Deputy Executive Director
Mykl Egan, Discipline Case Manager
Caroline Juran, Executive Director
James Rutkowski, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Sean Murphy, Assistant Attorney General
Jess Weber, DHP Adjudication Specialist

POLL OF MEMBERS: The Board members were polled prior to the telephone conference call as to whether they could have attended a regular meeting at the office in a timely manner for the purpose of hearing evidence in a possible summary suspension case. With the except of Mr. Kocot, the Board members stated that they would not have been able to attend.

With seven (7) members participating, it was established that a quorum could not have been convened in a regular meeting to consider this matter.

JENNIFER CLARKE
License No. 0202-205803

Sean Murphy, Senior Assistant Attorney General, presented a summary of the evidence in case no. 236862 regarding the pharmacist license of Jennifer Clarke.

DECISION:

Upon a motion by Dr. Ratliff and duly seconded by Dr. Dowdy, the Board unanimously voted (7-0) that, with the evidence presented, the practice as a pharmacist by Jennifer Clarke poses a substantial danger to the public; and therefore, the license of Ms. Clarke shall be summarily suspended, and with the Notice of formal hearing, a Consent Order shall be offered to Mr. Lewis in lieu of the formal hearing.

ADJOURN:

With all business concluded, the meeting adjourned at 9:17 AM.

Ellen B. Shinaberry, PharmD
Deputy Executive Director

Date

(DRAFT/UNAPPROVED)

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF PHARMACY
MINUTES OF TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL**

Friday, May 24, 2024

Department of Health Professions
Perimeter Center
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300
Henrico, Virginia 23233-1463

Orders/Consent Orders referred to in these minutes are available upon request

TIME & PURPOSE: Pursuant to § 54.1-2408.1(A) of the Code of Virginia, a telephone conference call of the Virginia Board of Pharmacy ("TCC") was held on May 24, 2024, at 10:05 AM, to consider the summary suspension in case numbers 228507 and 232424.

PRESIDING: Dale St. Clair, Chairman

MEMBERS PRESENT: Larry Kocot
Kristopher Ratliff
Sarah Melton
LingYuan
Shannon Dowdy
Michelle Hoffer

STAFF PRESENT: Mykl Egan, Discipline Case Manager
Caroline Juran, Executive Director
James Rutkowski, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Mandy Wilson, Assistant Attorney General
Rebecca Ribley, DHP Adjudication Specialist

POLL OF MEMBERS: The Board members were polled prior to the telephone conference call as to whether they could have attended a regular meeting at the office in a timely manner for the purpose of hearing evidence in a possible summary suspension case. The Board members stated that they would not have been able to attend.

With seven (7) members participating, it was established that a quorum could not have been convened in a regular meeting to consider this matter.

LAUREN BOSTJANICK
License No. 0230-027606

Mandy Wilson, Assistant Attorney General, presented a summary of the evidence in case nos. 228057 and 232424 regarding the pharmacy technician registration of Lauren Bostjanick.

DECISION:

Upon a motion by Dr. Ratliff and duly seconded by Dr. Melton, the Board unanimously voted (7-0) that, with the evidence presented, the practice as a pharmacy technician by Lauren Bostjanick poses a substantial danger to the public; and therefore, the registration of Ms. Bostjanick shall be summarily suspended, and with the Notice of formal hearing, a Consent Order shall be offered to Ms. Bostjanick in lieu of the formal hearing.

ADJOURN:

With all business concluded, the meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM.

Mykl Egan, J.D.
Discipline Case Manager

Date

(DRAFT/UNAPPROVED)

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF PHARMACY
MINUTES OF TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL**

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

Department of Health Professions
Perimeter Center
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300
Henrico, Virginia 23233-1463

Orders/Consent Orders referred to in these minutes are available upon request

TIME & PURPOSE: Pursuant to § 54.1-2408.1(A) of the Code of Virginia, a telephone conference call of the Virginia Board of Pharmacy ("TCC") was held on June 5, 2024, at 12:00 PM, to consider summary suspensions in case numbers 233415 and 234337.

PRESIDING: Dale St. Clair, Chairman

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cheri Garvin
Kristopher Ratliff
Sarah Thomason
Ling Yuan
Michelle Hoffer

STAFF PRESENT: Ellen Shinaberry, Deputy Executive Director
Mykl Egan, Discipline Case Manager
Caroline Juran, Executive Director
James Rutkowski, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Sean Murphy, Assistant Attorney General
Jess Webber, DHP Adjudication Specialist
Rebecca Ribley, DHP Adjudication Specialist

POLL OF MEMBERS: The Board members were polled prior to the telephone conference call as to whether they could have attended a regular meeting at the office in a timely manner for the purpose of hearing evidence in a possible summary suspension case. The Board members stated that they would not have been able to attend.

With six (6) members participating, it was established that a quorum could not have been convened in a regular meeting to consider this matter.

ALEXANDRIA
COMPOUNDING PHARMACY
Permit No. 0201-005087

Sean Murphy, Senior Assistant Attorney General, presented a summary of the evidence in case no. 233415 regarding the pharmacy permit of Alexandria Compounding Pharmacy. Mr. Murphy was assisted by Rebecca Ribley and Jess Weber, Adjudication Specialists.

CLOSED MEETING:

Upon a motion by Ms. Garvin, and duly seconded by Dr. Ratliff, the Board voted 6-0, to convene a closed meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code of Virginia ("Code"), for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision regarding the matter of Alexandria Compounding Pharmacy. Additionally, she moved that Ellen Shinaberry, Caroline Juran, Jim Rutkowski, and Mykl Egan attend the closed meeting.

RECONVENE:

Having certified that the matters discussed in the preceding closed meeting met the requirements of § 2.2-3712 of the Code, the Board reconvened an open meeting and announced the decision. (Garvin/Yuan)

DECISION:

Upon a motion by Dr. Ratliff and duly seconded by Ms. Hoffer, the Board unanimously voted (6-0) that, with the evidence presented, the practice of Alexandria Compounding Pharmacy poses a substantial danger to the public; and therefore, the permit shall be summarily suspended and with the Notice of formal hearing, a Consent Order shall be offered to Alexandria Compounding Pharmacy in lieu of the formal hearing.

KIMBERLY HENLEY
License No. 0202-207272

Sean Murphy, Senior Assistant Attorney General, presented a summary of the evidence in case no. 234337 regarding the pharmacist license of Kimberly Henley. Mr. Murphy was assisted by Rebecca Ribley, Adjudication Specialist, and Jess Weber, Adjudication Specialist.

CLOSED MEETING:

Upon a motion by Ms. Garvin, and duly seconded by Ms. Hoffer, the Board voted 6-0, to convene a closed meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code of

Virginia ("Code"), for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision regarding the matter of Selena Beals. Additionally, she moved that Ellen Shinaberry, Caroline Juran, Jim Rutkowski,, and Mykl Egan attend the closed meeting.

RECONVENE:

Having certified that the matters discussed in the preceding closed meeting met the requirements of § 2.2-3712 of the Code, the Board reconvened an open meeting and announced the decision. (Garvin/Hoffer)

DECISION:

Upon a motion by Dr. Thomason and duly seconded by Dr. Yuan, the Board unanimously voted (6-0) that, with the evidence presented, the practice as a pharmacist by Kimberly Henley poses a substantial danger to the public; and therefore, the license of Ms. Henley shall be summarily suspended and with the Notice of formal hearing, a Consent Order shall be offered to Ms. Davenport in lieu of the formal hearing.

ADJOURN:

With all business concluded, the meeting adjourned at 1:11 PM.

Ellen B. Shinaberry, PharmD
Deputy Executive Director

Date

Board of Pharmacy
Current Regulatory Actions
As of June 4, 2024

In the Governor’s Office

VAC	Stage	Subject Matter	Submitted from agency	Time in current location	Notes
18VAC110-20	Final	Prohibition against incentives to transfer prescriptions	3/29/2017	2204 days; 7.2 years since submission for executive branch review	Addresses a patient safety concern.

In the Secretary’s Office

VAC	Stage	Subject Matter	Submitted from agency	Time in current location	Notes
18VAC110-20	NOIRA	Implementation of 2021 Periodic Review	3/21/2022	793 days; 3.2 years since submission for executive branch review	Implementation of changes identified during 2021 periodic review of regulations governing the practice of pharmacy
18VAC110-21	NOIRA	Implementation of 2021 Periodic Review	3/21/2022	793 days; 3.2 years since submission for executive branch review	Implementation of changes identified during 2021 periodic review of regulations governing the licensure of pharmacists and registration of pharmacy technicians
18VAC110-21	Fast-Track	Repeal of outdated sections	4/18/2023	293 days	Repeals outdated regulations regarding pharmacy

					technician registration
18VAC110-30	Proposed	Implementation of 2021 periodic review	4/18/2023	284 days	Implements changes identified during the periodic review process
18VAC110-20	Fast-Track	Amendment to clarify application of 18VAC110-20-735	6/21/2023	280 days	Clarification that certain regulatory requirements only apply to individuals dispensing injectable formulations of naloxone
18VAC110-30	Fast-track	Name change of nurse practitioner to advanced practice registered nurse	9/29/2023	57 days	Changes reference from nurse practitioner to advanced practice registered nurse pursuant to legislation
18VAC110-20	Proposed	Pharmacy working conditions	12/18/2023	5 days	Implements legislation from 2022 Session regarding pharmacy working conditions

In the Department of Planning and Budget

None.

In the Office of the Attorney General

VAC	Stage	Subject Matter	Submitted from agency	Time in current location	Notes
18VAC110-20	Exempt/Final	March 2024 scheduling of chemicals in Schedule I	4/4/2024	61 days	Adds chemicals to Schedule I
18VAC110-21	Proposed	2023 pharmacists initiating treatment	4/4/2024	61 days	Implements legislation from 2023 Session regarding pharmacists initiating treatment
18VAC110-20	Emergency/NOIRA	Allowances for emergency drugs by EMS agencies	5/15/2024	20 days	Specialized provisions for the use of emergency drugs by EMS agencies as a result of federal regulatory changes
18VAC110-20	Emergency/NOIRA	Crisis stabilization services and use of automated dispensing systems and remote dispensing systems	5/15/2024	20 days	Implements legislation to allow use of ADDs and RDSs by crisis stabilization services
18VAC110-20	Fast-track	Replacement of analytic lab regulation for pharmaceutical processors	5/15/2024	20 days	Replaces the former 18VAC110-60-300(A) into Board of Pharmacy regulations as required by Virginia Code § 4.1-1602

Recently effective or awaiting publication

VAC	Stage	Subject Matter	Publication date	Effective date/ next steps
18VAC110-20	Proposed	Centralized warehouse or wholesale distributor verification of Schedule VI drugs for ADDs in hospitals	4/8/2024	Final action before Board for vote
18VAC110-21	Proposed	2022 pharmacists initiating treatment	4/22/2024	Final action before Board for vote
18VAC110-20 et al.	NOIRA	Increase in fees	5/8/2024	Proposed action before Board for vote
18VAC110-20	Proposed	Exemption of ADDs stocked solely with emergency or stat-use medications from certain requirements of 18VAC110-20-555	6/17/2024	Comment period 6/17/2024 – 8/16/2024; public hearing at meeting. Board will vote on final regulations after the close of public comment

Agenda Item: Adoption of emergency regulations for central fill pharmacies and remote processing by pharmacy technicians.

Included in your agenda package:

- HB1068, which is identical to SB607 and requires the Board to promulgate emergency regulations related to central fill and remote processing;
- Draft regulatory changes which comply with the legislation.
- Suggested amendments offered by Publix
- Board orders for Walgreen's central fill and Leesburg Pharmacy's remote pharmacy technicians innovative pilot orders

Staff Note: Legislation and recommended emergency regulations are based on pilot programs previously approved by the Board.

Action needed:

- Motion to adopt emergency regulations and issue a notice of intended regulatory action regarding central fill and remote processing as presented or amended by the Board.

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2024 SESSION

CHAPTER 407

An Act to direct the Board of Pharmacy to promulgate regulations related to pharmacy outsourcing and pharmacy technician remote database access.

[H 1068]

Approved April 4, 2024

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. *§ 1. The Board of Pharmacy shall promulgate regulations authorizing a pharmacy located in the Commonwealth or out-of-state to outsource tasks associated with dispensing a prescription drug, including verification for accuracy by a pharmacist and alternate delivery to the pharmacy that received the prescription, to a central fill pharmacy permitted in the Commonwealth as a pharmacy or registered as a nonresident pharmacy. In accordance with the regulations, a central fill pharmacy may operate when sufficient automation is employed to safely support the practice of pharmacy and limit distractions for pharmacy personnel, the central fill pharmacy does not accept prescriptions or communications directly from patients or providers, and dispensing is restricted to Schedule VI drugs. The regulations shall authorize the following: (i) the maximum number of persons performing the duties of a pharmacy technician and support personnel a pharmacist may supervise at one time; however, each pharmacist shall determine the number of persons he can safely and competently supervise at one time, not to exceed the maximum number established by the Board of Pharmacy; (ii) pharmacist verification of a drug canister after filling but prior to being placed on a barcoded automated robotic dispenser, in lieu of pharmacist verification of each prescription product for accuracy; (iii) a one-time written notification or sign of the dispensing and delivery process at the initiating pharmacy receiving the prescription; (iv) allowance for an unregistered and unlicensed person to assist in non-dispensing functions such as inventory, delivery, receiving, or packing of completed prescription orders when supported by barcode scanning or other technology; and (v) delivery of the dispensed drug to the patient's residence or originating pharmacy that received the prescription. The transfer of the prescriptions shall not be required if the pharmacies share a common electronic file or have technology that allows sufficient information necessary for dispensing the prescription.*

§ 2. The Board of Pharmacy shall promulgate regulations that allow for pharmacy technicians to access the pharmacy's database from a remote location for the purpose of performing certain prescription processing functions, as further defined in 18VAC110-20-276 (A) of the Virginia Administrative Code.

2. That the Board of Pharmacy shall promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of this act to be effective within 280 days of its enactment.

§ 54.1-3300. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Dispense" means to deliver a drug to an ultimate user or research subject by or pursuant to the lawful order of a practitioner, including the prescribing and administering, packaging, labeling, or compounding necessary to prepare the substance for delivery.

18VAC110-20-10. Definitions.

In addition to words and terms defined in §§ 54.1-3300 and 54.1-3401 of the Code of Virginia, the following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Dispensing error" means one or more of the following discovered after the final verification by the pharmacist, regardless of whether the patient received the drug:

1. Variation from the prescriber's prescription drug order, including:
 - a. Incorrect drug;
 - b. Incorrect drug strength;
 - c. Incorrect dosage form;
 - d. Incorrect patient; or
 - e. Inadequate or incorrect packaging, labeling, or directions.
2. Failure to exercise professional judgment in identifying and managing:
 - a. Known therapeutic duplication;
 - b. Known drug-disease contraindications;
 - c. Known drug-drug interactions;
 - d. Incorrect drug dosage or duration of drug treatment;
 - e. Known drug-allergy interactions;
 - f. A clinically significant, avoidable delay in therapy; or
 - g. Any other significant, actual, or potential problem with a patient's drug therapy.
3. Delivery of a drug to the incorrect patient.
4. Variation in bulk repackaging or filling of automated devices, including:
 - a. Incorrect drug;
 - b. Incorrect drug strength;
 - c. Incorrect dosage form; or

d. Inadequate or incorrect packaging or labeling.

18VAC110-20-275. Delivery of dispensed prescriptions.

A. Pursuant to § 54.1-3420.2 B of the Code of Virginia, in addition to direct hand delivery to a patient or patient's agent or delivery to a patient's residence, a pharmacy may deliver a dispensed prescription drug order for Schedule VI controlled substances to another pharmacy, to a practitioner of the healing arts licensed to practice pharmacy or to sell controlled substances, or to an authorized person or entity holding a controlled substances registration issued for this purpose in compliance with this section and any other applicable state or federal law. Prescription drug orders for Schedule II through Schedule V controlled substances may not be delivered to an alternate delivery location unless such delivery is authorized by federal law and regulations of the board.

B. Delivery to another pharmacy.

1. One pharmacy may fill prescriptions and deliver the prescriptions to a second pharmacy for patient pickup or direct delivery to the patient provided the two pharmacies have the same owner, or have a written contract or agreement specifying the services to be provided by each pharmacy, the responsibilities of each pharmacy, and the manner in which each pharmacy will comply with all applicable federal and state law.

2. Each pharmacy using such a drug delivery system shall maintain and comply with all procedures in a current policy and procedure manual that includes the following information:

a. A description of how each pharmacy will comply with all applicable federal and state law;

b. The procedure for maintaining required, retrievable dispensing records to include which pharmacy maintains the hard-copy prescription, which pharmacy maintains the active prescription record for refilling purposes, how each pharmacy will access prescription information necessary to carry out its assigned responsibilities, method of recordkeeping for identifying the pharmacist responsible for dispensing the prescription and counseling the patient, and how and where this information can be accessed upon request by the board;

c. The procedure for tracking the prescription during each stage of the filling, dispensing, and delivery process;

d. The procedure for identifying on the prescription label all pharmacies involved in filling and dispensing the prescription;

e. The policy and procedure for providing adequate security to protect the confidentiality and integrity of patient information;

f. The policy and procedure for ensuring accuracy and accountability in the delivery process;

g. The procedure and recordkeeping for returning to the initiating pharmacy any prescriptions that are not delivered to the patient; and

h. The procedure for informing the patient and obtaining consent for using such a dispensing and delivery process.

3. Drugs waiting to be picked up at or delivered from the second pharmacy shall be stored in accordance with subsection A of 18VAC110-20-200.

C. Delivery to a practitioner of the healing arts licensed by the board to practice pharmacy or to sell controlled substances or other authorized person or entity holding a controlled substances registration authorized for this purpose.

1. A prescription may be delivered by a pharmacy to the office of such a practitioner or other authorized person provided there is a written contract or agreement between the two parties describing the procedures for such a delivery system and the responsibilities of each party.

2. Each pharmacy using this delivery system shall maintain a policy and procedure manual that includes the following information:

a. Procedure for tracking and assuring security, accountability, integrity, and accuracy of delivery for the dispensed prescription from the time it leaves the pharmacy until it is handed to the patient or agent of the patient;

b. Procedure for providing counseling;

c. Procedure and recordkeeping for return of any prescription medications not delivered to the patient;

d. The procedure for assuring confidentiality of patient information; and

e. The procedure for informing the patient and obtaining consent for using such a delivery process.

3. Prescriptions waiting to be picked up by a patient at the alternate site shall be stored in a lockable room or lockable cabinet, cart, or other device that cannot be easily moved and that shall be locked at all times when not in use. Access shall be restricted to the licensed practitioner of the healing arts or the responsible party listed on the application for the controlled substances registration, or either person's designee.

D. The contracts or agreements and the policy and procedure manuals required by this section for alternate delivery shall be maintained both at the originating pharmacy as well as the alternate delivery site.

E. A controlled substances registration as an alternate delivery site shall only be issued to an entity without a prescriber or pharmacist present at all times the site is open if there is a valid patient health or safety reason not to deliver dispensed prescriptions directly to the patient and if compliance with all requirements for security, policies, and procedures can be reasonably assured.

F. The pharmacy and alternate delivery site shall be exempt from compliance with subsections B through E of this section if (i) the alternate delivery site is a pharmacy, a practitioner of healing arts licensed by the board to practice pharmacy or sell controlled substances, or other entity holding a controlled substances registration for the purpose of delivering controlled substances; (ii) the

alternate delivery site does not routinely receive deliveries from the pharmacy; and (iii) compliance with subsections B through E of this section would create a delay in delivery that may result in potential patient harm. However, the pharmacy and alternate delivery site shall comply with following requirements:

1. To ensure appropriate coordination of patient care, the pharmacy shall notify the alternate delivery site of the anticipated arrival date of the shipment, the exact address to where the drug was shipped, the name of the patient for whom the drug was dispensed, and any special storage requirements.
2. The pharmacy shall provide counseling or ensure a process is in place for the patient to receive counseling.
3. Prescriptions delivered to the alternate delivery site shall be stored in a lockable room or lockable cabinet, cart, or other device that cannot be easily moved and that shall be locked at all times when not in use. Access shall be restricted to the licensed prescriber, pharmacist, or either person's designee.
4. The pharmacy shall provide a procedure for the return of any prescription drugs not delivered or subsequently administered to the patient.

G. A pharmacy shall not deliver dispensed drugs to a patient's residence that are intended to be subsequently transported by the patient or patient's agent to a hospital, medical clinic, prescriber's office, or pharmacy for administration and that require special storage, reconstitution or compounding prior to administration. An exception to this requirement may be made for patients with inherited bleeding disorders who may require therapy to prevent or treat bleeding episodes.

18VAC110-20-276. Central or remote processing.

A. Centralized or remote processing of a prescription does not include the dispensing of a drug, but does include any of the following activities related to the dispensing process:

1. Receiving, interpreting, analyzing, or clarifying prescriptions;
2. Entering prescription and patient data into a data processing system;
3. Transferring prescription information;
4. Performing a prospective drug review as set forth in § 54.1-3319 of the Code of Virginia;
5. Obtaining refill or substitution authorizations, or otherwise communicating with the prescriber concerning a patient's prescription;
6. Interpreting clinical data for prior authorization for dispensing;
7. Performing therapeutic interventions; or
8. Providing drug information or counseling concerning a patient's prescription to the patient or patient's agent.

B. A pharmacy may outsource certain prescription processing functions as described in subsection A of this section to another pharmacy in Virginia or a registered nonresident pharmacy under the following conditions:

1. The pharmacies shall either have the same owner or have a written contract describing the scope of services to be provided and the responsibilities and accountabilities of each pharmacy in compliance with all federal and state laws and regulations related to the practice of pharmacy;

2. Any central or remote pharmacy shall comply with Virginia law and regulation with respect to requirements for supervision of pharmacy technicians and the duties that are restricted to pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. Pharmacy technicians at the remote pharmacy shall either be registered in Virginia or possess credentials substantially equivalent to those required for a technician registered in Virginia;

3. A pharmacist licensed in Virginia, whether at the remote pharmacy or the dispensing pharmacy, shall perform a check for accuracy on all processing done by the remote processor; and

4. The pharmacies shall share a common electronic file or have technology that allows sufficient information necessary to process a nondispensing function.

C. Any pharmacy that outsources prescription processing to another pharmacy shall provide notification of such to patients. A one-time written notification or a sign posted in the pharmacy in a location that is readily visible to the public will satisfy this notification requirement. The notice shall state the name of any contract pharmacy providing central or remote prescription processing. If the pharmacy uses a network of pharmacies under common ownership, this fact shall be disclosed in the notice.

D. A policy and procedure manual that relates to central or remote processing shall be maintained at each pharmacy involved in the processing of a prescription and available for inspection. The manual shall at a minimum include the following:

1. The responsibilities of each pharmacy;
2. A list of the name, address, telephone numbers, and permit/registration numbers of all pharmacies involved in central or remote processing;
3. Procedures for protecting the confidentiality and integrity of patient information;
4. Procedures for ensuring that pharmacists performing prospective drug reviews have access to appropriate drug information resources;
5. Procedures for maintaining required records;
6. Procedures for complying with all applicable laws and regulations to include counseling;
7. Procedures for objectively and systematically monitoring and evaluating the quality of the program to resolve problems and improve services; and
8. Procedures for annually reviewing the written policies and procedures for needed modifications and documenting such review.

Commented [CJ1]: Refer to suggested amendments in document from Publix.

E. In addition to any other required records, pharmacies engaged in central or remote processing shall maintain retrievable records that show, for each prescription processed, each individual processing function and identity of the pharmacist or pharmacy technician who performs a processing function and the pharmacist who checked the processing function, if applicable.

1. The records may be maintained separately by each pharmacy, or in a common electronic file shared by both pharmacies provided the system can produce a record showing each processing task, the identity of the person performing each task, and the location where each task was performed.

2. The record shall be readily retrievable for at least the past two years through the primary dispensing pharmacy, and shall be available for inspection by the board.

F. Nothing in this section shall prohibit an individual employee licensed as a pharmacist or registered as a pharmacy technician or pharmacy intern performing the duties of a pharmacy technician in Virginia from accessing the employer pharmacy's database from a remote location for the purpose of performing certain prescription processing functions as described in subsection A of this section, provided the pharmacy establishes controls to protect the privacy and security of confidential records.

18VAC110-20-277 Central fill pharmacy.

A. Notwithstanding activities authorized in 18VAC110-20-275, 18VAC110-20-276, and 18VAC110-20-515, a pharmacy located in the Commonwealth or out-of-state may outsource tasks associated with dispensing a prescription drug, including verification for accuracy by a pharmacist and alternate delivery to the originating pharmacy that received the prescription, to a central fill pharmacy permitted in the Commonwealth as a pharmacy or registered as a nonresident pharmacy.

B. A central fill pharmacy may operate if:

1. Sufficient automation is employed to safely support the practice of pharmacy and limit distractions for pharmacy personnel;

2. The central fill pharmacy does not accept prescriptions or communications directly from patients or providers; and

3. Dispensing is restricted to Schedule VI drugs.

C. Notwithstanding § 54.1-3321, an unregistered or unlicensed person may perform the following non-dispensing functions at a central fill pharmacy:

1. The movement of sealed manufacturer bottles from an inventory shelf to a pharmacy technician's workspace for the purpose of filling a cannister when the filling of the cannister is completed by a pharmacist, pharmacy intern, pharmacy technician, or pharmacy technician trainee who barcode scans or uses other technology to verify each individual bottle or package of medication prior to filling the cannister.

2. Manually bagging prepared prescriptions when barcode scanning or use of other technology is used to verify the prescription product vial, prescription medication leaflet, and prescription bag label.

3. Loading an automated robotic dispenser with the pharmacist-verified and sealed cannister when barcode scanning or other technology is used to verify accurate placement of each cannister.

Commented [CJ2]: Publix recommends including pharmacy interns and pharmacy technician trainees. Since the law requires an intern performing pharmacist tasks to be directly monitored by a supervising pharmacist, it appears the intern may only perform duties restricted to a tech.

54.1-3320 states B. A pharmacy intern may engage in the acts to be performed by a pharmacist as set forth in subsection A or the Drug Control Act (§ 54.1-3400 et seq.) for the purpose of obtaining practical experience required for licensure as a pharmacist, if the supervising pharmacist is directly monitoring these activities.

Similar direct monitoring requirement for pharmacy technician trainees.

54.1-3321

F. A pharmacy technician trainee enrolled in a training program for pharmacy technicians described in subdivision B 2 may engage in the acts set forth in subsection A for the purpose of obtaining practical experience required for completion of the training program, so long as such activities are directly monitored by a supervising pharmacist.

Commented [CJ3]: Staff can potentially ask pharmacies to identify practice type via pharmacy permit renewal process.

4. Performing monthly cycle counts of sealed manufacturer-packaged products and sealed canisters; however, the opening of a sealed manufacturer-packaged product or cannister and the counting of an unsealed manufacturer-packaged product or cannister is not permitted.

D. A pharmacist practicing at a central fill pharmacy may supervise up to 12 persons, to include pharmacy technicians, pharmacy technician trainees, pharmacy interns, and unregistered or unlicensed persons performing non-dispensing functions authorized in this subsection. Each pharmacist shall determine the number of persons he can safely and competently supervise at one time.

E. Notwithstanding 18 VAC 110-20-270(B), pharmacist verification of a cannister of medication after it is filled and sealed but prior to being loaded into a barcoded automated robotic dispenser serves as the final product verification of a prescription. Pharmacists shall verify and check for the accuracy of all drugs packaged or repackaged for use by the robot by a visual check of the contents prior to stocking the drugs in the robotic pharmacy system. A repackaging record shall be maintained in accordance with 18VAC110-20-355(A), and the verifying pharmacist shall initial the record. Packaging and labeling, including the appropriate beyond-use date, shall conform to requirements of this chapter and current USP-NF standards. This provision shall not constitute a waiver of the requirement for a pharmacist to verify the accuracy of data entry of the prescription.

F. A central fill pharmacy shall ensure that each pharmacy receiving dispensed drugs from the central fill pharmacy shall provide a one-time written notification or a sign posted in the pharmacy in a location that is readily visible to the public as its notification of the dispensing and delivery process. 18VAC110-20-275 B 2 h shall not apply to central fill pharmacies and those pharmacies receiving dispensed drugs from central fill pharmacies.

G. A written policy and procedure must be maintained by the central fill pharmacy and complied with and shall include, at minimum, procedures for ensuring:

1. Accurate packaging and repackaging of all drugs for use in the robotic pharmacy system, to include properly labeled barcodes and the method for ensuring pharmacist verification of all packaged and repackaged drugs compliant with this section and assigned barcodes;

2. Accurate stocking and restocking of the robotic pharmacy system;

3. Removing expired drugs;

4. Proper handling of drugs that may be dropped by the robotic pharmacy system;

5. Performing routine maintenance of the robotic pharmacy system as indicated by manufacturer's schedules and recommendations;

6. Appropriately performing an analysis to investigate, identify, and correct sources of discrepancies or errors associated with the robotic pharmacy system; and

7. Maintaining quality assurance reports.

H. All manual picks for dispensing at a central fill pharmacy shall be verified for accuracy by a pharmacist.

I. If it is identified that the robot at a central fill pharmacy selected an incorrect medication, the pharmacy shall identify and correct the source of discrepancy or error in compliance with the pharmacy's policies and procedures prior to resuming full operation of the robot. An investigation of the cause of the event shall be completed, and the outcome of the corrective action plan shall be summarized and documented in a readily retrievable format.

J. One prescription per automated dispensing device per quarter shall be redirected to a pharmacist to audit for prescription product accuracy in all components. Quarterly quality assurance records related to these audits shall be maintained for two years from the date the

audit is performed.

K. A central fill pharmacy may deliver the dispensed drug to the patient's residence or the originating pharmacy that received the prescription pursuant to § 54.1-3420.2 and 18VAC110-20-275.

L. An out-of-state pharmacy solely returning drug that was not delivered to the patient to the central fill pharmacy that dispensed the drug as authorized in § 54.1-3411.1 shall be exempt from obtaining registration as a nonresident pharmacy.

M. The transfer of the prescription between the originating pharmacy that received the prescription and the central fill pharmacy shall not be required if the pharmacies share a common electronic file or have technology that allows sufficient information necessary for dispensing the prescription.

18VAC110-20-515. Remote prescription order processing for hospitals and long-term care facilities.

A. Remote processing of a prescription does not include the dispensing of a drug, but does include any of the following activities related to the dispensing process:

1. Receiving, interpreting, analyzing, or clarifying prescriptions;
2. Entering prescription and patient data into a data processing system;
3. Transferring prescription information;
4. Performing a prospective drug review to include an evaluation of a prescription order and patient records for over- or under-utilization of medication, therapeutic duplication of medication, drug disease contraindications, drug interactions, incorrect drug dosage or duration of drug treatment, or clinical abuse or misuse of medication;
5. Obtaining substitution authorizations, or otherwise communicating with the prescriber concerning a patient's order;
6. Interpreting or acting on clinical data;
7. Performing therapeutic interventions;
8. Providing drug information to the medical or nursing staff of the hospital or long-term care facility; or
9. Authorizing the administration of the drug to the patient by appropriate hospital or longterm care facility staff.

B. The primary pharmacy providing pharmacy services to a hospital or long-term care facility may outsource certain order processing functions as described in subsection A of this section to another pharmacy in Virginia or a registered nonresident pharmacy under the following conditions:

1. The pharmacies shall either have the same owner or have a written contract describing the scope of services to be provided and the responsibilities and accountabilities of each pharmacy in compliance with all federal and state laws and regulations related to the practice of pharmacy;

2. Any central or remote pharmacy shall comply with Virginia law and regulation with respect to requirements for supervision of pharmacy technicians and the duties that are restricted to pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. Pharmacy technicians at the remote pharmacy shall either be registered in Virginia or possess credentials substantially equivalent to those required for a technician registered in Virginia;

3. Any pharmacist participating in remote prescription order processing shall be a Virginia licensed pharmacist; and

4. The pharmacies shall share a common electronic file or have technology that allows sufficient information necessary to process a prescription order.

C. A policy and procedure manual that relates to remote processing shall be maintained at each pharmacy involved in the processing of a prescription and available for inspection. The manual shall at a minimum include the following:

1. The responsibilities of each pharmacy;

2. A list of the name, address, telephone numbers, and permit/registration numbers of all pharmacies involved in remote processing;

3. Procedures for protecting the confidentiality and integrity of patient information;

4. Procedures for ensuring that pharmacists performing prospective drug reviews have access to appropriate drug information resources;

5. Procedures for maintaining required records;

6. Procedures for complying with all applicable laws and regulations;

7. Procedures for objectively and systematically monitoring and evaluating the quality of the program to resolve problems and improve services; and

8. Procedures for annually reviewing the written policies and procedures for needed modifications and documenting such review.

D. A pharmacy involved in remote prescription order processing shall maintain a record that identifies each person who performed a processing function for every order.

1. The record shall be available by prescription order or by patient name.

2. The record may be maintained in a common electronic file if the record is maintained in such a manner that the data processing system can produce a printout that identifies every person who performed a task involved in processing a prescription order and the location where the task was processed.

3. The record shall be readily retrievable for at least the past two years through the primary dispensing pharmacy, and shall be available for inspection by the board.

E. Nothing in this section shall prohibit an individual employee licensed as a pharmacist in Virginia from accessing the employer pharmacy's database from a remote location for the purpose of performing certain prescription processing functions as described in subsection A of this section provided the pharmacy establishes controls to protect the privacy and security of confidential records.

DRAFT

Suggested amendments offered by Publix

18VAC110-20-276. Central or remote processing.

A. Centralized or remote processing of a prescription does not include the dispensing of a drug, but ~~does~~ **may** include any of the following activities related to the dispensing process:

1. Receiving, interpreting, analyzing, or clarifying prescriptions;
2. Entering prescription and patient data into a data processing system;
3. Transferring prescription information;
4. Performing a prospective drug review as set forth in § 54.1-3319 of the Code of Virginia;
5. Obtaining refill or substitution authorizations, or otherwise communicating with the prescriber concerning a patient's prescription;
6. Interpreting clinical data for prior authorization for dispensing;
7. Performing therapeutic interventions; ~~or~~
8. Providing drug information or counseling concerning a patient's prescription to the patient or patient's agent-; **or**

9. Prescription product accuracy

B. A pharmacy may outsource certain prescription processing functions as described in subsection A of this section to another pharmacy in Virginia or a registered nonresident pharmacy under the following conditions:

1. The pharmacies shall either have the same owner or have a written contract describing the scope of services to be provided and the responsibilities and accountabilities of each pharmacy in compliance with all federal and state laws and regulations related to the practice of pharmacy;
- ~~2. Any central or remote pharmacy shall comply with Virginia law and regulation with respect to requirements for supervision of pharmacy technicians and the duties that are restricted to pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. Pharmacy technicians at the remote pharmacy shall either be registered in Virginia or possess credentials substantially equivalent to those required for a technician registered in Virginia;~~
- ~~3. A pharmacist licensed in Virginia whether at the remote pharmacy or the dispensing pharmacy, shall perform a check for accuracy on all processing done by the remote processor; and~~
- ~~4.~~ **2.** The pharmacies shall share a common electronic file or have technology that allows sufficient information necessary to process a nondispensing function.

C. Any pharmacy that outsources prescription processing to another pharmacy shall provide notification of such to patients. A one-time written notification or a sign posted in the pharmacy in a location that is readily visible to the public will satisfy this notification requirement. The notice shall state the name of any contract pharmacy providing central or remote prescription processing. If the pharmacy uses a network of pharmacies under common ownership, this fact shall be disclosed in the notice.

D. A policy and procedure manual that relates to central or remote processing shall be maintained at each pharmacy involved in the processing of a prescription and available for inspection. The manual shall at a minimum include the following:

1. The responsibilities of each pharmacy;
2. A list of the name, address, telephone numbers, and permit/registration numbers of all pharmacies involved in central or remote processing;
3. Procedures for protecting the confidentiality and integrity of patient information;
4. Procedures for ensuring that pharmacists performing prospective drug reviews have access to appropriate drug information resources;

5. Procedures for maintaining required records;
6. Procedures for complying with all applicable laws and regulations to include counseling;
7. Procedures for objectively and systematically monitoring and evaluating the quality of the program to resolve problems and improve services; and
8. Procedures for annually reviewing the written policies and procedures for needed modifications and documenting such review.

E. In addition to any other required records, pharmacies engaged in central or remote processing shall maintain retrievable records that show, for each prescription processed, each individual processing function and identity of the pharmacist or pharmacy technician who performs a processing function and the pharmacist who checked the processing function, if applicable.

1. The records may be maintained separately by each pharmacy, or in a common electronic file shared by both pharmacies provided the system can produce a record showing each processing task, the identity of the person performing each task, and the location where each task was performed.

2. The record shall be readily retrievable for at least the past two years through the primary dispensing pharmacy, and shall be available for inspection by the board.

F. Nothing in this section shall prohibit an individual ~~employee licensed as a pharmacist in Virginia~~ pharmacist, pharmacy technician or intern who is an employee of or under contract with a permitted pharmacy from accessing ~~the employer~~ that pharmacy's ~~database~~ electronic system from a ~~remote location for the purpose of performing certain~~ inside or outside the pharmacy and performing prescription processing functions as described in subsection A of this section, provided the pharmacy establishes controls to protect the privacy and security of confidential records.

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF PHARMACY

IN RE: Walgreens Central Fill #21420
Facility Permit Number: 0201005075
Innovative (Pilot) Program Applicant
Case Number: 225290

ORDER

JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4019 and 54.1-2400(10), a Special Conference Committee ("Committee") of the Virginia Board of Pharmacy ("Board") held an informal conference on February 8, 2023, in Henrico County, Virginia, to receive and act upon the application of Walgreens Central Fill #21420 for approval of an innovative (pilot) program, Walgreens Central Fill Operations, in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Derek Parvizi, Pharmacist-in-Charge, Healthcare Supervisor, Shauna Peterson, Senior Director of Operations, Jeenu Philip, Director of Pharmacy Affairs, and Tolu Akinwale, Director of Patient Safety and Regulatory Compliance, appeared as the representatives of Walgreens Central Fill #21420 at this proceeding, and Walgreens Central Fill #21420 was not represented by legal counsel.

Upon consideration of the evidence, the Committee adopts the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and issues the Order contained herein.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. On May 12, 2023, the Board issued Permit Number 0201-005075 to Walgreens Central Fill #21420 to conduct a pharmacy in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Said permit is scheduled to expire on April 30, 2024.

2. Walgreens Central Fill #21420 is a pharmacy located and bearing the address of 8440 Times Dispatch Boulevard, Mechanicsville, Virginia 23116.

3. On December 28, 2022, Walgreens Central Fill #21420, submitted an application for approval to conduct an innovative (pilot) program, Walgreens Central Fill Operations.

4. On January 5, 2023, Walgreens Central Fill #21420 submitted a revised application for approval to conduct an innovative (pilot) program, naming a different responsible party for the program.

5. Walgreens Central Fill #21420 requested a waiver of the requirement of 18 VAC 110-20-112(A) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Pharmacy (“Regulations”), which limits a pharmacist to the supervision of not more than four persons performing the duties of a pharmacy technician at one time. Specifically, Walgreens Central Fill #21420 requested that one pharmacist be permitted to supervise up to twelve pharmacy technicians at its facility.

6. Walgreens Central Fill #21420 requested a waiver of 18 VAC 110-20-270(B) of the Regulations, which requires that after a prescription has been prepared and prior to the delivery of an order, a pharmacist shall inspect the prescription product to verify its accuracy in all respects and place his initials on the record of dispensing as a certification of the accuracy of and the responsibility for the entire transaction. Specifically, Walgreens Central Fill #21420 is requesting that pharmacist verification of a cannister of medication after it is filled but prior to being placed into the barcoded automated robotic dispenser serve as the final product verification of a prescription.

7. Walgreens Central Fill #21420 was listed on both applications as the pharmacy where the innovative (pilot) program would be conducted.

8. At the informal conference, the representatives from Walgreens Central Fill #21420 discussed with the Committee the additional need to waive Virginia Code § 54.1-3321(A)(3), (5), and (6), which limits the stocking or loading of automated dispensing devices or other devices used in the dispensing process to pharmacy technicians.

9. The Committee determined that a non-resident pharmacy registration is not required when an out of state pharmacy ships a sealed unit of use drug that was not picked up by the patient back to Walgreens Central Fill #21420.

10. The application of Walgreens Central Fill #21420 for approval of an innovative (pilot) program, which is incorporated into these Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as “Attachment A,” is properly before the Board, and it is within the Board’s discretion to grant or deny said application.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Virginia Board of Pharmacy hereby ORDERS that the Board APPROVES the application of Walgreens Central Fill #21420’s innovative (pilot) program, Walgreens Central Fill Operations, contingent upon the following terms and conditions:

1. This Order shall be effective for three years from the date this order is entered by the Board.

2. The approval of this innovative (pilot) program is limited to Schedule VI drugs.

3. The requirement of 18 VAC 110-20-112(A) of the Regulations that a pharmacist shall not supervise more than four persons performing the duties of a pharmacy technician shall be waived. Pursuant to this waiver, a pharmacist employed at Walgreens Central Fill #21420 may supervise up to twelve persons performing the duties of a pharmacy technician at one time; however, each pharmacist shall determine the number of pharmacy interns, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy technician trainees he can safely and competently supervise at one time, not to exceed twelve persons.

4. The requirement of 18 VAC 110-20-270(B) of the Regulations that after a prescription has been prepared, and prior to the delivery of an order, a pharmacist shall inspect the prescription product to verify its accuracy in all respects and place their initials on the record of dispensing as a

certification of the accuracy of and the responsibility for the entire transaction, shall be waived. Pursuant to this waiver, pharmacist verification of a cannister of medication after it is filled and sealed but prior to being loaded into a barcoded automated robotic dispenser serves as the final product verification of a prescription. Pharmacists shall verify and check for the accuracy of all drugs packaged or repackaged for use by the robot by a visual check of the contents prior to stocking the drugs in the robotic pharmacy system. A repackaging record shall be maintained in accordance with 18VAC110-20-355(A) of the Regulations, and the verifying pharmacist shall initial the record. Packaging and labeling, including the appropriate beyond-use date, shall conform to requirements of this chapter and current USP-NF standards. This waiver shall not constitute a waiver of the requirement for a pharmacist to verify the accuracy of data entry of a prescription at the pharmacy where the prescription originates.

5. The requirement of 18 VAC 110-20-275(B)(2)(h) of the Regulations that each pharmacy using such a drug delivery system shall maintain and comply with all procedures in a current policy and procedures manual that includes the procedure for informing the patient and obtaining consent for using such a dispensing and delivering process shall be waived. Pursuant to this waiver, Walgreens Central Fill #21420 shall ensure that each pharmacy receiving dispensed drugs from the central fill location shall provide a one-time written notification or a sign posted in the pharmacy in a location that is readily visible to the public as its notification of the dispensing and delivery process.

6. The requirement of Virginia Code § 54.1-3321(A)(3), which limits the removal of the drug to be dispensed from inventory to pharmacy technicians, shall be waived. Pursuant to this waiver, the movement of sealed manufacturer bottles of medications from an inventory shelf to a pharmacy technician's workspace for the purpose of filling a cannister shall not be limited to licensed personnel; however, the filling of a cannister must be completed by a licensed pharmacist, or registered pharmacy

intern, pharmacy technician, or pharmacy technician trainee. In doing so, the licensed or registered personnel must barcode scan each individual bottle/package of medication prior to filling the cannister.

7. The requirement of Virginia Code § 54.1-3321(A)(5), which limits the packaging and labeling of the drug to be dispensed and the repackaging thereof to pharmacy technicians, shall be waived. Pursuant to this waiver, unlicensed personnel are permitted to bag manually prepared prescriptions if barcode scanning for (1) the prescription product vial, (2) the prescription medication leaflet, and (3) the bag label match and are valid.

8. The requirement of Virginia Code § 54.1-3321(A)(6), which limits the stocking or loading of automated dispensing devices or other devices used in the dispensing process to pharmacy technicians shall be waived. Pursuant to this waiver, an unlicensed employee of Walgreens Central Fill #21420 may load the barcoded automated robotic dispenser with the pharmacist-verified and sealed cannister as long as there is a valid barcode scan.

9. Unlicensed personnel acting as an inventory specialist may perform monthly cycle counts of sealed manufacturer-packaged products and sealed canisters, but may not open or count drugs in an unsealed manufacturer-packaged product or cannister.

10. A written policy and procedure must be maintained and complied with and shall include, at minimum, procedures for ensuring:

- a. Accurate packaging and repackaging of all drugs for use in the robotic pharmacy system, to include properly labeled barcodes and the method for ensuring pharmacist verification of all packaged and repackaged drugs compliant with this Order and assigned barcodes;
- b. Accurate stocking and restocking of the robotic pharmacy system;
- c. Removing expired drugs;
- d. Proper handling of drugs that may be dropped by the robotic pharmacy system;

e. Performing routine maintenance of the robotic pharmacy system as indicated by manufacturer's schedules and recommendations;

f. Appropriately performing an analysis to investigate, identify, and correct sources of discrepancies or errors associated with the robotic pharmacy system; and

i. Maintaining quality assurance reports.

11. All manual picks shall be checked by pharmacists.

12. If it is identified that the robot selected an incorrect medication, the pharmacy shall identify and correct the source of discrepancy or error in compliance with the pharmacy's policies and procedures prior to resuming full operation of the robot. An investigation of the cause of the event shall be completed, and the outcome of the corrective action plan shall be summarized and documented in a readily retrievable format.

13. One prescription per automated dispensing device per quarter shall be redirected to a pharmacist to audit for prescription product accuracy in all components. Quarterly quality assurance records related to these audits shall be maintained.

14. Within one year of the effective date of this Order, the innovative (pilot) program shall be subject to one unannounced inspection at the facility by the Board or its designated representative. The inspection is independent from any routine inspection. Walgreens Central Fill #21420 shall be solely responsible for the cost of the inspection to be paid to the Board within thirty days from the date of the statement of monies owed, which will be mailed following the inspection. In the event that any inspection reveals a possible violation of the laws or regulations pertaining to the practice of pharmacy in Virginia or the Virginia Drug Control Act (Virginia Code §§ 54.1-3400 *et seq.*), the Board may notice Walgreens Central Fill #21420 to appear for an administrative proceeding.

15. Except as specifically waived in this Order, Walgreens Central Fill #21420 shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations governing the practice of pharmacy in the Commonwealth of Virginia and with the processes as proposed in the application for the innovative (pilot) program.

16. All records required of this innovative (pilot) program shall be maintained for no less than two years and be available upon inspection or request by the Board.

17. Any operational changes or modifications to the innovative (pilot) program shall be approved by the Board prior to initiation of the modification.

18. Any violation of this Order shall constitute grounds for the rescission of the approval, and an administrative proceeding shall be convened to determine whether the approval shall be rescinded.

19. To request the renewal of the innovative (pilot) program, an application and current renewal fee per the Regulations must be submitted to the Board no less than 90 days prior to the expiration of this Consent Order.

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-4023 and 54.1-2400.2, the signed original of this Order shall remain in the custody of the Department of Health Professions as a public record, and shall be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

FOR THE BOARD



Caroline D. Juran
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Pharmacy

ENTERED AND MAILED ON:

5/22/2023

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400(10), Walgreens Central Fill #21420 may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on June 26, 2023, notify Caroline D. Juran, Executive Director, Board of Pharmacy, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233, in writing that it desires a formal administrative hearing before the Board. Upon the filing with the Executive Director of a request for the hearing, this Order shall be vacated. This Order shall become final on June 26, 2023, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF PHARMACY

IN RE: Leesburg Pharmacy, Inc. A/K/A The Compounding Center
Permit Number: 0201-001953
Case Number: 230255

ORDER

JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4019 and 54.1-2400(10), a Special Conference Committee ("Committee") of the Virginia Board of Pharmacy ("Board") held an informal conference on October 11, 2023, in Henrico County, Virginia, to receive and act upon the application of Leesburg Pharmacy, Inc. A/K/A The Compounding Center ("The Compounding Center") for approval of an innovative (pilot) program, Remote Supervision Pilot.

Alice Kim, Pharmacist, and Cheryl Garvin, Pharmacist-in-Charge, appeared as the representatives of The Compounding Center at this proceeding and The Compounding Center was not represented by legal counsel.

Upon consideration of the evidence, the Committee adopts the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and issues the Order contained herein.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Compounding Center holds Permit Number 0201-001953 to conduct a pharmacy in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Said permit is scheduled to expire on April 30, 2024.
2. The Compounding Center is located at and bears the address of 36 Catocin Circle SE, Leesburg, Virginia 20175.
3. On June 19, 2023, The Compounding Center submitted an application for approval of an innovative (pilot) program, Remote Supervision Pilot.

4. The Compounding Center requested a waiver of the requirement of 18 VAC 110-20-276(F) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Pharmacy (“Regulations”), which allows for licensed pharmacists to access the pharmacy’s database from a remote location for the purpose of performing certain prescription processing functions, as further defined in 18 VAC 110-20-276(A) of the Regulations, provided the pharmacy establishes controls to protect the privacy and security of confidential records. Specifically, The Compounding Center requested that pharmacy technicians and pharmacy technician trainees be allowed to remotely perform the duties allowed to pharmacists pursuant to 18 VAC 110-20-276(F) of the Regulations.

5. The Compounding Center requested a waiver of 18 VAC 110-20-112(A) of the Regulations, which limits a pharmacist to the supervision of no more than four persons performing the duties of a pharmacy technician at one time. The Compounding Center requested that a pharmacist, at his or her discretion, be allowed to supervise up to six persons performing the duties of a pharmacy technician at one time, with a maximum of four of those persons being on-site.

6. This application is properly before the Board and it is within the Board’s discretion to approve or deny said application.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Virginia Board of Pharmacy hereby ORDERS that the Board APPROVES the application of The Compounding Center’s innovative (pilot) program, Remote Supervision Pilot, contingent upon the following terms and conditions:

1. This approval shall be effective for three years from the date that this Order is entered by the Board.

2. The requirement of 18 VAC 110-20-276(F) that limits access to the pharmacy's database from a remote location for the purpose of performing certain prescription processing functions to licensed pharmacists is waived to allow Virginia-registered pharmacy technicians to access the pharmacy database from a remote location. This waiver shall apply to Virginia-registered pharmacy technicians performing prescription processing functions pursuant to 18 VAC 110-20-276(A), provided they are performing the duties of a pharmacy technician as defined by Virginia Code § 54.1-3321(A). This waiver shall only apply to Virginia-registered pharmacy technicians accessing the pharmacy database from a remote location in the United States or its territories.

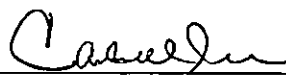
3. The requirement of 18 VAC 110-20-112(A) of the Regulations, which limits a pharmacist to the supervision of no more than four persons performing the duties of a pharmacy technician at one time, is waived to allow a pharmacist at The Compounding Center to supervise a combination of no more than six persons performing the duties of a pharmacy technician at one time, with a maximum of three of those persons at a remote location pursuant to this innovative (pilot) program and a maximum of four persons on-site. In the event that pharmacy technicians performing remote duties need to be on-site to perform those duties, the pharmacist shall supervise a combination of no more than a total of six persons performing the duties of a pharmacy technician, with a maximum of four persons performing authorized unrestricted duties of a pharmacy technician on-site.

4. The Compounding Center shall provide quarterly reports to the Board which include reports of any dispensing errors as defined by 18 VAC 110-20-10 of the Regulations, data breaches, and/or unauthorized access attributed to the innovative (pilot) program. The reports shall be submitted on a quarterly basis to the Board, with the first report due no later than 60 days from entry of this Order and subsequent reports due the last day of the months of March, June, September and December until and are notified, in writing, that the reporting requirement is ended.

5. Records of site-specific training shall be maintained pursuant to 18 VAC 110-20-111 of the Regulations and as outlined in the application for the innovative (pilot) program
6. Except as specifically waived in this Order, The Compounding Center shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations governing the practice of pharmacy in the Commonwealth of Virginia and with the processes as proposed in the application for the innovative (pilot) program.
7. All records required of this innovative (pilot) program shall be maintained for no less than two years and be available upon inspection or request by the Board.
8. Any operational changes or modifications to the innovative (pilot) program shall be approved by the Board prior to initiation of the modification.
9. Any violation of this Order shall constitute grounds for the rescission of the approval, and an administrative proceeding shall be convened to determine whether the approval shall be rescinded.
10. To request the renewal of the innovative (pilot) program, an application and current renewal fee per the Regulations must be submitted to the Board no less than 90 days prior to the expiration of this Order.

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-4023 and 54.1-2400.2, the signed original of this Order shall remain in the custody of the Department of Health Professions as a public record, and shall be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

FOR THE BOARD



Caroline D. Juran
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Pharmacy

ENTERED AND MAILED ON:

10/27/2023

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-2400(10), Leesburg Pharmacy, Inc. A/K/A The Compounding Center may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on November 29, 2023, notify Caroline D. Juran, Executive Director, Board of Pharmacy, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233, in writing that it desires a formal administrative hearing before the Board. Upon the filing with the Executive Director of a request for the hearing, this Order shall be vacated. This Order shall become final on November 29, 2023, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

Agenda Item: Adoption of final regulations regarding allowance for centralized warehouse or wholesale distributor to verify Schedule VI drugs for automated dispensing devices in hospitals

Included in your agenda package:

- Public comment submitted following publication of the proposed stage;
- Draft final regulations.

Staff Note: This regulatory action is the result of a petition for rulemaking filed in 2021 with the Board.

Action needed:

- Motion to adopt final regulations as presented or amended by the Board.



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Agency Department of Health Professions

Board Board of Pharmacy

Chapter Regulations Governing the Practice of Pharmacy [18 VAC 110 - 20]

Action	Allowance for centralized warehouse or wholesale distributor to verify Schedule VI drugs for automated dispensing devices in hospitals
Stage	Proposed
Comment Period	Ended on 6/7/2024

1 comments

All good comments for this forum [Show Only Flagged](#)

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Commenter: Courtney Fuller

5/1/24 1:19 pm

**Proposed Language for Warehouse Distribution to Automated Dispensing Devices
18VAC110-20-490**

18VAC110-20-490 - I suggest a couple of edits to the proposed wording for 18VAC110-20-490:

D.3. ... The record shall include the date; drug name, dosage form, and strength; quantity; hospital name; hospital unit and a unique identifier for the specific automated dispensing device receiving the drug; and initials **or electronic signature** of the pharmacist...

D.6. ... A pharmacist licensed in Virginia employed by or otherwise working at the warehouse or wholesale distributor shall perform barcode linking of any drug to the related drug files in the hospital information system and automated dispensing device **drug database** (*we don't link to a specific ADD*).

D.8. - The hospital pharmacy receiving such services from a central warehouse or wholesale distributor shall maintain quarterly reports containing the hospital's restocking barcode scanning rate, bedside barcode scanning rate, and... **Suggest a minimum bedside barcode scanning rate threshold such as 90%.**

CommentID: 222584

Project 7055 - Final

Board of Pharmacy

**Allowance for centralized warehouse or wholesale distributor to verify Schedule VI
drugs for automated dispensing devices in hospitals**

18VAC110-20-460. Floor stock drugs; proof of delivery; distribution records.

A. A Except as provided in 18VAC110-20-490 D, a pharmacist shall check all ~~Schedule II-VI~~ Schedules II through VI drugs delivered to a hospital unit as floor-stock before the drugs leave the pharmacy and shall initial or sign manually or electronically the record of distribution verifying the accuracy of the distribution.

B. A delivery receipt shall be obtained for ~~Schedule~~ Schedules II through V drugs supplied as floor stock. This record shall include the date, drug name and strength, quantity, hospital unit receiving the drug, and the manual or electronic signatures of the dispensing pharmacist and the receiving nurse.

C. A record of ~~disposition/administration~~ disposition or administration shall be used to document administration of ~~Schedule~~ Schedules II through V drugs when a floor stock system is used for such drugs. The record shall be returned to the pharmacy within three months of its issue. The PIC or ~~his~~ the PIC's designee shall:

1. Match returned records with delivery receipts to verify that all records are returned;
2. Periodically audit returned administration records for completeness as to patient's names, dose, date and time of administration, signature or initials of person administering the drug, and date the record is returned;
3. Verify that all additions to inventory are recorded, that all additions to and deductions from inventory are correctly calculated, that sums carried from one record to the next are

correctly recorded, and periodically verify that doses documented on administration records are reflected in the medical record; and

4. Initial the returned record.

D. All records required by this section shall be filed chronologically by date of issue, and retained for two years from the date of return at the address of the pharmacy. Schedule VI records may be maintained in offsite storage or as an electronic image that provides an exact image of the document that is clearly legible, provided such offsite or electronic storage is retrievable and made available for inspection or audit within 48 hours of a request by the board or an authorized agent. ~~Schedule II-V~~ Schedules II through V records may only be stored ~~offsite~~ off site or electronically as described in this subsection if authorized by DEA or in federal law or regulation. The filing requirements of 18VAC110-20-240 A 1 for separation of Schedule II records shall be met for administration records if the Schedule II drugs are listed in a separate section on a page that contains other schedules of drugs.

18VAC110-20-490. Automated devices for dispensing and administration of drugs.

A. A hospital may use automated devices for the dispensing and administration of drugs pursuant to § 54.1-3301 of the Code of Virginia and §§ 54.1-3401 and 54.1-3434.02 of the Drug Control Act and in accordance with 18VAC110-20-270, 18VAC110-20-420, or 18VAC110-20-460 as applicable.

B. Policy and procedure manual; access codes.

1. Proper use of the automated dispensing devices and means of compliance with requirements shall be set forth in the pharmacy's policy and procedure manual, which shall include provisions for granting and terminating user access.

2. Personnel allowed access to an automated dispensing device shall have a specific access code that records the identity of the person accessing the device. The device may

verify access codes using biometric identification or other coded identification after the initial log-on in order to eliminate sharing or theft of access codes.

C. Distribution of drugs from the pharmacy.

1. Prior to removal of drugs from the pharmacy, a delivery record shall be generated for all drugs to be placed in an automated dispensing device. The delivery record shall include the date; drug name, dosage form, and strength; quantity; hospital unit and a unique identifier for the specific device receiving the drug; initials of the person loading the automated dispensing device; and initials of the pharmacist checking the drugs to be removed from the pharmacy and the delivery record for accuracy.

2. At the time of loading any Schedules II through V drug, the person loading will verify that the count of that drug in the automated dispensing device is correct. Any discrepancy noted shall be recorded on the delivery record and immediately reported to the pharmacist in charge, who shall be responsible for ensuring reconciliation of the discrepancy or properly reporting of a loss.

D. Distribution of drugs from a central warehouse or wholesale distributor. Notwithstanding subdivision C 1 of this section, a central warehouse or wholesale distributor may distribute Schedule VI drugs to hospitals to be placed in specific automated dispensing devices under the following conditions:

1. A pharmacist licensed in Virginia employed by or otherwise working at the central warehouse or wholesale distributor shall verify the accuracy of all Schedule VI drugs to be placed in specific automated dispensing devices within the hospital prior to delivery of the drugs directly to the hospital pharmacy;

2. A pharmacist at the hospital pharmacy shall not be required to (i) verify the accuracy of these drugs prior to leaving the hospital pharmacy for delivery to the hospital unit as floor

stock as required in 18VAC110-20-460 A or (ii) initial the delivery record as required in subdivision C 1 of this section;

3. The central warehouse or wholesale distributor shall maintain a record of all Schedule VI drugs distributed to a hospital for placement in a specific automated dispensing device. The record shall include the date; drug name, dosage form, and strength; quantity; hospital name; hospital unit and a unique identifier for the specific automated dispensing device receiving the drug; and initials of the pharmacist employed by or working at the central warehouse or wholesale distributor who is responsible for verifying the drugs for accuracy;

4. The central warehouse or wholesale distributor shall provide an invoice to each hospital pharmacy that indicates in which specific automated dispensing device the drugs delivered to the hospital are to be placed;

5. A pharmacist or pharmacy technician at each hospital shall load the drugs into the specific automated dispensing device after scanning each unit, and the hospital pharmacy shall maintain a record that consists of the initials of the person loading the automated dispensing device;

6. A pharmacist licensed in Virginia employed by or otherwise working at the warehouse or wholesale distributor shall perform barcode linking of any drug to the related drug files in the hospital information system and automated dispensing device;

7. Each hospital receiving drugs from the central warehouse or wholesale distributor shall maintain at least a 90% barcode scanning rate for restocking automated dispensing devices. If the scanning rate for restocking the automated dispensing device is less than 90% for any quarter, the pharmacy at the hospital shall immediately reinstitute a 100%

pharmacist verification process at the receiving pharmacy until a 90% scanning rate for a subsequent quarter is achieved and documented; and

8. The hospital pharmacy receiving such services from a central warehouse or wholesale distributor shall maintain quarterly reports containing the hospital's restocking barcode scanning rate, bedside barcode scanning rate, and any errors in drug product received from the central warehouse or wholesale distributor.

~~D.~~ E. Distribution of drugs from the device.

1. Automated dispensing devices in hospitals shall be capable of producing a hard-copy record of distribution that shall show patient name, drug name and strength, dose withdrawn, date and time of withdrawal from the device, and identity of person withdrawing the drug. The record shall be filed in chronological order from date of issue or maintained electronically.

2. If an automated dispensing device is used to obtain drugs for dispensing from an emergency room, a separate dispensing record is not required, provided the automated record distinguishes dispensing from administration and records the identity of the physician who is dispensing.

~~E.~~ F. Discrepancy reports. A discrepancy report for all Schedules II through V drugs and any drugs of concern, as defined in § 54.1-3456.1 of the Code of Virginia, shall be generated for each discrepancy in the count of a drug on hand in the device. Each such report shall be initiated or resolved by the PIC or ~~his~~ the PIC's designee within 72 hours of the time the discrepancy was discovered or, if determined to be a theft or an unusual loss of drugs, shall be immediately reported to the board in accordance with § 54.1-3404 E of the Drug Control Act.

~~F.~~ G. Reviews and audits.

1. The PIC or ~~his~~ the PIC's designee shall conduct at least a monthly review for compliance with written policy and procedures that are consistent with § 54.1-3434.02 A of the Drug Control Act for security and use of the automated dispensing devices, to include procedures for timely termination of access codes when applicable, accuracy of distribution from the device, and proper recordkeeping.

2. The PIC or ~~his~~ the PIC's designee shall conduct at least a monthly audit to review distribution of Schedules II through V drugs from each automated dispensing device as follows:

a. The audit shall reconcile records of all quantities of Schedules II through V drugs dispensed from the pharmacy with records of all quantities loaded into each device to detect whether any drug recorded as removed from the pharmacy was diverted rather than placed in the proper device.

b. If a pharmacy has an ongoing method for perpetually monitoring drugs in Schedules II through V to ensure drugs dispensed from the pharmacy have been loaded into the device and not diverted, such as with the use of perpetual inventory management software, then the audit required in this subsection may be limited to the discrepancies or exceptions as identified by the method for perpetually monitoring the drugs.

3. The PIC or ~~his~~ the PIC's designee shall conduct at least a monthly audit to review the dispensing and administration records of Schedules II through V drugs from each automated dispensing device as follows:

a. The audit shall include a review of administration records for each device per month for possible diversion by fraudulent charting. The review shall include all Schedules II through V drugs administered for a time period of not less than 24 consecutive hours during the audit period.

- b. The hard-copy distribution and administration records printed out and reviewed in the audit shall be initialed and dated by the person conducting the audit. If nonpharmacist personnel conduct the audit, a pharmacist shall review the record and shall initial and date the record.
- c. The PIC or ~~his~~ the PIC's designee shall be exempt from requirements of this audit if reconciliation software that provides a statistical analysis is used to generate reports at least monthly. The statistical analysis shall be based on:
- (1) Peer-to-peer comparisons of use for that unit or department; and
 - (2) Monitoring of overrides and unresolved discrepancies.
- d. The report shall be used to identify suspicious activity, which includes usage beyond three standard deviations in peer-to-peer comparisons. A focused audit of the suspicious activity and individuals associated with the activity shall be performed whenever suspicious activity is identified from the reports.
4. The PIC or ~~his~~ the PIC's designee shall maintain a record of compliance with the reviews and audits in accordance with subsection ~~H~~ I of this section.

~~G.~~ H. Inspections. Automated dispensing devices shall be inspected monthly by pharmacy personnel to verify proper storage, proper location of drugs within the device, expiration dates, the security of drugs, and validity of access codes. The PIC or ~~his~~ the PIC's designee shall maintain documentation of the inspection in accordance with subsection ~~H~~ I of this section. With the exception of a monthly physical review of look-alike and sound-alike drugs stored within matrix drawers or open access areas within the device, such monthly inspection shall not require physical inspection of the device if the device is capable of and performs the following:

1. At least daily monitoring of refrigerator or freezer storage with documented temperature ranges, variances, and resolutions;

2. Automatic identification and isolation of the location of each drug within the device using a machine readable product identifier, such as barcode technology, and generation of a report verifying the applicable settings;
3. Electronic tracking of drug expiration dates and generation of proactive reports allowing for the replacement of drugs prior to their expiration date; and
4. Electronic detection of the opening of the device, identification of the person accessing the device, automatic denial of access to the device during malfunctions and mechanical errors, and generation of reports of any malfunction and mechanical error.

H. I Records.

1. All records required by this section shall be maintained for a period of not less than two years. Records required to be maintained by the pharmacy shall be maintained at the address of the pharmacy providing services to the hospital ~~except manual.~~ Records required to be maintained by the warehouse or wholesale distributor shall be maintained at the address of the applicable facility. Manual Schedule VI distribution records, reports auditing for indications of suspicious activity, ~~and~~ focused audits, ~~all of which~~ and records required to be maintained by the warehouse or wholesale distributor distributing Schedule VI drugs to specific automated dispensing devices may be maintained in offsite storage or electronically as an electronic image that provides an exact image of the document that is clearly legible, provided such offsite or electronic records are retrievable and made available for inspection or audit within 48 hours of a request by the board or an authorized agent.
2. Distribution and delivery records and required initials may be generated or maintained electronically, provided:

- a. The system being used has the capability of recording an electronic signature that is a unique identifier and restricted to the individual required to initial or sign the record.
 - b. The records are maintained in a read-only format that cannot be altered after the information is recorded.
 - c. The system being used is capable of producing a hard-copy printout of the records upon request.
3. Schedules II through V distribution and delivery records may also be stored off site or electronically in compliance with requirements of subdivision 1 of this subsection and if authorized by DEA or in federal law or regulation.
 4. Hard-copy distribution and administration records that are printed and reviewed in conducting required audits may be maintained at an off-site location or electronically, provided they can be readily retrieved upon request; ~~provided they~~ are maintained in a read-only format that does not allow alteration of the records; ~~and provided~~ a separate log is maintained for a period of two years showing dates of audit and review, the identity of the automated dispensing device being audited, the time period covered by the audit and review, and the initials of all reviewers.

Agenda Topic: Adoption of proposed regulatory amendments for licensure fee increase

Included in agenda packet:

- Information regarding factors impacting need for Board of Pharmacy licensure fee increase
- Licensure fees relative to neighboring states
- Handout of proposed amendments to fees in Chapters 20, 21, 30, and 50 to be provided at meeting

Action needed:

- Motion to adopt proposed regulatory amendments to increase licensure fees as presented or amended.

Factors Impacting Need for Board of Pharmacy Licensure Fee Increase

General Assembly Mandated State Employee Compounded Salary Increases:

- 5% (total) in FY2020
- 5% on June 10, 2021
- 5% on July 10, 2022
- 5% on June 10, 2023
- 2% on December 10, 2023
- 3% on June 10, 2024
- 3% on June 2025 anticipated.

Additional Licensing Categories

Legislation was passed during the following years directing the Board to regulate additional licensing categories:

- 2018, nonresident warehousemen and nonresident third-party logistics providers
- 2020, pharmacy technician trainees

Increased Total Number of Licensees:

- **Total number of licensees increased by 23% between Q4 FY2018 to Q4 FY2023**
 - Q4 FY2018 - 36,967
 - Q4 FY2019 - 37,265
 - Q4 FY2020 - 37,236
 - Q4 FY2021 - 40,005
 - Q4 FY2022 - 43,589
 - Q4 FY2023 - 45,486
- **Total number in-state facilities to inspect remained about the same**
 - Q4 FY2018 = 3,798
 - Q4 FY2023 = 3,810
- **Total number of nonresident facilities (out-of-state shipping drug into VA) increased by 31%**
 - Q4 FY2018 = 1,935
 - Q4 FY2023 = 2,529
- **Total number of licenses issued to individuals (pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, pharmacy technician trainees, pharmacy interns) increased by 28%**
 - Q4 FY2018 = 31,018
 - Q4 FY2023 = 39,561

Increased Number of Disciplinary Cases:

- **Total Cases Received Increased by 28% between FY2018 and FY2023**
 - FY 2018 = 687
 - FY 2019 = 630
 - FY 2020 = 599
 - FY 2021 = 570
 - FY 2022 = 825
 - FY 2023 = 878

Average Pharmacy Inspection Cost per Year as of February 2024

Type of Inspection	Hours to Perform (includes travel)	Cost Allocated to Board from Enforcement	Fee Paid by Permit Holder
New, COL, Remodel	3.19	\$679	New: \$500 COL/Remodel: \$300
Routine, no compounding (performed approximately every 2 years)	3.88	\$826	Annual Renewal: \$350
Routine, sterile compounding (performed approximately every 2 years)	11.76	\$2,504	Annual Renewal: \$350

Hiring

- Number of full-time employees (FTE) in 2020 when last fee increase became effective = 15.
- Number of FTEs as of 6/3/2024 = 16.
- Increases in hiring due to increased workload, e.g., increased licensing categories, increased number of disciplinary cases, increased licensee counts.
- Note: new hires also received salary increases, so original cost for FTEs increased.

Last Fee Increase:

- Initiated in 2017, effective in 2020.

Projected Revenue and Expenditures:

- Actual Cash Balance FY2023 = \$2,270,363
- Estimated Cash Balance FY2024 = \$1,446,128
- Estimated Cash Balance FY2025 = \$434,063
- Estimated Cash Balance FY2026 = (\$688,083)
- Estimated Cash Balance FY2027 = (\$1,926,100)

Note: The estimates above may be revised by information provided at the meeting related to the two additional salary increases approved in the 2024-26 biennial budget.

Licensure Fees Relative to Neighboring States, 6/3/2024

License Type	2017 VA Initial/Renewal Fee	Current VA Initial/Renewal Fee	2017 DE Initial/Renewal Fee	Current NC Initial/Renewal Fee	Currently Proposed TN Initial/Renewal Fee	Current WV Initial/Renewal Fee	Current MD Initial/Renewal Fee
Pharmacy	270/270	500/350	318/318	500/200	490/490 (up from 340). Sterile modifier renewal fee 400	150 initial + 10 CS/200 renewal +20 CS; Sterile compounding fee 150 initial/200 renewal; Nuclear pharmacy 150 initial/200 renewal; Mail order 500/1,000	700/500
Medical Equipment Supplier	180/180	235/235	318/318	500/200	525-535/		
Controlled Substances Registration	90/90	120/120			researcher renewal 200 (up from 110)	25-50/50-100	
Third-Party Logistics Providers	270/270	350/350		700/700		750/1500	
Non-restricted Manufacturer	270/270	350/350	709/709	1000/1000	740 (up from 565)/740. Sterile modifier fee 400	500/1000	1,750/1,750
Restricted Manufacturer	180/180	235/235					
Outsourcing Facility					Sterile Modifier Fee 400		
Warehouser	270/270	350/350			535/		
Wholesale Distributor	270/270	350/350	709/709	700/700	740 (up from 575)/740. Sterile modifier fee 400	750/1500	1,750/1,750
Pharmacists	180/90 active/45 inactive	235/120 active/60 inactive	163/163	200/135/ without examination 600	250 by exam (up from 225)/ 265	130 by exam; 255 score transfer, reciprocity, foreign grad/ 120 (biennial). Immunization initial 20/ 20 renewal. Pharmacist consultant 20/20	150/261
Pharmacy Technicians	25/25	35/35		30/30	65/100	25/30 (biennial)	45/45

Agenda Item: Adoption of exempt regulatory action pursuant to SB111/HB1333

Included in your agenda package:

- Draft changes to 18VAC110-20-322 and 18VAC110-20-323 to conform to Scheduling changes enacted by the legislature in the 2024 General Assembly Session; and
- SB111 (identical to HB1333), which enacted these changes.

Action needed:

- Adoption of exempt regulatory change to amend 18VAC110-20-322 and 18VAC110-20-323 as presented.

Project 7941 - Exempt Final

Board of Pharmacy

Conformity of Board scheduling to 2024 General Assembly action

18VAC110-20-322. Placement of chemicals in Schedule I.

A. Pursuant to subsection D of § 54.1-3443 of the Code of Virginia, the Board of Pharmacy places the following in Schedule I of the Drug Control Act:

1. ~~Synthetic opioid. N,N-diethyl 2-[5-nitro-2-(4-propoxybenzyl)-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]ethanamine (other name: Protonitazene), its isomers, esters, ethers, salts, and salts of isomers, esters, and ethers, unless specifically excepted, whenever the existence of these isomers, esters, ethers, and salts is possible within the specific chemical designation.~~

2. ~~Compounds expected to have hallucinogenic properties. 1-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-2-(cyclohexylamino)butan-1-one (other names: Cybutylone, N-cyclohexyl Butylone), its salts, isomers (optical, position, and geometric), and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.~~

3. ~~Compounds expected to have depressant properties. 8-bromo-6-(2-chlorophenyl)-1-methyl-4H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a][1,4]benzodiazepine (other names: Clobromazolam, Phenazolam), its salts, isomers (optical, position, and geometric), and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.~~

4. ~~Cannabimimetic agents:~~

a. ~~5-bromo-N-(1-amino-3,3-dimethyl-1-oxobutan-2-yl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide (other name: ADB-5Br-INACA), its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the~~

~~existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.~~

~~b. N-(1-amino-3,3-dimethyl-1-oxobutan-2-yl)-5-bromo-1-buty lindazole-3-carboxamide (other name: ADB-5'Br-BUTINACA), its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.~~

~~The placement of drugs listed in this subsection shall remain in effect until July 31, 2024, unless enacted into law in the Drug Control Act.~~

~~B. Pursuant to subsection D of § 54.1-3443 of the Code of Virginia, the Board of Pharmacy places the following in Schedule I of the Drug Control Act:~~

~~1. Synthetic opioid. 2-methyl-N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]butanamide (other name: 2-methyl-butanyl fentanyl), its isomers, esters, ethers, salts, and salts of isomers, esters, and ethers, unless specifically excepted, whenever the existence of these isomers, esters, ethers, and salts is possible within the specific chemical designation.~~

~~2. Compounds expected to have hallucinogenic properties.~~

~~a. 1-(7-methoxy-1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)propan-2-amine (other names: 5-methoxy-3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine, 3-methoxy MDA, MMDA), its salts, isomers (optical, position, and geometric), and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.~~

~~b. 1-[1-(3-chlorophenyl)cyclohexyl]-piperidine (other names: 3-Chloro-Phencyclidine, 3Cl-PCP, 3-chloro-PCP), its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.~~

~~3. Compound expected to have depressant properties. 7-bromo-5-phenyl-1,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodiazepin-2-one (other names: Desalkylgidazepam, Bromonordiazepam), its salts, isomers (optical, position, and geometric), and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.~~

~~4. Compound classified as a cannabimimetic agent. Methyl N-[(5-bromo-1H-indazol-3-yl)carbonyl]-3-methyl-valinate (other name: MDMB-5Br-INACA), its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.~~

~~The placement of drugs listed in this subsection shall remain in effect until October 12, 2024, unless enacted into law in the Drug Control Act.~~

~~C. Pursuant to subsection D of § 54.1-3443 of the Code of Virginia, the Board of Pharmacy places the following in Schedule I of the Drug Control Act:~~

~~1. Synthetic opioids.~~

~~a. 2-(4-isopropoxybenzyl)-5-nitro-1-[2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethyl]-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (other name: N-Pyrrolidino-Isotonitazene), its isomers, esters, ethers, salts, and salts of isomers, esters, and ethers, unless specifically excepted, whenever the existence of these isomers, esters, ethers, and salts is possible within the specific chemical designation.~~

~~b. 5-nitro-2-(4-propoxybenzyl)-1-[2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethyl]-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (other names: N-Pyrrolidino-Protonitazene, Protonitazepyne), its isomers, esters, ethers, salts, and salts of isomers, esters, and ethers, unless specifically excepted, whenever the existence of these isomers, esters, ethers, and salts is possible within the specific chemical designation.~~

~~c. N-phenyl-N-(1-propionyl-4-piperidinyl)propanamide (other name: N-propionyl Norfentanyl), its isomers, esters, ethers, salts, and salts of isomers, esters, and ethers, unless specifically excepted, whenever the existence of these isomers, esters, ethers, and salts is possible within the specific chemical designation.~~

~~2. Synthetic compounds.~~

~~a. N-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-(1-phenethylpiperidin-4-yl)pentanamide (other names: para-fluoro-valeryl-fentanyl, para-fluoro-pentanoyl-fentanyl), its isomers, esters, ethers, salts, and salts of isomers, esters, and ethers, unless specifically excepted, whenever the existence of these isomers, esters, ethers, and salts is possible within the specific chemical designation.~~

~~b. N-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide (other name: para-fluoroacetyl-fentanyl), its isomers, esters, ethers, salts, and salts of isomers, esters, and ethers, unless specifically excepted, whenever the existence of these isomers, esters, ethers, and salts is possible within the specific chemical designation.~~

~~3. Compounds expected to have hallucinogenic properties.~~

~~a. 1-[1-(3-fluorophenyl)cyclohexyl]piperidine (other names: 3-fluoro-Phencyclidine, 3F-PCP), its salts, isomers (optical, position, and geometric), and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.~~

~~b. 2-(ethylamino)-2-(2-fluorophenyl)-cyclohexanone (other names: 2-fluoro-2-oxo-PCE, 2-fluoro-NENDCK), its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.~~

~~4. Compounds expected to have depressive properties:~~

~~a. 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-methyl-4H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a][1,4]benzodiazepine (other names: 4'-chloro-Deschloroalprazolam, 4'Cl-Deschloroalprazolam), its salts, isomers (optical, position, and geometric), and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.~~

~~b. 7-chloro-5-(2-chlorophenyl)-1-methyl-3H-1,4-benzodiazepin-2-one (other names: Diclazepam, 2-Chlorodiazepam), its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.~~

~~5. Central nervous system stimulant. 2-(3-chlorophenyl)-3-methylmorpholine (other name: 3-chlorophenmetrazine), its salts, isomers (optical, position, and geometric), and salts of isomers.~~

~~The placement of drugs listed in this subsection shall remain in effect until March 27, 2025, unless enacted into law in the Drug Control Act.~~

~~D. A.~~ Pursuant to subsection D of § 54.1-3443 of the Code of Virginia, the Board of Pharmacy places the following in Schedule I of the Drug Control Act:

1. Synthetic opioid.

a. N-ethyl-2-[5-nitro-2-[(4-propan-2-yloxyphenyl)methyl]benzimidazol-1-yl]ethanamine (other name: N-desethyl Isotonitazene), its isomers, esters, ethers, salts, and salts of isomers, esters, and ethers, unless specifically excepted, whenever the existence of these isomers, esters, ethers and salts is possible within the specific chemical designation.

b. 7-[(3-chloro-6-methyl-5,5-dioxo-11H-benzo[c][2,1]benzothiazepin-11-yl)amino]heptanoic acid (other name: Tianeptine), its isomers, esters, ethers, salts,

and salts of isomers, esters, and ethers, unless specifically excepted, whenever the existence of these isomers, esters, ethers, and salts is possible within the specific chemical designation.

2. Cannabimimetic agent. Ethyl-3,3-dimethyl-2-[(1-(pent-4-enylindazole-3-carbonyl)amino]butanoate (other name: EDMB-4en-PINACA), its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.

The placement of drugs listed in this subsection shall remain in effect until July 31, 2025, unless enacted into law in the Drug Control Act.

~~E. B.~~ Pursuant to subsection D of § 54.1-3443 of the Code of Virginia, the Board of Pharmacy places the following compounds expected to have hallucinogenic properties in Schedule I of the Drug Control Act:

1. 1-(3,5-Dimethoxy-4-propoxyphenyl)-2-propanamine (other names: 4-propoxy-3,5-DMA, 3C-P, 1-(3,5-Dimethoxy-4-propoxyphenyl)propan-2-amine), its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.
2. 2-(5-methoxy-1H-indol-3-yl)ethanamine (other names: 5-methoxytryptamine, 5-MeOT), its salts, isomers (optical, position, and geometric), and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.

The placement of drugs listed in this subsection shall remain in effect until August 28, 2025, unless enacted into law in the Drug Control Act.

18VAC110-20-323. Scheduling for conformity with federal law or rule.

Pursuant to subsection E of § 54.1-3443 of the Code of Virginia and in order to conform the Drug Control Act to recent scheduling changes enacted in federal law or rule, the board:

1. Adds MT-45 (1-cyclohexyl-4-(1,2-diphenylethyl)piperazine) to Schedule I;
2. Adds Dronabinol ((-)-delta-9-trans tetrahydrocannabinol) in an oral solution in a drug product approved for marketing by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to Schedule II;
3. Deletes naldemedine from Schedule II;
4. Deletes naloxegol and 6 β -naltrexol from Schedule II;
5. Replaces 4-anilino-N-phenethyl-4-piperidine (CASRN 21409-26-7) in Schedule II with 4-anilino-N-phenethylpiperidine (ANPP);
6. Adds 4-methyl-5-(4-methylphenyl)-4,5-dihydro-1,3-oxazol-2-amine (4,4'-Dimethylaminorex, 4,4'-DMAR) to Schedule I;
7. Adds 1-(5-fluoropentyl)-N-(2-phenylpropan-2-yl)pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine-3-carboxamide (5F-CUMYL-P7AICA) to Schedule I;
8. Adds ethyl N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]carbamate (fentanyl carbamate) to Schedule I;
9. Adds N-(2-fluorophenyl)-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]prop-2-enamide (ortho-fluoroacryl fentanyl) to Schedule I;
10. Adds N-(2-fluorophenyl)-2-methyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]propanamide (ortho-fluoroisobutyryl fentanyl) to Schedule I;
11. Adds N-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]furan-2-carboxamide (para-fluoro furanyl fentanyl) to Schedule I;

12. Adds N-(2-fluorophenyl)-N-[1-[2-(2-fluorophenyl)ethyl]piperidin-4-yl]propanamide (2'-fluoro ortho-fluorofentanyl; 2'-fluoro 2-fluorofentanyl) to Schedule I;
13. Adds N-[1-[2-(4-methylphenyl)ethyl]piperidin-4-yl]-N-phenylacetamide (4'-methyl acetyl fentanyl) to Schedule I;
14. Adds N,3-diphenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]propanamide (β' -phenyl fentanyl; beta'-phenyl fentanyl; 3-phenylpropanoyl fentanyl) to Schedule I;
15. Adds N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylpropyl)piperidin-4-yl]propanamide (β -methyl fentanyl) to Schedule I;
16. Adds N-(2-fluorophenyl)-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]butanamide (ortho-fluorobutyryl fentanyl; 2-fluorobutyryl fentanyl) to Schedule I;
17. Adds N-(2-methylphenyl)-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide (ortho-methyl acetylfentanyl; 2-methyl acetylfentanyl) to Schedule I;
18. Adds 2-methoxy-N-(2-methylphenyl)-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide (ortho-methyl methoxyacetylfentanyl; 2-methyl methoxyacetyl fentanyl) to Schedule I;
19. Adds N-(4-methylphenyl)-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]propanamide (para-methylfentanyl; 4-methylfentanyl) to Schedule I;
20. Adds N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]thiophene-2-carboxamide (thiophene fentanyl) to Schedule I;
21. Adds N-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-methyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]propanamide (para-chloroisobutyryl fentanyl) to Schedule I;
22. Adds 24. 2-[2-[(4-butoxyphenyl)methyl]-5-nitrobenzimidazol-1-yl]-N,N-diethylethanamine (Butonitazene) to Schedule I;

23. Adds N,N-diethyl-2-[2-[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]-5-nitrobenzimidazol-1-yl] ethanamine (Flunitazene) to Schedule I;
24. ~~Adds Oliceridine to Schedule II;~~
25. ~~Deletes Samidorphan from Schedule II;~~
26. ~~Adds Remimazolam to Schedule IV;~~
27. ~~Adds Serdexmethylphenidate to Schedule IV;~~
28. ~~Adds Lemborexant to Schedule IV;~~
29. ~~Adds Daridorexant to Schedule IV;~~
30. ~~Adds Ganaxolone to Schedule V;~~
31. 25. Adds N-methyl-1-(thiophen-2-yl)propan-2-amine (other name: methiopropamine) to Schedule I;
32. 26. Adds N-phenyl-N'-(3-(1-phenylpropan-2-yl)-1,2,3-oxadiazol-3-ium-5-yl)carbamimidate (other name: mesocarb) to Schedule I;
33. 27. Adds 1-methoxy-3-[4-(2-methoxy-2-phenylethyl)piperazin-1-yl]-1-phenylpropan-2-ol (other name: zipeprol) to Schedule I;
34. 28. Adds 7-[(10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-yl)amino]heptanoic acid (other name: amineptine) to Schedule I;
35. ~~Deletes Fenfluramine from Schedule IV; and~~
36. 29. Adds zuranolone to Schedule IV.

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2024 SESSION

CHAPTER 228

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 54.1-3446, 54.1-3448, 54.1-3452, and 54.1-3454 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Drug Control Act; Schedule I; Schedule II; Schedule IV; Schedule V.

[S 111]

Approved March 28, 2024

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 54.1-3446, 54.1-3448, 54.1-3452, and 54.1-3454 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 54.1-3446. Schedule I.

The controlled substances listed in this section are included in Schedule I:

1. Any of the following opiates, including their isomers, esters, ethers, salts, and salts of isomers, esters, and ethers, unless specifically excepted, whenever the existence of these isomers, esters, ethers and salts is possible within the specific chemical designation:

1-{1-[1-(4-bromophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinyl}-1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-one (other name: Biorphine);

1-[2-methyl-4-(3-phenyl-2-propen-1-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-butanone (other name: 2-methyl AP-237);

1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-phenyl-4-acetyloxypiperidine (other name: PEPAP);

1-(4-cinnamyl-2,6-dimethylpiperazin-1-yl)propan-1-one (other name: AP-238);

1-methoxy-3-[4-(2-methoxy-2-phenylethyl)piperazin-1-yl]-1-phenylpropan-2-ol (other name: *zipeprol*);

1-methyl-4-phenyl-4-propionoxypiperidine (other name: MPPP);

2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-5-nitro-1-[2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethyl]-1H-benzimidazole (other names: N-pyrrolidino etonitazene, etonitazepyne);

2-[(4-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-N,N-diethyl-5-nitro-1H-benzimidazole-1-ethanamine (other name: Metonitazene);

2-methoxy-N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-acetamide (other name: Methoxyacetyl fentanyl);

3,4-dichloro-N-[2-(dimethylamino)cyclohexyl]-N-methyl-benzamide (other name: U-47700);

3,4-dichloro-N-[[1-(dimethylamino)cyclohexyl]methyl]benzamide (other name: AH-7921);

Acetyl fentanyl (other name: desmethyl fentanyl);

Acetylmethadol;

Allylprodine;

Alphacetylmethadol (except levo-alpha-acetylmethadol, also known as levo-alpha-acetylmethadol, levomethadyl acetate, or LAAM);

Alphameprodine;

Alphamethadol;

Benzethidine;

Betacetylmethadol;

Betameprodine;

Betamethadol;

Betaprodine;

Clonitazene;

Dextromoramide;

Diampromide;

Diethylthiambutene;

Difenoxin;

Dimenoxadol;

Dimepheptanol;

Dimethylthiambutene;

Dioxaphetylbutyrate;

Dipipanone;

Ethyl N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]carbamate (other name: *fentanyl carbamate*);

Ethylmethylthiambutene;

Etonitazene;

Etoxidine;

Furethidine;

Hydroxypethidine;

Ketobemidone;

Levomoramide;

Levophenacylmorphan;
 Morpheridine;
 MT-45 (1-cyclohexyl-4-(1,2-diphenylethyl)piperazine);
 N-(1-phenethylpiperidin-4-yl)-N-phenylcyclopropanecarboxamide (other name: Cyclopropyl fentanyl);
 N-(1-phenethylpiperidin-4-yl)-N-phenyltetrahydrofuran-2-carboxamide (other name: Tetrahydrofuranyl fentanyl);
 N-[1-[1-methyl-2-(2-thienyl)ethyl]-4-piperidyl]-N-phenylpropanamide (other name: alpha-methylthiofentanyl);
 N-[1-(1-methyl-2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidyl]-N-phenylacetamide (other name: acetyl-alpha-methylfentanyl);
 N-{1-[2-hydroxy-2-(2-thienyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinyl}-N-phenylpropanamide (other name: beta-hydroxythiofentanyl);
 N-[1-(2-hydroxy-2-phenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidyl]-N-phenylpropanamide (other name: beta-hydroxyfentanyl);
 N-[1-(alpha-methyl-beta-phenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidyl]propionanilide (other names: 1-(1-methyl-2-phenylethyl)-4-(N-propanilido) piperidine, alpha-methylfentanyl);
N-(2-fluorophenyl)-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]prop-2-enamide (other name: ortho-fluoroacryl fentanyl);
 N-(2-fluorophenyl)-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-propanamide (other names: 2-fluorofentanyl, ortho-fluorofentanyl);
N-(2-fluorophenyl)-2-methyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]propanamide (other name: ortho-fluoroisobutyryl fentanyl);
N-(2-fluorophenyl)-N-[1-[2-(2-fluorophenyl)ethyl]piperidin-4-yl]propanamide (other names: 2'-fluoro ortho-fluorofentanyl; 2'-fluoro 2-fluorofentanyl);
N-[1-[2-(4-methylphenyl)ethyl]piperidin-4-yl]-N-phenylacetamide (other name: 4'-methyl acetyl fentanyl);
N,3-diphenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]propanamide (other names: beta'-phenyl fentanyl; beta'-phenyl fentanyl; 3-phenylpropanoyl fentanyl);
N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylpropyl)piperidin-4-yl]propanamide (other name: beta-methyl fentanyl);
N-(2-fluorophenyl)-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]butanamide (other name: ortho-fluorobutyryl fentanyl; 2-fluorobutyryl fentanyl);
N-(2-methylphenyl)-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide (other names: ortho-methyl acetylfentanyl; 2-methyl acetylfentanyl);
N-(4-methylphenyl)-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]propanamide (other names: para-methylfentanyl; 4-methylfentanyl);
N-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-methyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]propanamide (other name: para-chloroisobutyryl fentanyl);
 N-(3-fluorophenyl)-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-propanamide (other name: 3-fluorofentanyl);
 N-[3-methyl-1-(2-hydroxy-2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidyl]-N-phenylpropanamide (other name: beta-hydroxy-3-methylfentanyl);
 N-[3-methyl-1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidyl]-N-phenylpropanamide (other name: 3-methylfentanyl);
 N-[3-methyl-1-(2-thienyl)ethyl]-4-piperidinyl]-N-phenylpropanamide (other name: 3-methylthiofentanyl);
 N-(4-chlorophenyl)-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-propanamide (other names: para-chlorofentanyl, 4-chlorofentanyl);
 N-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-methyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-propanamide (other name: para-fluoroisobutyryl fentanyl);
N-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]furan-2-carboxamide (other name: para-fluoro furanyl fentanyl);
 N-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-butanamide (other name: para-fluorobutyrylfentanyl);
 N-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-propanamide (other name: para-fluorofentanyl);
N,N-diethyl-2-[2-[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]-5-nitrobenzimidazol-1-yl] ethanamine (other name: Flunitazene);
 N,N-diethyl-2-(2-(4-isopropoxybenzyl)-5-nitro-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl)ethan-1-amine (other name: Isotonitazene);
 N,N-diethyl-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl) methyl]-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl}-ethan-1-amine (other names: Etazene, Desnitroetonitazene);
 N,N-diethyl-2-[(4-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole-1-ethanamine (other name: Metodessnitazene);
N,N-diethyl-2-[5-nitro-2-(4-propoxybenzyl)-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]ethanamine (other name: Protonitazene);
 N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylmethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-2-furancarboxamide (other name: N-benzyl Furanyl norfentanyl);

N-phenyl-N-(4-piperidinyl)-propanamide (other name: Norfentanyl);
 Noracymethadol;
 Norlevorphanol;
 Normethadone;
 Norpipanone;
 N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-2-furancarboxamide (other name: Furanyl fentanyl);
 N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-2-propenamide (other name: Acryl fentanyl);
 N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-butanamide (other name: butyryl fentanyl);
 N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-pentanamide (other name: Pentanoyl fentanyl);
 N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-thienyl)ethyl-4-piperidinyl]-propanamide (other name: thiofentanyl);
N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]thiophene-2-carboxamide (other name: thiophene fentanyl);
 Phenadoxone;
 Phenampromide;
 Phenomorphan;
 Phenoperidine;
 Piritramide;
 Proheptazine;
 Propерidine;
 Propiram;
 Racemoramide;
 Tilidine;
 Trimeperidine;
 N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1,3-benzodioxole-5-carboxamide (other name: Benzodioxole fentanyl);
 3,4-dichloro-N-[2-(diethylamino)cyclohexyl]-N-methylbenzamide (other name: U-49900);
2-methoxy-N-(2-methylphenyl)-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide (other names: ortho-methyl methoxyacetyl fentanyl; 2-methyl methoxyacetyl fentanyl);
2-methyl-N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]butanamide (other name: 2-methyl butyryl fentanyl);
2-[2-[(4-butoxyphenyl)methyl]-5-nitrobenzimidazol-1-yl]-N,N-diethylethanamine (other name: Butonitazene);
 2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-N-[2-(dimethylamino)cyclohexyl]-N-methyl acetamide (other name: U-48800);
 2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-N-[2-(dimethylamino)cyclohexyl]-N-methyl acetamide (other name: U-51754);
2-(4-isopropoxybenzyl)-5-nitro-1-[2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethyl]-1H-benzodimidazole (other name: N-Pyrrolidino Isotonitazene);
 N-(2-fluorophenyl)-2-methoxy-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-acetamide (other name: Ocfentanil);
N-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-(1-phenethylpiperidin-4-yl)pentanamide (other names: para-fluoro valeryl fentanyl, para-fluoro pentanoyl fentanyl);
N-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide (other name: para-fluoroacetyl fentanyl);
 N-(4-methoxyphenyl)-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-butanamide (other name: 4-methoxybutyryl fentanyl);
 N-phenyl-2-methyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-propanamide (other name: Isobutyryl fentanyl);
 N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-cyclopentanecarboxamide (other name: Cyclopentyl fentanyl);
 N-phenyl-N-(1-methyl-4-piperidinyl)-propanamide (other name: N-methyl norfentanyl);
N-phenyl-N-(1-propionyl-4-piperidinyl)-propanamide (other name: N-propionyl norfentanyl);
 N-[2-(dimethylamino)cyclohexyl]-N-methyl-1,3-benzodioxole-5-carboxamide (other names: 3,4-methylenedioxy U-47700 or 3,4-MDO-U-47700);
 N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-2-butenamide (other name: Crotonyl fentanyl);
 N-phenyl-N-[4-phenyl-1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-propanamide (other name: 4-phenylfentanyl);
 N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-benzamide (other names: Phenyl fentanyl, Benzoyl fentanyl);
 N-[2-(dimethylamino)cyclohexyl]-N-phenylfuran-2-carboxamide (other name: Furanyl UF-17);
 N-[2-(dimethylamino)cyclohexyl]-N-phenylpropionamide (other name: UF-17);
 3,4-dichloro-N-[2-(dimethylamino)cyclohexyl]-N-isopropyl-benzamide (other name: Isopropyl U-47700);
5-nitro-2-(4-propoxybenzyl)-1-[2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethyl]-1H-benzodimidazole (other names: N-Pyrrolidino Protonitazene, Protonitazepyne).

2. Any of the following opium derivatives, their salts, isomers and salts of isomers, unless specifically excepted, whenever the existence of these salts, isomers and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation:

Acetorphine;

Acetyldihydrocodeine;
 Benzylmorphine;
 Codeine methylbromide;
 Codeine-N-Oxide;
 Cyprenorphine;
 Desomorphine;
 Dihydromorphine;
 Drotebanol;
 Etorphine;
 Heroin;
 Hydromorphanol;
 Methyl-desorphine;
 Methyl-dihydromorphine;
 Morphine methylbromide;
 Morphine methylsulfonate;
 Morphine-N-Oxide;
 Myrophine;
 Nicocodeine;
 Nicomorphine;
 Normorphine;
 Pholcodine;
 Thebacon.

3. Unless specifically excepted or unless listed in another schedule, any material, compound, mixture, or preparation, which contains any quantity of the following hallucinogenic substances, or which contains any of its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers, whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation (for purposes of this subdivision only, the term "isomer" includes the optical, position, and geometric isomers):

Alpha-ethyltryptamine (some trade or other names: Monase; a-ethyl-1H-indole-3-ethanamine; 3-2-aminobutyl] indole; a-ET; AET);

4-Bromo-2,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine (some trade or other names: 2-4-bromo-2,5-dimethoxyphenyl]-1-aminoethane; alpha-desmethyl DOB; 2C-B; Nexus);

3,4-methylenedioxy amphetamine;

5-methoxy-3,4-methylenedioxy amphetamine;

3,4,5-trimethoxy amphetamine;

Alpha-methyltryptamine (other name: AMT);

Bufotenine;

Diethyltryptamine;

Dimethyltryptamine;

4-methyl-2,5-dimethoxyamphetamine;

2,5-dimethoxy-4-ethylamphetamine (DOET);

4-fluoro-N-ethylamphetamine;

2,5-dimethoxy-4-(n)-propylthiophenethylamine (other name: 2C-T-7);

Ibogaine;

5-methoxy-N,N-diisopropyltryptamine (other name: 5-MeO-DIPT);

Lysergic acid diethylamide;

Mescaline;

Parahexyl (some trade or other names: 3-Hexyl-1-hydroxy-7,8,9,10-tetrahydro-6,6,9-trimethyl-6H-dibenzo [b,d] pyran; Synhexyl);

Peyote;

N-ethyl-3-piperidyl benzilate;

N-methyl-3-piperidyl benzilate;

Psilocybin;

Psilocyn;

Salvinorin A;

2,5-dimethoxyamphetamine (some trade or other names: 2,5-dimethoxy-a-methylphenethylamine; 2,5-DMA);

3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), its optical, positional and geometric isomers, salts and salts of isomers;

3,4-methylenedioxy-N-ethylamphetamine (also known as N-ethyl-alpha-methyl-3,4 (methylenedioxy)phenethylamine, N-ethyl MDA, MDE, MDEA);

N-hydroxy-3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine (some other names: N-hydroxy-alpha-methyl-3,4(methylenedioxy)phenethylamine, and N-hydroxy MDA);

4-bromo-2,5-dimethoxyamphetamine (some trade or other names: 4-bromo-2,5-dimethoxy-a-methylphenethylamine; 4-bromo-2,5-DMA);

4-methoxyamphetamine (some trade or other names: 4-methoxy- α -methylphenethylamine; paramethoxyamphetamine; PMA);

Ethylamine analog of phencyclidine (some other names: N-ethyl-1-phenylcyclohexylamine, (1-phenylcyclohexyl) ethylamine, N-(1-phenylcyclohexyl) ethylamine, cyclohexamine, PCE);

Pyrrolidine analog of phencyclidine (some other names: 1-(1-phenylcyclohexyl)-pyrrolidine, PCPy, PHP);

Thiophene analog of phencyclidine (some other names: 1-[1-(2-thienyl)-cyclohexyl]-piperidine, 2-thienyl analog of phencyclidine, TPCP, TCP);

1-1-(2-thienyl)cyclohexyl]pyrrolidine (other name: TCPy);

3,4-methylenedioxypropylvalerone (other name: MDPV);

4-methylmethcathinone (other names: mephedrone, 4-MMC);

3,4-methylenedioxy-methcathinone (other name: methylone);

Naphthylpropylvalerone (other name: naphyrone);

4-fluoromethcathinone (other names: flephedrone, 4-FMC);

4-methoxymethcathinone (other names: methedrone; bk-PMMA);

Ethcathinone (other name: N-ethylcathinone);

3,4-methylenedioxyethcathinone (other name: ethylone);

Beta-keto-N-methyl-3,4-benzodioxolylbutanamine (other name: butylone);

N,N-dimethylcathinone (other name: metamfepramone);

Alpha-pyrrolidinopropiophenone (other name: alpha-PPP);

4-methoxy-alpha-pyrrolidinopropiophenone (other name: MOPPP);

3,4-methylenedioxy-alpha-pyrrolidinopropiophenone (other name: MDPPP);

Alpha-pyrrolidinovalerophenone (other name: alpha-PVP);

6,7-dihydro-5H-indeno-(5,6-d)-1,3-dioxol-6-amine (other name: MDAI);

3-fluoromethcathinone (other name: 3-FMC);

4-Ethyl-2,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine (other name: 2C-E);

4-Iodo-2,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine (other name: 2C-I);

4-Methylethcathinone (other name: 4-MEC);

4-Ethylmethcathinone (other name: 4-EMC);

N,N-diallyl-5-methoxytryptamine (other name: 5-MeO-DALT);

Beta-keto-methylbenzodioxolylpentanamine (other names: Pentylone, bk-MBDP);

Alpha-methylamino-butyrophenone (other name: Buphedrone);

Alpha-methylamino-valerophenone (other name: Pentedrone);

3,4-Dimethylmethcathinone (other name: 3,4-DMMC);

4-methyl-alpha-pyrrolidinopropiophenone (other name: MPPP);

4-Iodo-2,5-dimethoxy-N-[(2-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-benzeneethanamine (other names: 25-I, 25I-NBOMe, 2C-I-NBOMe);

Methoxetamine (other names: MXE, 3-MeO-2-Oxo-PCE);

4-Fluoromethamphetamine (other name: 4-FMA);

4-Fluoroamphetamine (other name: 4-FA);

2-(2,5-Dimethoxy-4-methylphenyl)ethanamine (other name: 2C-D);

2-(4-Chloro-2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)ethanamine (other name: 2C-C);

2-[4-(Ethylthio)-2,5-dimethoxyphenyl]ethanamine (other name: 2C-T-2);

2-[4-(Isopropylthio)-2,5-dimethoxyphenyl]ethanamine (other name: 2C-T-4);

2-(2,5-Dimethoxyphenyl)ethanamine (other name: 2C-H);

2-(2,5-Dimethoxy-4-nitro-phenyl)ethanamine (other name: 2C-N);

2-(2,5-Dimethoxy-4-(n)-propylphenyl)ethanamine (other name: 2C-P);

(2-aminopropyl)benzofuran (other name: APB);

(2-aminopropyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran (other name: APDB);

4-chloro-2,5-dimethoxy-N-[(2-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-benzeneethanamine (other names: 2C-C-NBOMe, 25C-NBOMe, 25C);

4-bromo-2,5-dimethoxy-N-[(2-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-benzeneethanamine (other names: 2C-B-NBOMe, 25B-NBOMe, 25B);

Acetoxydimethyltryptamine (other names: AcO-Psilocin, AcO-DMT, Psilacetin);

Benocyclidine (other names: BCP, BTCP);

Alpha-pyrrolidinobutiophenone (other name: alpha-PBP);

3,4-methylenedioxy-N,N-dimethylcathinone (other names: Dimethylone, bk-MDDMA);

4-bromomethcathinone (other name: 4-BMC);

4-chloromethcathinone (other name: 4-CMC);

4-Iodo-2,5-dimethoxy-N-[(2-hydroxyphenyl)methyl]-benzeneethanamine (other name: 25I-NBOH);

Alpha-Pyrrolidinohexiophenone (other name: alpha-PHP);

Alpha-Pyrrolidinoheptiophenone (other name: PV8);

5-methoxy-N,N-methylisopropyltryptamine (other name: 5-MeO-MIPT);

Beta-keto-N,N-dimethylbenzodioxolylbutanamine (other names: Dibutylone, bk-DMBDB);

Beta-keto-4-bromo-2,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine (other name: bk-2C-B);
 1-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-2-(ethylamino)-1-pentanone (other name: N-ethylpentylone);
 1-[1-(3-methoxyphenyl)cyclohexyl]piperidine (other name: 3-methoxy PCP);
 1-[1-(4-methoxyphenyl)cyclohexyl]piperidine (other name: 4-methoxy PCP);
 4-Chloroethcathinone (other name: 4-CEC);
 3-Methoxy-2-(methylamino)-1-(4-methylphenyl)-1-propanone (other name: Mexedrone);
 1-propionyl lysergic acid diethylamide (other name: 1P-LSD);
 (2-Methylaminopropyl)benzofuran (other name: MAPB);
 1-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-2-(dimethylamino)-1-pentanone (other names: N,N-Dimethylpentylone, Dipentylone);
 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)octan-1-one (other name: 4-methoxy-PV9);
 3,4-tetramethylene-alpha-pyrrolidinovaleerophenone (other name: TH-PVP);
 4-allyloxy-3,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine (other name: Allylescaline);
 4-Bromo-2,5-dimethoxy-N-[(2-hydroxyphenyl)methyl]-benzeneethanamine (other name: 25B-NBOH);
 4-chloro-alpha-methylamino-valerophenone (other name: 4-chloropentedrone);
 4-chloro-alpha-Pyrrolidinovaleerophenone (other name: 4-chloro-alpha-PVP);
 4-fluoro-alpha-Pyrrolidinoheptiophenone (other name: 4-fluoro-PV8);
 4-hydroxy-N,N-diisopropyltryptamine (other name: 4-OH-DIPT);
 4-methyl-alpha-ethylaminopentiophenone;
 4-methyl-alpha-Pyrrolidinohexiophenone (other name: MPHP);
 5-methoxy-N,N-dimethyltryptamine (other name: 5-MeO-DMT);
 5-methoxy-N-ethyl-N-isopropyltryptamine (other name: 5-MeO-EIPT);
 6-ethyl-6-nor-lysergic acid diethylamide (other name: ETH-LAD);
 6-allyl-6-nor-lysergic acid diethylamide (other name: AL-LAD);
 (N-methyl aminopropyl)-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran (other name: MAPDB);
 2-(methylamino)-2-phenyl-cyclohexanone (other name: Deschloroketamine);
 2-(ethylamino)-2-phenyl-cyclohexanone (other name: deschloro-N-ethyl-ketamine);
 2-methyl-1-(4-(methylthio)phenyl)-2-morpholinopropiophenone (other name: MMMP);
 Alpha-ethylaminohexanophenone (other name: N-ethylhexedrone);
 N-ethyl-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)cyclohexylamine (other name: 3-methoxy-PCE);
 4-fluoro-alpha-pyrrolidinohexiophenone (other name: 4-fluoro-alpha-PHP);
 N-ethyl-1,2-diphenylethylamine (other name: Ephenidine);
 2,5-dimethoxy-4-chloroamphetamine (other name: DOC);
 3,4-methylenedioxy-N-tert-butylcathinone;
 Alpha-pyrrolidinoisohexiophenone (other name: alpha-PiHP);
 1-[1-(3-hydroxyphenyl)cyclohexyl]piperidine (other name: 3-hydroxy PCP);
 4-acetyloxy-N,N-diallyltryptamine (other name: 4-AcO-DALT);
 4-hydroxy-N,N-methylisopropyltryptamine (other name: 4-hydroxy-MiPT);
 3,4-Methylenedioxy-alpha-pyrrolidinohexanophenone (other name: MDPHP);
 5-methoxy-N,N-dibutyltryptamine (other name: 5-methoxy-DBT);
 1-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-2-(ethylamino)-1-butanone (other names: Eutylone, bk-EBDB);
 1-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-2-(butylamino)-1-pentanone (other name: N-butylpentylone);
 N-benzyl-3,4-dimethoxyamphetamine (other name: N-benzyl-3,4-DMA);
 1-(benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-2-(sec-butylamino)pentan-1-one (other name: N-sec-butyl Pentylone);
 1-cyclopropionyl lysergic acid diethylamide (other name: 1cP-LSD);
 2-(ethylamino)-1-phenylheptan-1-one (other name: N-ethylheptedrone);
 (2-ethylaminopropyl)benzofuran (other name: EAPB);
 4-ethyl-2,5-dimethoxy-N-[(2-hydroxyphenyl)methyl]-benzeneethanamine (other name: 25E-NBOH);
 2-fluoro-Deschloroketamine (other name: 2-(2-fluorophenyl)-2-(methylamino)-cyclohexanone);
 4-hydroxy-N-ethyl-N-propyltryptamine (other name: 4-hydroxy-EPT);
 2-(isobutylamino)-1-phenylhexan-1-one (other names: N-Isobutyl Hexedrone, alpha-isobutylaminohexanphenone);
 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-N-methylpropan-2-amine (other names: para-Methoxymethamphetamine, PMMA);
 N-ethyl-1-(3-hydroxyphenyl)cyclohexylamine (other name: 3-hydroxy-PCE);
 N-heptyl-3,4-dimethoxyamphetamine (other name: N-heptyl-3,4-DMA);
 N-hexyl-3,4-dimethoxyamphetamine (other name: N-hexyl-3,4-DMA);
 4-fluoro-3-methyl-alpha-pyrrolidinovaleerophenone (other name: 4-fluoro-3-methyl-alpha-PVP);
 4-fluoro-alpha-methylamino-valerophenone (other name: 4-fluoropentedrone);
 N-(1,4-dimethylpentyl)-3,4-dimethoxyamphetamine (other name: N-(1,4-dimethylpentyl)-3,4-DMA);
 4,5-methylenedioxy-N,N-diisopropyltryptamine (other name: 4,5-MDO-DIPT);
 Alpha-pyrrolidino-cyclohexanophenone (other name: alpha-PCYP);
 3,4-methylenedioxy-alpha-pyrrolidinoheptiophenone (other name: MDPV8);
 4-chloro-alpha-methylaminobutiophenone (other name: 4-chloro Buphedrone);

- 1-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-2-(cyclohexylamino)butan-1-one* (other names: *Cybutylone*, *N-cyclohexyl Butylone*);
- 1-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-2-(propylamino)-1-butanone* (other names: *3,4-Methylenedioxy-alpha-propylaminobutiophenone*; *N-propyl butylone*);
- 1-[1-(3-chlorophenyl)cyclohexyl]-piperidine* (other names: *3-Chloro Phencyclidine*, *3Cl-PCP*, *3-chloro PCP*);
- 1-[1-(3-fluorophenyl)cyclohexyl]piperidine* (other names: *3-fluoro Phencyclidine*, *3F-PCP*);
- 1-(7-methoxy-1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)propan-2-amine* (other names: *5-methoxy-3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine*, *3-methoxy MDA*, *MMDA*);
- 2-(ethylamino)-1-phenylpentan-1-one* (other names: *N-ethylpentedrone*, *alpha-ethylaminopentiophenone*);
- 2-(ethylamino)-2-(2-fluorophenyl)-cyclohexanone* (other names: *2-fluoro-2-oxo PCE*, *2-fluoro NENDCK*);
- 3,4-methylenedioxy-alpha-cyclohexylaminopropiophenone* (other name: *Cyputylone*);
- 3,4-methylenedioxy-alpha-cyclohexylmethylaminopropiophenone* (other name: *3,4-Methylenedioxy-N,N-cyclohexylmethcathinone*);
- 3,4-methylenedioxy-alpha-isopropylaminobutiophenone* (other name: *N-isopropyl butylone*);
- 4-chloro-N-butylcathinone* (other names: *4-chlorobutylcathinone*, *para-chloro-N-butylcathinone*);
- 4-hydroxy-N-methyl-N-ethyltryptamine* (other names: *4-hydroxy MET*, *Metocin*);
- 4-methylallyloxy-3,5-dimethoxyphenethylamine* (other name: *Methylallylescaline*);
- Alpha-pyrrolidino-2-phenylacetophenone* (other name: *alpha-D2PV*).
4. Unless specifically excepted or unless listed in another schedule, any material, compound, mixture or preparation which contains any quantity of the following substances having a depressant effect on the central nervous system, including its salts, isomers and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation:
- 5-(2-chlorophenyl)-1,3-dihydro-3-methyl-7-nitro-2H-1,4-benzodiazepin-2-one* (other name: *Meclonazepam*);
- 7-chloro-5-(2-fluorophenyl)-1,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodiazepin-2-one* (other name: *Norfludiazepam*);
- Bromazolam*;
- Clonazolam*;
- Deschloroetizolam*;
- Etizolam*;
- Flualprazolam*;
- Flubromazepam*;
- Flubromazolam*;
- Gamma hydroxybutyric acid* (some other names include *GHB*; *gamma hydroxybutyrate*; *4-hydroxybutyrate*; *4-hydroxybutanoic acid*; *sodium oxybate*; *sodium oxybutyrate*);
- Mecloqualone*;
- Methaqualone*;
- 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-methyl-4H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a][1,4]benzodiazepine* (other names: *4'-chloro Deschloroalprazolam*, *4'Cl-Deschloroalprazolam*);
- 7-bromo-5-phenyl-1,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodiazepin-2-one* (other names: *Desalkylgidazepam*, *Bromonordiazepam*);
- 7-chloro-5-(2-chlorophenyl)-1-methyl-3H-1,4-benzodiazepin-2-one* (other names: *Diclazepam*, *2-Chlorodiazepam*);
- 8-bromo-6-(2-chlorophenyl)-1-methyl-4H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a][1,4]benzodiazepine* (other names: *Clobromazolam*, *Phenazolam*).
5. Unless specifically excepted or unless listed in another schedule, any material, compound, mixture or preparation which contains any quantity of the following substances having a stimulant effect on the central nervous system, including its salts, isomers and salts of isomers:
- 2-(3-fluorophenyl)-3-methylmorpholine* (other name: *3-fluorophenmetrazine*);
- Aminorex* (some trade or other names; *aminoxaphen*; *2-amino-5-phenyl-2-oxazoline*; *4,5-dihydro-5-phenyl-2-oxazolamine*);
- Cathinone* (some trade or other names: *2-amino-1-phenyl-1-propanone*, *alpha-aminopropiophenone*, *2-aminopropiophenone*, *norephedrone*), and any plant material from which *Cathinone* may be derived;
- Cis-4-methylaminorex* (other name: *cis-4,5-dihydro-4-methyl-5-phenyl-2-oxazolamine*);
- Ethylamphetamine*;
- Ethyl phenyl(piperidin-2-yl)acetate* (other name: *Ethylphenidate*);
- Fenethylamine*;
- Methcathinone* (some other names: *2-(methylamino)-propiofenone*; *alpha-(methylamino)-propiofenone*; *2-(methylamino)-1-phenylpropan-1-one*; *alpha-N-methylaminopropiophenone*; *monomethylpropion*; *ephedrone*; *N-methylcathinone*; *methylcathinone*; *AL-464*; *AL-422*; *AL-463* and *UR 1432*);
- N-Benzylpiperazine* (some other names: *BZP*, *1-benzylpiperazine*);

N-methyl-1-(thiophen-2-yl)propan-2-amine (other name: methiopropamine);
 N,N-dimethylamphetamine (other names: N,N-alpha-trimethyl-benzeneethanamine, N,N-alpha-trimethylphenethylamine);
N-phenyl-*N'*-(3-(1-phenylpropan-2-yl)-1,2,3-oxadiazol-3-ium-5-yl)carbamimidate (other name: mesocarb);

Methyl 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-(2-piperidinyl)acetate (other name: 4-fluoromethylphenidate);
 Isopropyl-2-phenyl-2-(2-piperidinyl)acetate (other name: Isopropylphenidate);
 2-(3-chlorophenyl)-3-methylmorpholine (other name: 3-chlorophenmetrazine);
 4-chloro-N,N-dimethylcathinone;
 3,4-methylenedioxy-N-benzylcathinone (other name: BMDP);
 4-methylmethamphetamine (other names: N-alpha,4-trimethyl-benzeneethanamine, 4-MMA);
 4-methyl-5-(4-methylphenyl)-4,5-dihydro-1,3-oxazol-2-amine (other names: 4,4'-Dimethylaminorex, 4,4'-DMAR);

7-[(10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenzo[a,d]cyclohepten-5-yl)amino]heptanoic acid (other name: amineptine).

6. Any substance that contains one or more cannabimimetic agents or that contains their salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation, and any preparation, mixture, or substance containing, or mixed or infused with, any detectable amount of one or more cannabimimetic agents.

a. "Cannabimimetic agents" includes any substance that is within any of the following structural classes:

2-(3-hydroxycyclohexyl)phenol with substitution at the 5-position of the phenolic ring by alkyl or alkenyl, whether or not substituted on the cyclohexyl ring to any extent;

3-(1-naphthoyl)indole or 1H-indol-3-yl-(1-naphthyl)methane with substitution at the nitrogen atom of the indole ring, whether or not further substituted on the indole ring to any extent, whether or not substituted on the naphthoyl or naphthyl ring to any extent;

3-(1-naphthoyl)pyrrole with substitution at the nitrogen atom of the pyrrole ring, whether or not further substituted in the pyrrole ring to any extent, whether or not substituted on the naphthoyl ring to any extent;

1-(1-naphthylmethyl)indene with substitution of the 3-position of the indene ring, whether or not further substituted in the indene ring to any extent, whether or not substituted on the naphthyl ring to any extent;

3-phenylacetylindole or 3-benzoylindole with substitution at the nitrogen atom of the indole ring, whether or not further substituted in the indole ring to any extent, whether or not substituted on the phenyl ring to any extent;

3-cyclopropoylindole with substitution at the nitrogen atom of the indole ring, whether or not further substituted on the indole ring to any extent, whether or not substituted on the cyclopropyl ring to any extent;

3-adamantoylindole with substitution at the nitrogen atom of the indole ring, whether or not further substituted on the indole ring to any extent, whether or not substituted on the adamantyl ring to any extent;

N-(adamantyl)-indole-3-carboxamide with substitution at the nitrogen atom of the indole ring, whether or not further substituted on the indole ring to any extent, whether or not substituted on the adamantyl ring to any extent; and

N-(adamantyl)-indazole-3-carboxamide with substitution at a nitrogen atom of the indazole ring, whether or not further substituted on the indazole ring to any extent, whether or not substituted on the adamantyl ring to any extent.

b. The term "cannabimimetic agents" includes:

5-bromo-N-(1-amino-3,3-dimethyl-1-oxobutan-2-yl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide (other name: ADB-5Br-INACA);

5-(1,1-Dimethylheptyl)-2-[3-hydroxycyclohexyl]-phenol (other name: CP 47,497);

5-(1,1-Dimethylhexyl)-2-[3-hydroxycyclohexyl]-phenol (other name: CP 47,497 C6 homolog);

5-(1,1-Dimethyloctyl)-2-[3-hydroxycyclohexyl]-phenol (other name: CP 47,497 C8 homolog);

5-(1,1-Dimethylnonyl)-2-[3-hydroxycyclohexyl]-phenol (other name: CP 47,497 C9 homolog);

1-pentyl-3-(1-naphthoyl)indole (other names: JWH-018, AM-678);

1-butyl-3-(1-naphthoyl)indole (other name: JWH-073);

1-pentyl-3-(2-methoxyphenylacetyl)indole (other name: JWH-250);

1-hexyl-3-(naphthalen-1-oyl)indole (other name: JWH-019);

1-[2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl]-3-(1-naphthoyl)indole (other name: JWH-200);

(6aR,10aR)-9-(hydroxymethyl)-6,6-dimethyl-3-(2-methyloctan-2-yl)-6a,7,10,10a-tetrahydrobenzo[c]chromen-1-ol (other name: HU-210);

1-pentyl-3-(4-methoxy-1-naphthoyl)indole (other name: JWH-081);

1-pentyl-3-(4-methyl-1-naphthoyl)indole (other name: JWH-122);

1-pentyl-3-(2-chlorophenylacetyl)indole (other name: JWH-203);

1-pentyl-3-(4-ethyl-1-naphthoyl)indole (other name: JWH-210);

1-pentyl-3-(4-chloro-1-naphthoyl)indole (other name: JWH-398);
 1-(5-fluoropentyl)-3-(2-iodobenzoyl)indole (other name: AM-694);
 1-((N-methylpiperidin-2-yl)methyl)-3-(1-naphthoyl)indole (other name: AM-1220);
 1-(5-fluoropentyl)-3-(1-naphthoyl)indole (other name: AM-2201);
 1-[(N-methylpiperidin-2-yl)methyl]-3-(2-iodobenzoyl)indole (other name: AM-2233);
 Pravadoline (4-methoxyphenyl)-[2-methyl-1-(2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl)indol-3-yl]methanone (other name: WIN 48,098);
 1-pentyl-3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)indole (other names: RCS-4, SR-19);
 1-(2-cyclohexylethyl)-3-(2-methoxyphenylacetyl)indole (other names: RCS-8, SR-18);
 1-pentyl-3-(2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropylmethanone)indole (other name: UR-144);
 1-(5-fluoropentyl)-3-(2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropylmethanone)indole (other names: XLR-11, 5-fluoro-UR-144);
 N-adamantyl-1-fluoropentylindole-3-carboxamide (other name: STS-135);
 N-adamantyl-1-pentylindazole-3-carboxamide (other names: AKB48, APINACA);
 1-pentyl-3-(1-adamantoyl)indole (other name: AB-001);
 (8-quinoliny)(1-pentylindol-3-yl)carboxylate (other name: PB-22);
 (8-quinoliny)(1-(5-fluoropentyl)indol-3-yl)carboxylate (other name: 5-fluoro-PB-22);
 (8-quinoliny)(1-cyclohexylmethyl-indol-3-yl)carboxylate (other name: BB-22);
N-(1-amino-3,3-dimethyl-1-oxobutan-2-yl)-5-bromo-1-butylindazole-3-carboxamide (other name: ADB-5'Br-BUTINACA);
 N-(1-amino-3-methyl-1-oxobutan-2-yl)-1-pentylindazole-3-carboxamide (other name: AB-PINACA);
 N-(1-amino-3-methyl-1-oxobutan-2-yl)-1-(4-fluorobenzyl)indazole-3-carboxamide (other name: AB-FUBINACA);
 1-(5-fluoropentyl)-3-(1-naphthoyl)indazole (other name: THJ-2201);
 N-(1-amino-3,3-dimethyl-1-oxobutan-2-yl)-1-pentylindazole-3-carboxamide (other name: ADB-PINACA);
 N-(1-amino-3-methyl-1-oxobutan-2-yl)-1-(cyclohexylmethyl)indazole-3-carboxamide (other name: AB-CHMINACA);
 N-(1-amino-3-methyl-1-oxobutan-2-yl)-1-(5-fluoropentyl)indazole-3-carboxamide (other name: 5-fluoro-AB-PINACA);
 N-(1-amino-3,3-dimethyl-1-oxobutan-2-yl)-1-(cyclohexylmethyl)indazole-3-carboxamide (other names: ADB-CHMINACA, MAB-CHMINACA);
Methyl N-[(5-bromo-1H-indazol-3-yl)carbonyl]-3-methyl-valinate (other name: MDMB-5Br-INACA);
 Methyl-2-(1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamido)-3-methylbutanoate (other name: 5-fluoro-AMB);
 1-naphthalenyl 1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (other name: NM-2201);
 1-(4-fluorobenzyl)-3-(2,2,3,3-tetramethylcyclopropylmethanone)indole (other name: FUB-144);
 1-(5-fluoropentyl)-3-(4-methyl-1-naphthoyl)indole (other name MAM-2201);
 N-(1-Amino-3,3-dimethyl-1-oxobutan-2-yl)-1-[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide (other name: ADB-FUBINACA);
 Methyl 2-[1-[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]-1H-indazole-3-carboxamido]-3,3-dimethylbutanoate (other name: MDMB-FUBINACA);
 Methyl 2-[1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamido]-3,3-dimethylbutanoate (other names: 5-fluoro-ADB, 5-Fluoro-MDMB-PINACA);
 Methyl 2-({1-[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]-1H-indazole-3-carbonyl}amino)-3-methylbutanoate (other names: AMB-FUBINACA, FUB-AMB);
 N-(adamantan-1-yl)-1-(4-fluorobenzyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide (other names: FUB-AKB48, 5F-APINACA);
 N-(adamantan-1-yl)-1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide (other name: 5F-AKB48);
 N-(adamantanyl)-1-(5-chloropentyl) indazole-3-carboxamide (other name: 5-chloro-AKB48);
 Naphthalen-1-yl 1-pentyl-1H-indazole-3-carboxylate (other name: SDB-005);
 N-(1-amino-3-methyl-1-oxobutan-2-yl)-1-(cyclohexylmethyl)indole-3-carboxamide (other name: AB-CHMICA);
 1-pentyl-N-(phenylmethyl)-1H-indole-3-carboxamide (other name: SDB-006);
 Quinolin-8-yl 1-(4-fluorobenzyl)-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (other name: FUB-PB-22);
 Methyl N-[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-1H-indole-3-carbonyl]valinate (other name: MMB-CHMICA);
 N-(1-amino-3,3-dimethyl-1-oxobutan-2-yl)-1-(5-fluoropentyl)indazole-3-carboxamide (other name: 5-fluoro-ADB-PINACA);
 1-(4-cyanobutyl)-N-(1-methyl-1-phenylethyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide (other name: 4-cyano CUMYL-BUTINACA);
 Methyl 2-[1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indole-3-carboxamido]-3,3-dimethylbutanoate (other names: 5-fluoro MDMB-PICA, 5F-MDMB-PICA);
 Ethyl 2-({1-[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]-1H-indazole-3-carbonyl}amino)-3-methylbutanoate (other name: EMB-FUBINACA);

Methyl 2-[1-(4-fluorobutyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamido]-3,3-dimethylbutanoate (other name: 4-fluoro-MDMB-BUTINACA);
 1-(5-fluoropentyl)-N-(1-methyl-1-phenylethyl)-1H-indole-3-carboxamide (other name: 5-fluoro CUMYL-PICA);
 Methyl 2-[1-(pent-4-enyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamido]-3,3-dimethylbutanoate (other name: MDMB-4en-PINACA);
 Methyl 2-({1-[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]-1H-indole-3-carbonyl}amino)-3-methylbutanoate (other names: MMB-FUBICA, AMB-FUBICA);
 Methyl 2-[1-(4-penten-1-yl)-1H-indole-3-carboxamido]-3-methylbutanoate (other names: MMB022, MMB-4en-PICA);
 Methyl 2-[1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indole-3-carboxamido]-3-methylbutanoate (other name: MMB 2201);
 Methyl 2-[1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indole-3-carboxamido]-3-phenylpropanoate (other name: 5-fluoro-MPP-PICA);
 N-(1-amino-3,3-dimethyl-1-oxobutan-2-yl)-1-butylindazole-3-carboxamide (other name: ADB-BUTINACA);
 N-(1-amino-3-methyl-1-oxobutan-2-yl)-1-(5-chloropentyl)indazole-3-carboxamide (other name: 5-chloro-AB-PINACA);
 1-(5-fluoropentyl)-N-(2-phenylpropan-2-yl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide (other names: 5F-CUMYL-PINACA, 5-fluoro CUMYL-PINACA, CUMYL-5F-PINACA);
1-(5-fluoropentyl)-N-(2-phenylpropan-2-yl)pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine-3-carboxamide (other name: 5F-CUMYL-P7AICA);
 Ethyl 2-[1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamido]-3,3-dimethylbutanoate (other names: 5F-EDMB-PINACA, 5-fluoro EDMB-PINACA);
 Ethyl-2-[1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamido]-3-methylbutanoate (other names: 5-fluoro-EMB-PINACA, 5F-AEB);
 Ethyl 2-[1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indole-3-carboxamido]-3-methylbutanoate (other name: 5-fluoro-EMB-PICA);
 Ethyl-2-[1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indole-3-carboxamido]-3,3-dimethylbutanoate (other name: 5-fluoro EDMB-PICA);
 Methyl 2-[1-(4-fluorobutyl)-1H-indole-3-carboxamido]-3,3-dimethylbutanoate (other name: 4-fluoro-MDMB-BUTICA);
 Methyl 2-(1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-1H-indole-3-carboxamido)-3,3-dimethylbutanoate (other names: MDMB-CHMICA, MMB-CHMINACA);
 N-(1-amino-3,3-dimethyl-1-oxobutan-2-yl)-1-(pent-4-enyl)indazole-3-carboxamide (other name: ADB-4en-PINACA);
 Ethyl 2-[1-pentyl-1H-indazole-3-carboxamido]-3,3-dimethylbutanoate (other name: EDMB-PINACA);
 N-(1-amino-3,3-dimethyl-1-oxobutan-2-yl)-1-phenethyl-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide (other name: ADB-PHETINACA);
 N-(1-amino-3,3-dimethyl-1-oxobutan-2-yl)-1-(4-fluorobenzyl)-1H-indole-3-acetamide (other names: ADB-FUBIATA, AD-18, FUB-ACADB).

§ 54.1-3448. Schedule II.

The controlled substances listed in this section are included in Schedule II:

1. Any of the following substances, except those narcotic drugs listed in other schedules, whether produced directly or indirectly by extraction from substances of vegetable origin, or independently by means of chemical synthesis, or by combination of extraction and chemical synthesis:

Opium and opiate, and any salt, compound, derivative, or preparation of opium or opiate, excluding apomorphine, thebaine-derived butorphanol, dextrophan, nalbuphine, naldemedine, nalmefene, naloxone, naltrexone and their respective salts, but including the following:

Raw opium;
 Opium extracts;
 Opium fluid extracts;
 Powdered opium;
 Granulated opium;
 Tincture of opium;
 Codeine;
 Dihydroetorphine;
 Ethylmorphine;
 Etorphine hydrochloride;
 Hydrocodone;
 Hydromorphone;
 Metopon;
 Oripavine (3-O-demethylthebaine or 6,7,8,14-tetrahydro-4,5-alpha-epoxy-6-methoxy-17-methylmorphinan-3-ol);
 Morphine;

Noroxymorphone;
 Oxycodone;
 Oxymorphone;
 Thebaine.

Any salt, compound, isomer, derivative, or preparation thereof which is chemically equivalent or identical with any of the substances referred to in this subdivision, but not including the isoquinoline alkaloids of opium.

Opium poppy and poppy straw.

Coca leaves and any salt, compound, derivative, or preparation of coca leaves, and any salt, compound, derivative, or preparation thereof which is chemically equivalent or identical with any of these substances, but not including decocainized coca leaves or extractions which do not contain cocaine or ecgonine; cocaine or any salt or isomer thereof.

Concentrate of poppy straw, the crude extract of poppy straw in either liquid, solid or powder form, which contains the phenanthrene alkaloids of the opium poppy.

2. Any of the following opiates, including their isomers, esters, ethers, salts, and salts of isomers, whenever the existence of these isomers, esters, ethers and salts is possible within the specific chemical designation:

Alfentanil;
 Alphaprodine;
 Anileridine;
 Bezitramide;
 Bulk dextropropoxyphene (nondosage forms);
 Carfentanil;
 Dihydrocodeine;
 Diphenoxylate;
 Fentanyl;
 Isomethadone;
 Levo-alpha-acetylmethadol (levo-alpha-acetylmethadol)(levomethadyl acetate)(LAAM);
 Levomethorphan;
 Levorphanol;
 Metazocine;
 Methadone;
 Methadone — Intermediate, 4-cyano-2-dimethylamino-4, 4-diphenyl butane;
 Moramide — Intermediate, 2-methyl-3-morpholino-1, 1-diphenyl-propane-carboxylic acid;
Oliceridine;
 Pethidine (other name: meperidine);
 Pethidine — Intermediate — A, 4-cyano-1-methyl-4-phenylpiperidine;
 Pethidine — Intermediate — B, ethyl-4-phenylpiperidine-4-carboxylate;
 Pethidine — Intermediate — C, 1-methyl-4-phenylpiperidine-4-carboxylic acid;
 Phenazocine;
 Piminodine;
 Racemethorphan;
 Racemorphan;
 Remifentanil;
 Sufentanil;
 Tapentadol;
 Thiafentanil.

3. Any material, compound, mixture or preparation which contains any quantity of the following substances having a potential for abuse associated with a stimulant effect on the central nervous system:

Amphetamine, its salts, optical isomers, and salts of its optical isomers;
 Phenmetrazine and its salts;

Any substance which contains any quantity of methamphetamine, including its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers;

Methylphenidate;

Lisdexamfetamine, its salts, isomers, and salts of its isomers.

4. Unless specifically excepted or unless listed in another schedule, any material, compound, mixture, or preparation which contains any quantity of the following substances having a depressant effect on the central nervous system, including its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation:

Amobarbital;
 Glutethimide;
 Secobarbital;
 Pentobarbital;
 Phencyclidine.

5. The following hallucinogenic substances:

Nabilone;

Dronabinol ((-)-delta-9-trans tetrahydrocannabinol) in an oral solution in a drug product approved for marketing by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

6. Unless specifically excepted or unless listed in another schedule, any material, compound, mixture, or preparation which contains any quantity of the following substances which are:

a. Immediate precursors to amphetamine and methamphetamine:

Phenylacetone.

b. Immediate precursor to phencyclidine:

1-phenylcyclohexylamine;

1-piperidinocyclohexanecarbonitrile (other name: PCC).

c. Immediate precursor to fentanyl:

4-anilino-N-phenethyl-4-piperidine (ANPP).

§ 54.1-3452. Schedule IV.

The controlled substances listed in this section are included in Schedule IV unless specifically excepted or listed in another schedule:

1. Any material, compound, mixture, or preparation which contains any quantity of the following substances having a potential for abuse associated with a depressant effect on the central nervous system:

Alfaxalone (5[alpha]-pregnan-3[alpha]-ol-11,20-dione), previously spelled "alphaxalone," including its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers;

Alprazolam;

Barbital;

Brexanolone;

Bromazepam;

Camazepam;

Carisoprodol;

Chloral betaine;

Chloral hydrate;

Chlordiazepoxide;

Clobazam;

Clonazepam;

Clorazepate;

Clotiazepam;

Cloxazolam;

Daridorexant;

Delorazepam;

Diazepam;

Dichloralphenazone;

Estazolam;

Ethchlorvynol;

Ethinamate;

Ethyl loflazepate;

Fludiazepam;

Flunitrazepam;

Flurazepam;

Fospropofol;

Halazepam;

Haloxazolam;

Ketazolam;

Lemborexant;

Loprazolam;

Lorazepam;

Lormetazepam;

Mebutamate;

Medazepam;

Methohexital;

Meprobamate;

Methylphenobarbital;

Midazolam;

Nimetazepam;

Nitrazepam;

Nordiazepam;

Oxazepam;

Oxazolam;
 Paraldehyde;
 Petrichloral;
 Phenobarbital;
 Pinazepam;
 Prazepam;
 Quazepam;
Remimazolam;
 Suvorexant ([*(7R)*-4-(5-chloro-1,3-benzoxazol-2-yl)-7-methyl-1,4-diazepan-1-yl][5-methyl-2-(2H-1, 2, 3-triazol-2-yl)phenyl]methanone), including its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers;
 Temazepam;
 Tetrazepam;
 Triazolam;
 Zaleplon;
 Zolpidem;
 Zopiclone.

2. Any compound, mixture or preparation which contains any quantity of the following substances including any salts or isomers thereof:

~~Fenfluramine~~;
 Lorcaserin.

3. Unless specifically excepted or unless listed in another schedule, any material, compound, mixture, or preparation which contains any quantity of the following substances having a stimulant effect on the central nervous system, including its salts, isomers (whether optical, position, or geometric), and salts of such isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation:

Cathine (+)-norpseudoephedrine;
 Diethylpropion;
 Fencamfamin;
 Fenproporex;
 Mazindol;
 Mefenorex;
 Modafinil;
 Phentermine;
 Pemoline (including organometallic complexes and chelates thereof);
 Pipradrol;
Serdexmethylphenidate;
 Sibutramine;
 Solriamfetol (2-amino-3-phenylpropyl carbamate);
 SPA (-)-1-dimethylamino-1,2-diphenylethane.

4. Unless specifically excepted or unless listed in another schedule, any material, compound, mixture, or preparation containing any of the following narcotic drugs, or their salts calculated as the free anhydrous base or alkaloid, in limited quantities as set forth below:

Dextropropoxyphene (alpha-(+)-4-dimethylamino-1,2-diphenyl-3-methyl-2-propionoxybutane);
 Not more than 1 milligram of difenoxin and not less than 25 micrograms of atropine sulfate per dosage unit;
 2-[(dimethylamino) methyl]-1-(3-methoxyphenyl)cyclohexanol, its salts, optical and geometric isomers, and salts of such isomers, including tramadol.

5. Unless specifically excepted or unless listed in another schedule, any material, compound, mixture, or preparation which contains any quantity of the following substances, including their salts:

Butorphanol (including its optical isomers);
 Eluxadoline (including its optical isomers and its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers);
 Pentazocine.

6. The Board may except by regulation any compound, mixture, or preparation containing any depressant substance listed in subdivision 1 from the application of all or any part of this chapter if the compound, mixture, or preparation contains one or more active medicinal ingredients not having a depressant effect on the central nervous system, and if the admixtures are included therein in combinations, quantity, proportion, or concentration that vitiate the potential for abuse of the substances which have a depressant effect on the central nervous system.

§ 54.1-3454. Schedule V.

The controlled substances listed in this section are included in Schedule V:

1. Any compound, mixture, or preparation containing limited quantities of any of the following narcotic drugs, which also contains one or more nonnarcotic active medicinal ingredients in sufficient proportion to confer upon the compound, mixture, or preparation, valuable medicinal qualities other than those possessed by the narcotic drug alone:

Not more than 200 milligrams of codeine, or any of its salts, per 100 milliliters or per 100 grams;

Not more than 100 milligrams of dihydrocodeine, or any of its salts, per 100 milliliters or per 100 grams;

Not more than 100 milligrams of ethylmorphine, or any of its salts, per 100 milliliters or per 100 grams;

Not more than 2.5 milligrams of diphenoxylate and not less than 25 micrograms of atropine sulfate per dosage unit;

Not more than 100 milligrams of opium per 100 milliliters or per 100 grams;

Not more than 0.5 milligrams of difenoxin and not less than 25 micrograms of atropine sulfate per dosage unit.

The Board may except by regulation any compound, mixture, or preparation containing any depressant substance listed in subdivision 1 from the application of all or any part of this chapter and such substances so excepted may be dispensed pursuant to § 54.1-3416.

2. Unless specifically excepted or listed in another schedule, any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contains any quantity of the following substances having a stimulant effect on the central nervous system, including its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers:

Pyrovalerone.

3. Unless specifically excepted or unless listed in another schedule, any material, compound, mixture, or preparation that contains any quantity of the following substances having a depressant effect on the central nervous system, including its salts:

Brivaracetam ((2S)-2-[(4R)-2-oxo-4-propylpyrrolidin-1-yl] butanamide) (also referred to as BRV; UCB-34714; Briviact);

Ezogabine [N-[2-amino-4-(4-fluorobenzylamino)-phenyl]-carbamic acid ethyl ester]-2779;

Gabapentin [1-(aminomethyl)cyclohexaneacetic acid];

Ganaxolone;

Lacosamide [(R)-2-acetoamido-N-benzyl-3-methoxy-propionamide];

Lasmiditan [2,4,6-trifluoro-N-(6-(1-methylpiperidine-4-carbonyl)pyridine-2-yl)-benzamide];

Pregabalin [(S)-3-(aminomethyl)-5-methylhexanoic acid].

2. That the provisions of this act may result in a net increase in periods of imprisonment or commitment. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation is \$0 for periods of imprisonment in state adult correctional facilities and is \$0 for periods of commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Agenda Item: Adoption of final regulatory action – implementation of 2022 legislation for pharmacists initiating treatment

Included in your agenda package:

- Final regulatory changes to 18VAC110-21-46; and
- Ch. 791 of the 2022 Acts of Assembly.

Staff note: Due to closure of comment period after compilation of the agenda, a handout will be provided at the meeting regarding comments received during the comment period.

Action needed:

- Motion to adopt final regulatory action to amend 18VAC110-21-46 as presented.

Project 7339 - Final

Board of Pharmacy

2022 Pharmacists initiating treatment

18VAC110-21-46. Initiation of treatment by a pharmacist.

A. Pursuant to § 54.1-3303.1 of the Code of Virginia, a pharmacist may initiate treatment with, dispense, or administer the following drugs and devices to persons 18 years of age or older with whom the pharmacist has a bona fide pharmacist-patient relationship:

1. Naloxone or other opioid antagonist, including such controlled paraphernalia as defined in § 54.1-3466 of the Code of Virginia as may be necessary to administer such naloxone or other opioid antagonist;
2. Epinephrine;
3. Injectable or self-administered hormonal contraceptives, provided the patient completes an assessment consistent with the United States Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use;
4. Prenatal vitamins for which a prescription is required;
5. Dietary fluoride supplements, in accordance with recommendations of the American Dental Association for prescribing of such supplements for persons whose drinking water has a fluoride content below the concentration recommended by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services;
6. Drugs and devices as defined in § 54.1-3401 of the Code of Virginia, controlled paraphernalia as defined in § 54.1-3466 of the Code of Virginia, and other supplies and equipment available over the counter covered by the patient's health carrier when the patient's out-of-pocket cost is lower than the out-of-pocket cost to purchase an over-the-

counter equivalent of the same drug, device, controlled paraphernalia, or other supplies or equipment;

7. Vaccines included on the Immunization Schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ~~or that have a current emergency use authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration~~ and vaccines for COVID-19;

8. Tuberculin purified protein derivative for tuberculosis testing; ~~and~~

9. Controlled substances for the prevention of human immunodeficiency virus, including controlled substances prescribed for pre-exposure and post-exposure prophylaxis pursuant to guidelines and recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

10. Nicotine replacement and other tobacco-cessation therapies, including controlled substances as defined in the Drug Control Act (§ 54.1-3400 et seq. of the Code of Virginia), together with appropriate patient counseling; and

11. Tests for COVID-19 and other coronaviruses.

B. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 54.1-3303 of the Code of Virginia, a pharmacist may initiate treatment with, dispense, or administer the following drugs and devices to persons three years of age or older:

1. Vaccines included on the Immunization Schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and vaccines for COVID-19; and

2. Tests for COVID-19 and other coronaviruses.

The provisions of this subsection will become effective upon expiration of the provisions of the federal Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19 related to the vaccination and COVID-19 testing of minors.

C. Pharmacists who initiate treatment with, dispense, or administer a drug or device, controlled paraphernalia, or other supplies or equipment pursuant to ~~subsection~~ subsections A and B of this section shall:

1. Follow the statewide protocol adopted by the board for each drug, device, controlled paraphernalia, or other supplies or equipment.
2. Notify the patient's primary health care provider that treatment has been initiated with such drug, device, controlled paraphernalia, or other supplies or equipment or that such drug, device, controlled paraphernalia, or other supplies or equipment have been dispensed or administered to the patient, provided that the patient consents to such notification. No pharmacist shall limit the ability of notification to be sent to the patient's primary care provider by requiring use of email that is secure or compliant with the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (42 USC § 1320d et seq.) (HIPAA). If the patient does not have a primary health care provider, the pharmacist shall counsel the patient regarding the benefits of establishing a relationship with a primary health care provider and, ~~upon request,~~ provide information regarding primary health care providers, including federally qualified health centers, free clinics, or local health departments serving the area in which the patient is located. If the pharmacist is initiating treatment with, dispensing, or administering injectable or self-administered hormonal contraceptives, the pharmacist shall counsel the patient regarding seeking preventative care, including (i) routine well-woman visits, (ii) testing for sexually transmitted infections, and (iii) pap smears. If the pharmacist is administering a vaccine pursuant to this section, the pharmacist shall report such administration to the Virginia Immunization Information System in accordance with the requirements of § 32.1-46.01 of the Code of Virginia.
3. Maintain a patient record for a minimum of six years following the last patient encounter with the following exceptions:

- a. Records that have previously been transferred to another practitioner or health care provider or provided to the patient or the patient's personal representative; or
 - b. Records that are required by contractual obligation or federal law to be maintained for a longer period of time.
4. Perform the activities in a manner that protects patient confidentiality and complies with ~~the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, 42 USC § 1320d et seq~~ HIPAA.
5. Obtain a history from the patient, including questioning the patient for any known allergies, adverse reactions, contraindications, or health diagnoses or conditions that would be adverse to the initiation of treatment, dispensing, or administration.
6. If administering a vaccination to a minor pursuant to subdivision B 1 of this section, provide written notice to the minor's parent or guardian that the minor should visit a pediatrician annually.

D. A pharmacist may initiate treatment with, dispense, or administer drugs, devices, controlled paraphernalia, and other supplies and equipment pursuant to this section through telemedicine services, as defined in § 38.2-3418.16 of the Code of Virginia, in compliance with all requirements of § 54.1-3303 of the Code of Virginia and consistent with the applicable standard of care.

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2022 RECONVENED SESSION

CHAPTER 791

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 32.1-325, 54.1-3303.1, and 54.1-3321 of the Code of Virginia, relating to pharmacists; initiation of treatment with and dispensing and administration of vaccines.

[H 1323]

Approved May 27, 2022

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 32.1-325, 54.1-3303.1, and 54.1-3321 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 32.1-325. Board to submit plan for medical assistance services to U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services pursuant to federal law; administration of plan; contracts with health care providers.

A. The Board, subject to the approval of the Governor, is authorized to prepare, amend from time to time, and submit to the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services a state plan for medical assistance services pursuant to Title XIX of the United States Social Security Act and any amendments thereto. The Board shall include in such plan:

1. A provision for payment of medical assistance on behalf of individuals, up to the age of 21, placed in foster homes or private institutions by private, nonprofit agencies licensed as child-placing agencies by the Department of Social Services or placed through state and local subsidized adoptions to the extent permitted under federal statute;

2. A provision for determining eligibility for benefits for medically needy individuals which disregards from countable resources an amount not in excess of \$3,500 for the individual and an amount not in excess of \$3,500 for his spouse when such resources have been set aside to meet the burial expenses of the individual or his spouse. The amount disregarded shall be reduced by (i) the face value of life insurance on the life of an individual owned by the individual or his spouse if the cash surrender value of such policies has been excluded from countable resources and (ii) the amount of any other revocable or irrevocable trust, contract, or other arrangement specifically designated for the purpose of meeting the individual's or his spouse's burial expenses;

3. A requirement that, in determining eligibility, a home shall be disregarded. For those medically needy persons whose eligibility for medical assistance is required by federal law to be dependent on the budget methodology for Aid to Families with Dependent Children, a home means the house and lot used as the principal residence and all contiguous property. For all other persons, a home shall mean the house and lot used as the principal residence, as well as all contiguous property, as long as the value of the land, exclusive of the lot occupied by the house, does not exceed \$5,000. In any case in which the definition of home as provided here is more restrictive than that provided in the state plan for medical assistance services in Virginia as it was in effect on January 1, 1972, then a home means the house and lot used as the principal residence and all contiguous property essential to the operation of the home regardless of value;

4. A provision for payment of medical assistance on behalf of individuals up to the age of 21, who are Medicaid eligible, for medically necessary stays in acute care facilities in excess of 21 days per admission;

5. A provision for deducting from an institutionalized recipient's income an amount for the maintenance of the individual's spouse at home;

6. A provision for payment of medical assistance on behalf of pregnant women which provides for payment for inpatient postpartum treatment in accordance with the medical criteria outlined in the most current version of or an official update to the "Guidelines for Perinatal Care" prepared by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists or the "Standards for Obstetric-Gynecologic Services" prepared by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Payment shall be made for any postpartum home visit or visits for the mothers and the children which are within the time periods recommended by the attending physicians in accordance with and as indicated by such Guidelines or Standards. For the purposes of this subdivision, such Guidelines or Standards shall include any changes thereto within six months of the publication of such Guidelines or Standards or any official amendment thereto;

7. A provision for the payment for family planning services on behalf of women who were Medicaid-eligible for prenatal care and delivery as provided in this section at the time of delivery. Such family planning services shall begin with delivery and continue for a period of 24 months, if the woman continues to meet the financial eligibility requirements for a pregnant woman under Medicaid. For the purposes of this section, family planning services shall not cover payment for abortion services and no funds shall be used to perform, assist, encourage or make direct referrals for abortions;

8. A provision for payment of medical assistance for high-dose chemotherapy and bone marrow transplants on behalf of individuals over the age of 21 who have been diagnosed with lymphoma, breast cancer, myeloma, or leukemia and have been determined by the treating health care provider to have a performance status sufficient to proceed with such high-dose chemotherapy and bone marrow transplant. Appeals of these cases shall be handled in accordance with the Department's expedited appeals process;

9. A provision identifying entities approved by the Board to receive applications and to determine eligibility for medical assistance, which shall include a requirement that such entities (i) obtain accurate contact information, including the best available address and telephone number, from each applicant for medical assistance, to the extent required by federal law and regulations, and (ii) provide each applicant for medical assistance with information about advance directives pursuant to Article 8 (§ 54.1-2981 et seq.) of Chapter 29 of Title 54.1, including information about the purpose and benefits of advance directives and how the applicant may make an advance directive;

10. A provision for breast reconstructive surgery following the medically necessary removal of a breast for any medical reason. Breast reductions shall be covered, if prior authorization has been obtained, for all medically necessary indications. Such procedures shall be considered noncosmetic;

11. A provision for payment of medical assistance for annual pap smears;

12. A provision for payment of medical assistance services for prostheses following the medically necessary complete or partial removal of a breast for any medical reason;

13. A provision for payment of medical assistance which provides for payment for 48 hours of inpatient treatment for a patient following a radical or modified radical mastectomy and 24 hours of inpatient care following a total mastectomy or a partial mastectomy with lymph node dissection for treatment of disease or trauma of the breast. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as requiring the provision of inpatient coverage where the attending physician in consultation with the patient determines that a shorter period of hospital stay is appropriate;

14. A requirement that certificates of medical necessity for durable medical equipment and any supporting verifiable documentation shall be signed, dated, and returned by the physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner and in the durable medical equipment provider's possession within 60 days from the time the ordered durable medical equipment and supplies are first furnished by the durable medical equipment provider;

15. A provision for payment of medical assistance to (i) persons age 50 and over and (ii) persons age 40 and over who are at high risk for prostate cancer, according to the most recent published guidelines of the American Cancer Society, for one PSA test in a 12-month period and digital rectal examinations, all in accordance with American Cancer Society guidelines. For the purpose of this subdivision, "PSA testing" means the analysis of a blood sample to determine the level of prostate specific antigen;

16. A provision for payment of medical assistance for low-dose screening mammograms for determining the presence of occult breast cancer. Such coverage shall make available one screening mammogram to persons age 35 through 39, one such mammogram biennially to persons age 40 through 49, and one such mammogram annually to persons age 50 and over. The term "mammogram" means an X-ray examination of the breast using equipment dedicated specifically for mammography, including but not limited to the X-ray tube, filter, compression device, screens, film and cassettes, with an average radiation exposure of less than one rad mid-breast, two views of each breast;

17. A provision, when in compliance with federal law and regulation and approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), for payment of medical assistance services delivered to Medicaid-eligible students when such services qualify for reimbursement by the Virginia Medicaid program and may be provided by school divisions, regardless of whether the student receiving care has an individualized education program or whether the health care service is included in a student's individualized education program. Such services shall include those covered under the state plan for medical assistance services or by the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit as specified in § 1905(r) of the federal Social Security Act, and shall include a provision for payment of medical assistance for health care services provided through telemedicine services, as defined in § 38.2-3418.16. No health care provider who provides health care services through telemedicine shall be required to use proprietary technology or applications in order to be reimbursed for providing telemedicine services;

18. A provision for payment of medical assistance services for liver, heart and lung transplantation procedures for individuals over the age of 21 years when (i) there is no effective alternative medical or surgical therapy available with outcomes that are at least comparable; (ii) the transplant procedure and application of the procedure in treatment of the specific condition have been clearly demonstrated to be medically effective and not experimental or investigational; (iii) prior authorization by the Department of Medical Assistance Services has been obtained; (iv) the patient selection criteria of the specific transplant center where the surgery is proposed to be performed have been used by the transplant team or program to determine the appropriateness of the patient for the procedure; (v) current medical therapy has failed and the patient has failed to respond to appropriate therapeutic management; (vi) the patient is not in an irreversible terminal state; and (vii) the transplant is likely to prolong the patient's life and

restore a range of physical and social functioning in the activities of daily living;

19. A provision for payment of medical assistance for colorectal cancer screening, specifically screening with an annual fecal occult blood test, flexible sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy, or in appropriate circumstances radiologic imaging, in accordance with the most recently published recommendations established by the American College of Gastroenterology, in consultation with the American Cancer Society, for the ages, family histories, and frequencies referenced in such recommendations;

20. A provision for payment of medical assistance for custom ocular prostheses;

21. A provision for payment for medical assistance for infant hearing screenings and all necessary audiological examinations provided pursuant to § 32.1-64.1 using any technology approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration, and as recommended by the national Joint Committee on Infant Hearing in its most current position statement addressing early hearing detection and intervention programs. Such provision shall include payment for medical assistance for follow-up audiological examinations as recommended by a physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or audiologist and performed by a licensed audiologist to confirm the existence or absence of hearing loss;

22. A provision for payment of medical assistance, pursuant to the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-354), for certain women with breast or cervical cancer when such women (i) have been screened for breast or cervical cancer under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program established under Title XV of the Public Health Service Act; (ii) need treatment for breast or cervical cancer, including treatment for a precancerous condition of the breast or cervix; (iii) are not otherwise covered under creditable coverage, as defined in § 2701 (c) of the Public Health Service Act; (iv) are not otherwise eligible for medical assistance services under any mandatory categorically needy eligibility group; and (v) have not attained age 65. This provision shall include an expedited eligibility determination for such women;

23. A provision for the coordinated administration, including outreach, enrollment, re-enrollment and services delivery, of medical assistance services provided to medically indigent children pursuant to this chapter, which shall be called Family Access to Medical Insurance Security (FAMIS) Plus and the FAMIS Plan program in § 32.1-351. A single application form shall be used to determine eligibility for both programs;

24. A provision, when authorized by and in compliance with federal law, to establish a public-private long-term care partnership program between the Commonwealth of Virginia and private insurance companies that shall be established through the filing of an amendment to the state plan for medical assistance services by the Department of Medical Assistance Services. The purpose of the program shall be to reduce Medicaid costs for long-term care by delaying or eliminating dependence on Medicaid for such services through encouraging the purchase of private long-term care insurance policies that have been designated as qualified state long-term care insurance partnerships and may be used as the first source of benefits for the participant's long-term care. Components of the program, including the treatment of assets for Medicaid eligibility and estate recovery, shall be structured in accordance with federal law and applicable federal guidelines;

25. A provision for the payment of medical assistance for otherwise eligible pregnant women during the first five years of lawful residence in the United States, pursuant to § 214 of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-3);

26. A provision for the payment of medical assistance for medically necessary health care services provided through telemedicine services, as defined in § 38.2-3418.16, regardless of the originating site or whether the patient is accompanied by a health care provider at the time such services are provided. No health care provider who provides health care services through telemedicine services shall be required to use proprietary technology or applications in order to be reimbursed for providing telemedicine services.

For the purposes of this subdivision, "originating site" means any location where the patient is located, including any medical care facility or office of a health care provider, the home of the patient, the patient's place of employment, or any public or private primary or secondary school or postsecondary institution of higher education at which the person to whom telemedicine services are provided is located;

27. A provision for the payment of medical assistance for the dispensing or furnishing of up to a 12-month supply of hormonal contraceptives at one time. Absent clinical contraindications, the Department shall not impose any utilization controls or other forms of medical management limiting the supply of hormonal contraceptives that may be dispensed or furnished to an amount less than a 12-month supply. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to (i) require a provider to prescribe, dispense, or furnish a 12-month supply of self-administered hormonal contraceptives at one time or (ii) exclude coverage for hormonal contraceptives as prescribed by a prescriber, acting within his scope of practice, for reasons other than contraceptive purposes. As used in this subdivision, "hormonal contraceptive" means a medication taken to prevent pregnancy by means of ingestion of hormones, including medications containing estrogen or progesterone, that is self-administered, requires a prescription, and is approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for such purpose; and

28. A provision for payment of medical assistance for remote patient monitoring services provided via telemedicine, as defined in § 38.2-3418.16, for (i) high-risk pregnant persons; (ii) medically complex infants and children; (iii) transplant patients; (iv) patients who have undergone surgery, for up to three months following the date of such surgery; and (v) patients with a chronic health condition who have had two or more hospitalizations or emergency department visits related to such chronic health condition in the previous 12 months. For the purposes of this subdivision, "remote patient monitoring services" means the use of digital technologies to collect medical and other forms of health data from patients in one location and electronically transmit that information securely to health care providers in a different location for analysis, interpretation, and recommendations, and management of the patient. "Remote patient monitoring services" includes monitoring of clinical patient data such as weight, blood pressure, pulse, pulse oximetry, blood glucose, and other patient physiological data, treatment adherence monitoring, and interactive videoconferencing with or without digital image upload.

B. In preparing the plan, the Board shall:

1. Work cooperatively with the State Board of Health to ensure that quality patient care is provided and that the health, safety, security, rights and welfare of patients are ensured.

2. Initiate such cost containment or other measures as are set forth in the appropriation act.

3. Make, adopt, promulgate and enforce such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

4. Examine, before acting on a regulation to be published in the Virginia Register of Regulations pursuant to § 2.2-4007.05, the potential fiscal impact of such regulation on local boards of social services. For regulations with potential fiscal impact, the Board shall share copies of the fiscal impact analysis with local boards of social services prior to submission to the Registrar. The fiscal impact analysis shall include the projected costs/savings to the local boards of social services to implement or comply with such regulation and, where applicable, sources of potential funds to implement or comply with such regulation.

5. Incorporate sanctions and remedies for certified nursing facilities established by state law, in accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 488.400 et seq. "Enforcement of Compliance for Long-Term Care Facilities With Deficiencies."

6. On and after July 1, 2002, require that a prescription benefit card, health insurance benefit card, or other technology that complies with the requirements set forth in § 38.2-3407.4:2 be issued to each recipient of medical assistance services, and shall upon any changes in the required data elements set forth in subsection A of § 38.2-3407.4:2, either reissue the card or provide recipients such corrective information as may be required to electronically process a prescription claim.

C. In order to enable the Commonwealth to continue to receive federal grants or reimbursement for medical assistance or related services, the Board, subject to the approval of the Governor, may adopt, regardless of any other provision of this chapter, such amendments to the state plan for medical assistance services as may be necessary to conform such plan with amendments to the United States Social Security Act or other relevant federal law and their implementing regulations or constructions of these laws and regulations by courts of competent jurisdiction or the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services.

In the event conforming amendments to the state plan for medical assistance services are adopted, the Board shall not be required to comply with the requirements of Article 2 (§ 2.2-4006 et seq.) of Chapter 40 of Title 2.2. However, the Board shall, pursuant to the requirements of § 2.2-4002, (i) notify the Registrar of Regulations that such amendment is necessary to meet the requirements of federal law or regulations or because of the order of any state or federal court, or (ii) certify to the Governor that the regulations are necessitated by an emergency situation. Any such amendments that are in conflict with the Code of Virginia shall only remain in effect until July 1 following adjournment of the next regular session of the General Assembly unless enacted into law.

D. The Director of Medical Assistance Services is authorized to:

1. Administer such state plan and receive and expend federal funds therefor in accordance with applicable federal and state laws and regulations; and enter into all contracts necessary or incidental to the performance of the Department's duties and the execution of its powers as provided by law.

2. Enter into agreements and contracts with medical care facilities, physicians, dentists and other health care providers where necessary to carry out the provisions of such state plan. Any such agreement or contract shall terminate upon conviction of the provider of a felony. In the event such conviction is reversed upon appeal, the provider may apply to the Director of Medical Assistance Services for a new agreement or contract. Such provider may also apply to the Director for reconsideration of the agreement or contract termination if the conviction is not appealed, or if it is not reversed upon appeal.

3. Refuse to enter into or renew an agreement or contract, or elect to terminate an existing agreement or contract, with any provider who has been convicted of or otherwise pled guilty to a felony, or pursuant to Subparts A, B, and C of 42 C.F.R. Part 1002, and upon notice of such action to the provider as required by 42 C.F.R. § 1002.212.

4. Refuse to enter into or renew an agreement or contract, or elect to terminate an existing agreement or contract, with a provider who is or has been a principal in a professional or other corporation when

such corporation has been convicted of or otherwise pled guilty to any violation of § 32.1-314, 32.1-315, 32.1-316, or 32.1-317, or any other felony or has been excluded from participation in any federal program pursuant to 42 C.F.R. Part 1002.

5. Terminate or suspend a provider agreement with a home care organization pursuant to subsection E of § 32.1-162.13.

For the purposes of this subsection, "provider" may refer to an individual or an entity.

E. In any case in which a Medicaid agreement or contract is terminated or denied to a provider pursuant to subsection D, the provider shall be entitled to appeal the decision pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 1002.213 and to a post-determination or post-denial hearing in accordance with the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.). All such requests shall be in writing and be received within 15 days of the date of receipt of the notice.

The Director may consider aggravating and mitigating factors including the nature and extent of any adverse impact the agreement or contract denial or termination may have on the medical care provided to Virginia Medicaid recipients. In cases in which an agreement or contract is terminated pursuant to subsection D, the Director may determine the period of exclusion and may consider aggravating and mitigating factors to lengthen or shorten the period of exclusion, and may reinstate the provider pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 1002.215.

F. When the services provided for by such plan are services which a marriage and family therapist, clinical psychologist, clinical social worker, professional counselor, or clinical nurse specialist is licensed to render in Virginia, the Director shall contract with any duly licensed marriage and family therapist, duly licensed clinical psychologist, licensed clinical social worker, licensed professional counselor or licensed clinical nurse specialist who makes application to be a provider of such services, and thereafter shall pay for covered services as provided in the state plan. The Board shall promulgate regulations which reimburse licensed marriage and family therapists, licensed clinical psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, licensed professional counselors and licensed clinical nurse specialists at rates based upon reasonable criteria, including the professional credentials required for licensure.

G. The Board shall prepare and submit to the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services such amendments to the state plan for medical assistance services as may be permitted by federal law to establish a program of family assistance whereby children over the age of 18 years shall make reasonable contributions, as determined by regulations of the Board, toward the cost of providing medical assistance under the plan to their parents.

H. The Department of Medical Assistance Services shall:

1. Include in its provider networks and all of its health maintenance organization contracts a provision for the payment of medical assistance on behalf of individuals up to the age of 21 who have special needs and who are Medicaid eligible, including individuals who have been victims of child abuse and neglect, for medically necessary assessment and treatment services, when such services are delivered by a provider which specializes solely in the diagnosis and treatment of child abuse and neglect, or a provider with comparable expertise, as determined by the Director.

2. Amend the Medallion II waiver and its implementing regulations to develop and implement an exception, with procedural requirements, to mandatory enrollment for certain children between birth and age three certified by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services as eligible for services pursuant to Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 1471 et seq.).

3. Utilize, to the extent practicable, electronic funds transfer technology for reimbursement to contractors and enrolled providers for the provision of health care services under Medicaid and the Family Access to Medical Insurance Security Plan established under § 32.1-351.

4. Require any managed care organization with which the Department enters into an agreement for the provision of medical assistance services to include in any contract between the managed care organization and a pharmacy benefits manager provisions prohibiting the pharmacy benefits manager or a representative of the pharmacy benefits manager from conducting spread pricing with regards to the managed care organization's managed care plans. For the purposes of this subdivision:

"Pharmacy benefits management" means the administration or management of prescription drug benefits provided by a managed care organization for the benefit of covered individuals.

"Pharmacy benefits manager" means a person that performs pharmacy benefits management.

"Spread pricing" means the model of prescription drug pricing in which the pharmacy benefits manager charges a managed care plan a contracted price for prescription drugs, and the contracted price for the prescription drugs differs from the amount the pharmacy benefits manager directly or indirectly pays the pharmacist or pharmacy for pharmacist services.

I. The Director is authorized to negotiate and enter into agreements for services rendered to eligible recipients with special needs. The Board shall promulgate regulations regarding these special needs patients, to include persons with AIDS, ventilator-dependent patients, and other recipients with special needs as defined by the Board.

J. Except as provided in subdivision A 1 of § 2.2-4345, the provisions of the Virginia Public Procurement Act (§ 2.2-4300 et seq.) shall not apply to the activities of the Director authorized by subsection I of this section. Agreements made pursuant to this subsection shall comply with federal law

and regulation.

K. When the services provided for by such plan are services related to initiation of treatment with or dispensing or administration of a vaccination by a pharmacist, pharmacy technician, or pharmacy intern in accordance with § 54.1-3303.1, the Department shall provide reimbursement for such service.

§ 54.1-3303.1. Initiating of treatment with and dispensing and administering of controlled substances by pharmacists.

A. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 54.1-3303, a pharmacist may initiate treatment with, dispense, or administer the following drugs, devices, controlled paraphernalia, and other supplies and equipment to persons 18 years of age or older *with whom the pharmacist has a bona fide pharmacist-patient relationship and* in accordance with a statewide protocol developed by the Board in collaboration with the Board of Medicine and the Department of Health and set forth in regulations of the Board:

1. Naloxone or other opioid antagonist, including such controlled paraphernalia, as defined in § 54.1-3466, as may be necessary to administer such naloxone or other opioid antagonist;

2. Epinephrine;

3. Injectable or self-administered hormonal contraceptives, provided the patient completes an assessment consistent with the United States Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use;

4. Prenatal vitamins for which a prescription is required;

5. Dietary fluoride supplements, in accordance with recommendations of the American Dental Association for prescribing of such supplements for persons whose drinking water has a fluoride content below the concentration recommended by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services;

6. Drugs as defined in § 54.1-3401, devices as defined in § 54.1-3401, controlled paraphernalia as defined in § 54.1-3466, and other supplies and equipment available over-the-counter, covered by the patient's health carrier when the patient's out-of-pocket cost is lower than the out-of-pocket cost to purchase an over-the-counter equivalent of the same drug, device, controlled paraphernalia, or other supplies or equipment;

7. Vaccines included on the Immunization Schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ~~or that have a current emergency use authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration~~ *and vaccines for COVID-19;*

8. Tuberculin purified protein derivative for tuberculosis testing; ~~and~~

9. Controlled substances for the prevention of human immunodeficiency virus, including controlled substances prescribed for pre-exposure and post-exposure prophylaxis pursuant to guidelines and recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

10. *Nicotine replacement and other tobacco cessation therapies, including controlled substances as defined in the Drug Control Act (§ 54.1-3400 et seq.), together with providing appropriate patient counseling; and*

11. *Tests for COVID-19 and other coronaviruses.*

B. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 54.1-3303, a pharmacist may initiate treatment with, dispense, or administer the following drugs and devices to persons three years of age or older in accordance with a statewide protocol as set forth in regulations of the Board:

1. *Vaccines included on the Immunization Schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and vaccines for COVID-19; and*

2. *Tests for COVID-19 and other coronaviruses.*

C. A pharmacist who initiates treatment with or dispenses or administers a drug or device pursuant to this section shall notify the patient's primary health care provider that the pharmacist has initiated treatment with such drug or device or that such drug or device has been dispensed or administered to the patient, provided that the patient consents to such notification. *No pharmacist shall limit the ability of notification to be sent to the patient's primary care provider by requiring use of electronic mail that is secure or compliant with the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (42 U.S.C. § 1320d et seq.).* If the patient does not have a primary health care provider, the pharmacist shall counsel the patient regarding the benefits of establishing a relationship with a primary health care provider and, ~~upon request,~~ provide information regarding primary health care providers, including federally qualified health centers, free clinics, or local health departments serving the area in which the patient is located. If the pharmacist is initiating treatment with, dispensing, or administering injectable or self-administered hormonal contraceptives, the pharmacist shall counsel the patient regarding seeking preventative care, including (i) routine well-woman visits, (ii) testing for sexually transmitted infections, and (iii) pap smears.

~~§. D.~~ D. A pharmacist who administers a vaccination pursuant to ~~subdivision~~ *subdivisions A 7 and B 1* shall report such administration to the Virginia Immunization Information System in accordance with the requirements of § 32.1-46.01.

E. *A pharmacist who initiates treatment with, dispenses, or administers drugs, devices, controlled paraphernalia, and other supplies and equipment pursuant to this section shall obtain a history from the patient, including questioning the patient for any known allergies, adverse reactions, contraindications, or health diagnoses or conditions that would be adverse to the initiation of treatment, dispensing, or administration.*

F. A pharmacist may initiate treatment with, dispense, or administer drugs, devices, controlled paraphernalia, and other supplies and equipment pursuant to this section through telemedicine services, as defined in § 38.2-3418.16, in compliance with all requirements of § 54.1-3303 and consistent with the applicable standard of care.

G. A pharmacist who administers a vaccination to a minor pursuant to subdivision B 1 shall provide written notice to the minor's parent or guardian that the minor should visit a pediatrician annually.

§ 54.1-3321. Registration of pharmacy technicians.

A. No person shall perform the duties of a pharmacy technician without first being registered as a pharmacy technician with the Board. Upon being registered with the Board as a pharmacy technician, the following tasks may be performed:

1. The entry of prescription information and drug history into a data system or other record keeping system;

2. The preparation of prescription labels or patient information;

3. The removal of the drug to be dispensed from inventory;

4. The counting, measuring, or compounding of the drug to be dispensed;

5. The packaging and labeling of the drug to be dispensed and the repackaging thereof;

6. The stocking or loading of automated dispensing devices or other devices used in the dispensing process;

7. The acceptance of refill authorization from a prescriber or his authorized agency, so long as there is no change to the original prescription; ~~and~~

8. Under the supervision of a pharmacist, meaning the supervising pharmacist is at the same physical location of the technician or pharmacy intern, and consistent with the requirements of § 54.1-3303.1, administration of the following drugs and devices to persons three years of age or older as set forth in regulations of the Board: vaccines included on the Immunization Schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and vaccines for COVID-19; and

9. The performance of any other task restricted to pharmacy technicians by the Board's regulations.

B. To be registered as a pharmacy technician, a person shall submit:

1. An application and fee specified in regulations of the Board;

2. (Effective July 1, 2022) Evidence that he has successfully completed a training program that is (i) an accredited training program, including an accredited training program operated through the Department of Education's Career and Technical Education program or approved by the Board, or (ii) operated through a federal agency or branch of the military; and

3. Evidence that he has successfully passed a national certification examination administered by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board or the National Healthcareer Association.

C. The Board shall promulgate regulations establishing requirements for:

1. Issuance of a registration as a pharmacy technician to a person who, prior to the effective date of such regulations, (i) successfully completed or was enrolled in a Board-approved pharmacy technician training program or (ii) passed a national certification examination required by the Board but did not complete a Board-approved pharmacy technician training program;

2. Issuance of a registration as a pharmacy technician to a person who (i) has previously practiced as a pharmacy technician in another U.S. jurisdiction and (ii) has passed a national certification examination required by the Board; and

3. Evidence of continued competency as a condition of renewal of a registration as a pharmacy technician.

D. The Board shall waive the initial registration fee for a pharmacy technician applicant who works as a pharmacy technician exclusively in a free clinic pharmacy. A person registered pursuant to this subsection shall be issued a limited-use registration. A pharmacy technician with a limited-use registration shall not perform pharmacy technician tasks in any setting other than a free clinic pharmacy. The Board shall also waive renewal fees for such limited-use registrations. A pharmacy technician with a limited-use registration may convert to an unlimited registration by paying the current renewal fee.

E. Any person registered as a pharmacy technician prior to the effective date of regulations implementing the provisions of this section shall not be required to comply with the requirements of subsection B in order to maintain or renew registration as a pharmacy technician.

F. A pharmacy technician trainee enrolled in a training program for pharmacy technicians described in subdivision B 2 may engage in the acts set forth in subsection A for the purpose of obtaining practical experience required for completion of the training program, so long as such activities are directly monitored by a supervising pharmacist.

G. To be registered as a pharmacy technician trainee, a person shall submit an application and a fee specified in regulations of the Board. Such registration shall only be valid while the person is enrolled in a pharmacy technician training program described in subsection B and actively progressing toward completion of such program. A registration card issued pursuant to this section shall be invalid and shall be returned to the Board if such person fails to enroll in a pharmacy technician training program described in subsection B.

H. A pharmacy intern may perform the duties set forth for pharmacy technicians in subsection A

when registered with the Board for the purpose of gaining the practical experience required to apply for licensure as a pharmacist.

2. That the Board of Medicine, in collaboration with the Board of Pharmacy and the Department of Health, shall establish a statewide protocol for the initiation of treatment with and dispensing and administering of drugs and devices by pharmacists in accordance with § 54.1-3303.1 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act, by November 1, 2022, and the Board of Pharmacy shall promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of the first enactment of this act to be effective within 280 days of its enactment. Such regulations shall include provisions for ensuring that physical settings in which treatment is provided pursuant to this act shall be in compliance with the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1320d et seq., as amended.

3. That the provisions of subdivisions B 1 and 2 of § 54.1-3303.1 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act, shall become effective upon the expiration of the provisions of the federal Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19 related to the vaccination and COVID-19 testing of minors.

Agenda Item: Adoption of exempt regulatory action – addition of chemicals to Schedule I

Included in your agenda package:

- Recommendation from the Department of Forensic Science to place certain chemicals in Schedule I; and
- Amendments to 18VAC110-20-322.

Action needed:

- Motion to adopt exempt changes to 18VAC20-322 to add chemicals to Schedule I.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
A Nationally Accredited Laboratory

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To: Caroline Juran, Executive Director, Board of Pharmacy
From: Robyn Weimer, Chemistry Program Manager, Virginia Department of Forensic Science
Date: April 15, 2024
RE: **Recommendation for Expedited Scheduling of Controlled Substances**

Ms. Juran,

Pursuant to article § 54.1-3443(D), The Virginia Department of Forensic Science (DFS) has identified four (4) ⁶ compounds for recommended inclusion into the Code of Virginia.

Based on their chemical structures, the following compounds are expected to have hallucinogenic properties. Compounds of this type have been placed in Schedule I (§ 54.1-3446(3)) in previous legislative sessions.

1. **1-[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]-4-methylpiperazine (other names: 4-fluoro-MBZP, 4-fluoro methylbenzylpiperazine)**, its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.
2. **4-fluoro-alpha-pyrrolidinoisohexiophenone (other name: 4-fluoro-alpha-PiHP)**, its salts, isomers (optical, position, and geometric), and salts of isomers, whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.
3. **8-bromo-1-methyl-6-pyridin-2-yl-4H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a][1,4]benzodiazepine (other name: pyrazolam)**, its salts, isomers (optical, position, and geometric), and salts of isomers, whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.

The following compound is classified as a cannabimimetic agent. Compounds of this type have been placed in Schedule I (§ 54.1-3446(6)) in previous legislative sessions.

4. **Methyl-2-(1-butyl-1H-indazole-3-carboxamido)-3,3-dimethylbutanoate (other name: MDMB-BUTINACA)**, its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.

Robyn Weimer
Chemistry Program Manager

Project 7871 - Exempt Final

Board of Pharmacy

June 2024 scheduling of chemicals in Schedule I

18VAC110-20-322. Placement of chemicals in Schedule I.

A. Pursuant to subsection D of § 54.1-3443 of the Code of Virginia, the Board of Pharmacy places the following in Schedule I of the Drug Control Act:

1. Synthetic opioid. N,N-diethyl-2-[5-nitro-2-(4-propoxybenzyl)-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl]ethanamine (other name: Protonitazene), its isomers, esters, ethers, salts, and salts of isomers, esters, and ethers, unless specifically excepted, whenever the existence of these isomers, esters, ethers, and salts is possible within the specific chemical designation.
2. Compounds expected to have hallucinogenic properties. 1-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-2-(cyclohexylamino)butan-1-one (other names: Cybutylone, N-cyclohexyl Butylone), its salts, isomers (optical, position, and geometric), and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.
3. Compounds expected to have depressant properties. 8-bromo-6-(2-chlorophenyl)-1-methyl-4H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a][1,4]benzodiazepine (other names: Clobromazolam, Phenazolam), its salts, isomers (optical, position, and geometric), and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.
4. Cannabimimetic agents.
 - a. 5-bromo-N-(1-amino-3,3-dimethyl-1-oxobutan-2-yl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide (other name: ADB-5Br-INACA), its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the

existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.

b. N-(1-amino-3,3-dimethyl-1-oxobutan-2-yl)-5-bromo-1-buty lindazole-3-carboxamide (other name: ADB-5'Br-BUTINACA), its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.

The placement of drugs listed in this subsection shall remain in effect until July 31, 2024, unless enacted into law in the Drug Control Act.

B. Pursuant to subsection D of § 54.1-3443 of the Code of Virginia, the Board of Pharmacy places the following in Schedule I of the Drug Control Act:

1. Synthetic opioid. 2-methyl-N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]butanamide (other name: 2-methyl butyryl fentanyl), its isomers, esters, ethers, salts, and salts of isomers, esters, and ethers, unless specifically excepted, whenever the existence of these isomers, esters, ethers, and salts is possible within the specific chemical designation.

2. Compounds expected to have hallucinogenic properties.

a. 1-(7-methoxy-1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)propan-2-amine (other names: 5-methoxy-3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine, 3-methoxy MDA, MMDA), its salts, isomers (optical, position, and geometric), and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.

b. 1-[1-(3-chlorophenyl)cyclohexyl]-piperidine (other names: 3-Chloro Phencyclidine, 3CI-PCP, 3-chloro PCP), its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.

3. Compound expected to have depressant properties. 7-bromo-5-phenyl-1,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodiazepin-2-one (other names: Desalkylgidazepam, Bromonordiazepam), its salts, isomers (optical, position, and geometric), and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.

4. Compound classified as a cannabimimetic agent. Methyl N-[(5-bromo-1H-indazol-3-yl)carbonyl]-3-methyl-valinate (other name: MDMB-5Br-INACA), its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.

The placement of drugs listed in this subsection shall remain in effect until October 12, 2024, unless enacted into law in the Drug Control Act.

C. Pursuant to subsection D of § 54.1-3443 of the Code of Virginia, the Board of Pharmacy places the following in Schedule I of the Drug Control Act:

1. Synthetic opioids.

a. 2-(4-isopropoxybenzyl)-5-nitro-1-[2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethyl]-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (other name: N-Pyrrolidino Isotonitazene), its isomers, esters, ethers, salts, and salts of isomers, esters, and ethers, unless specifically excepted, whenever the existence of these isomers, esters, ethers, and salts is possible within the specific chemical designation.

b. 5-nitro-2-(4-propoxybenzyl)-1-[2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethyl]-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (other names: N-Pyrrolidino Protonitazene, Protonitazepyne), its isomers, esters, ethers, salts, and salts of isomers, esters, and ethers, unless specifically excepted, whenever the existence of these isomers, esters, ethers, and salts is possible within the specific chemical designation.

c. N-phenyl-N-(1-propionyl-4-piperidinyl)-propanamide (other name: N-propionyl Norfentanyl), its isomers, esters, ethers, salts, and salts of isomers, esters, and ethers, unless specifically excepted, whenever the existence of these isomers, esters, ethers, and salts is possible within the specific chemical designation.

2. Synthetic compounds.

a. N-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-(1-phenethylpiperidin-4-yl)pentanamide (other names: para-fluoro valeryl fentanyl, para-fluoro pentanoyl fentanyl), its isomers, esters, ethers, salts, and salts of isomers, esters, and ethers, unless specifically excepted, whenever the existence of these isomers, esters, ethers, and salts is possible within the specific chemical designation.

b. N-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide (other name: para-fluoroacetyl fentanyl), its isomers, esters, ethers, salts, and salts of isomers, esters, and ethers, unless specifically excepted, whenever the existence of these isomers, esters, ethers, and salts is possible within the specific chemical designation.

3. Compounds expected to have hallucinogenic properties.

a. 1-[1-(3-fluorophenyl)cyclohexyl]piperidine (other names: 3-fluoro Phencyclidine, 3F-PCP), its salts, isomers (optical, position, and geometric), and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.

b. 2-(ethylamino)-2-(2-fluorophenyl)-cyclohexanone (other names: 2-fluoro-2-oxo PCE, 2-fluoro NENDCK), its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.

4. Compounds expected to have depressive properties:

- a. 6-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-methyl-4H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a][1,4]benzodiazepine (other names: 4'-chloro Deschloroalprazolam, 4'Cl-Deschloroalprazolam), its salts, isomers (optical, position, and geometric), and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.
 - b. 7-chloro-5-(2-chlorophenyl)-1-methyl-3H-1,4-benzodiazepin-2-one (other names: Diclazepam, 2-Chlorodiazepam), its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.
5. Central nervous system stimulant. 2-(3-chlorophenyl)-3-methylmorpholine (other name: 3-chlorophenmetrazine), its salts, isomers (optical, position, and geometric), and salts of isomers.

The placement of drugs listed in this subsection shall remain in effect until March 27, 2025, unless enacted into law in the Drug Control Act.

D. Pursuant to subsection D of § 54.1-3443 of the Code of Virginia, the Board of Pharmacy places the following in Schedule I of the Drug Control Act:

1. Synthetic opioid.
 - a. N-ethyl-2-[5-nitro-2-[(4-propan-2-yloxyphenyl)methyl]benzimidazol-1-yl]ethanamine (other name: N-desethyl Isotonitazene), its isomers, esters, ethers, salts, and salts of isomers, esters, and ethers, unless specifically excepted, whenever the existence of these isomers, esters, ethers and salts is possible within the specific chemical designation.
 - b. 7-[(3-chloro-6-methyl-5,5-dioxo-11H-benzo[c][2,1]benzothiazepin-11-yl)amino]heptanoic acid (other name: Tianeptine), its isomers, esters, ethers, salts,

and salts of isomers, esters, and ethers, unless specifically excepted, whenever the existence of these isomers, esters, ethers, and salts is possible within the specific chemical designation.

2. Cannabimimetic agent. Ethyl-3,3-dimethyl-2-[(1-(pent-4-enylindazole-3-carbonyl)amino]butanoate (other name: EDMB-4en-PINACA), its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.

The placement of drugs listed in this subsection shall remain in effect until July 31, 2025, unless enacted into law in the Drug Control Act.

E. Pursuant to subsection D of § 54.1-3443 of the Code of Virginia, the Board of Pharmacy places the following compounds expected to have hallucinogenic properties in Schedule I of the Drug Control Act:

1. 1-(3,5-Dimethoxy-4-propoxyphenyl)-2-propanamine (other names: 4-propoxy-3,5-DMA, 3C-P, 1-(3,5-Dimethoxy-4-propoxyphenyl)propan-2-amine), its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.

2. 2-(5-methoxy-1H-indol-3-yl)ethanamine (other names: 5-methoxytryptamine, 5-MeOT), its salts, isomers (optical, position, and geometric), and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.

The placement of drugs listed in this subsection shall remain in effect until August 28, 2025, unless enacted into law in the Drug Control Act.

F. Pursuant to subsection D of § 54.1-3443 of the Code of Virginia, the Board of Pharmacy places the following in Schedule I of the Drug Control Act:

1. The following compounds expected to have hallucinogenic properties:

a. 1-[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]-4-methylpiperazine (other names: 4-fluoro-MBZP, 4-fluoro methylbenzylpiperazine), its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.

b. 4-fluoro-alpha-pyrrolidinoisohexiophenone (other name: 4-fluoro-alpha-PiHP), its salts, isomers (optical, position, and geometric), and salts of isomers, whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.

c. 8-bromo-1-methyl-6-pyridin-2-yl-4H-[1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a][1,4]benzodiazepine (other name: pyrazolam), its salts, isomers (optical, position, and geometric), and salts of isomers, whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.

2. The following cannabimimetic agent: Methyl-2-(1-butyl-1H-indazole-3-carboxamido)-3,3-dimethylbutanoate (other name: MDMB-BUTINACA), its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within the specific chemical designation.

The placement of drugs listed in this subsection shall remain in effect until [December 25, 2025], unless enacted into law in the Drug Control Act.

Agenda Item: Amendment of Guidance Document 110-9

Included in your agenda package:

- Draft changes to Guidance Document 110-9, repealing deficiency 125.

Staff note: Recommendation to repeal deficiency 125 due to elimination of this language by USP.

Action needed:

- Motion to amend Guidance Document 110-9 as presented.

Virginia Board of Pharmacy Pharmacy Inspection Deficiency Monetary Penalty Guide

Deficiency	Law/Reg Cite	Conditions	\$ Monetary Penalty
1. No Pharmacist-in-Charge or Pharmacist-in-Charge not fully engaged in practice at pharmacy location	54.1-3434 and 18VAC110-20-110	must have documentation	2000
2. Pharmacist-in-Charge in place, inventory taken, but application not filed with Board within the required timeframe	54.1-3434 and 18VAC110-20-110		1000
3. Unregistered persons performing duties restricted to pharmacy technician without first becoming registered as a pharmacy technician trainee	54.1-3321 and 18VAC110-20-111	per individual	250
4. Pharmacists/pharmacy technicians/pharmacy interns/pharmacy technician trainees performing duties on an expired license/registration	18VAC110-21-60, 18VAC110-21-110, 18VAC110-21-141, and 18VAC110-21-170.	per individual	100

Deficiency	Law/Reg Cite	Conditions	\$ Monetary Penalty
5. Pharmacy technicians, pharmacy interns, or pharmacy technician trainees performing duties without monitoring by a pharmacist, or unlicensed persons engaging in acts restricted to pharmacists	54.1-3320 18VAC110-20-112		500
6. Exceeds pharmacist to pharmacy technician ratio	54.1-3320 18VAC110-20-112	per each technician over the ratio	First documented occurrence = no penalty Repeat = \$ penalty 100
7. Change of location or remodel of pharmacy without submitting application or Board approval	18VAC110-20-140	must submit an application and fee	250
8. Refrigerator/freezer temperature out of range greater than +/- 4 degrees Fahrenheit.	18VAC110-20-150 and 18VAC110-20-10	determined using inspector's or pharmacy's calibrated thermometer	First documented occurrence = no penalty; drugs may be embargoed Repeat = \$ penalty 100 Drugs may be embargoed
9. The alarm is not operational. The enclosure is not locked at all times when a pharmacist is not on duty. The alarm is not set at all times when the pharmacist is not on duty.	18VAC110-20-180 and 18VAC110-20-190		1000

Deficiency	Law/Reg Cite	Conditions	\$ Monetary Penalty
<p>9a. Alarm incapable of sending an alarm signal to the monitoring entity when breached if the communication line is not operational. Alarm is operational but does not fully protect the prescription department and/or is not capable of detecting breaking by any means when activated. The alarm system does not include a feature by which any breach shall be communicated to the PIC or a pharmacist working at the pharmacy.</p>	<p>18VAC110-20-180</p>		<p>250</p>
<p>10. Unauthorized access to alarm or locking device to the prescription department</p>	<p>18VAC110-20-180 and 18VAC110-20-190</p>		<p>1000</p>
<p>11. Insufficient enclosures or locking devices</p>	<p>18VAC110-20-190</p>		<p>First documented occurrence and no drug loss = no penalty Drug loss or repeat = \$ penalty</p> <p>500</p>
<p>12. Storage of prescription drugs not in the prescription department</p>	<p>18VAC110-20-190</p>		<p>500</p>

Deficiency	Law/Reg Cite	Conditions	\$ Monetary Penalty
<p>12a. Schedule II drugs are not dispersed with other schedules of drugs or maintained in a securely locked cabinet, drawer, or safe, or maintained in a manner that combines the two methods.</p>	<p>18VAC110-20-200</p>		<p>First documented occurrence and no drug loss of Schedule II = no penalty Drug loss or repeat = \$ penalty</p> <p style="text-align: right;">250</p>
<p>13. No biennial inventory, or over 30 days late, or substantially incomplete, i.e., did not include all drugs in Schedules II-V.</p>	<p>54.1-3404 and 18VAC110-20-240</p>	<p>Cite Deficiency 113 if only expired drugs not included in inventory.</p>	<p>Over 30 days late and first documented occurrence = no penalty Over 30 days late and repeat = \$ penalty</p> <p style="text-align: right;">500</p>
<p>14. No incoming change of Pharmacist-in-Charge inventory, inventory taken or over 5 days late, or substantially incomplete, i.e., did not include all drugs in Schedules II-V</p>	<p>54.1-3434 and 18VAC110-20-240</p>	<p>Per occurrence. Cite Deficiency 113 if only expired drugs not included in inventory.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">500</p>

Deficiency	Law/Reg Cite	Conditions	\$ Monetary Penalty
<p>15. Perpetual inventory not being maintained as required as it does not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include all Schedule II drugs received or dispensed; • Accurately indicate the physical count of each Schedule II drug “on-hand” at the time of performing the inventory; • Include a reconciliation of each Schedule II drug at least monthly; or • Include a written explanation of any difference between the physical count and the theoretical count. <p>Monthly perpetual inventory is performed more than 7 days prior or more than 7 days after designated calendar month for which an inventory is required.</p>	18VAC110-20-240	Review 10 drugs for six consecutive months. Includes expired drugs. Deficiency if more than 5 reconciliations not compliant.	250
<p>16. Theft/unusual loss of drugs not reported to the Board as required</p>	54.1-3404 and 18VAC110-20-240	per report/theft-loss	250
<p>17. Hard copy prescriptions not maintained or retrievable as required (i.e. hard copy of fax for Schedule II, III, IV & V drugs and refill authorizations)</p>	54.1-3404 and 18VAC110-20-240		250
<p>18. Records of dispensing not maintained as required</p>	54.1-3404, 18VAC110-20-240, 18VAC110-20-250, 18VAC110-20-420, and 18VAC110-20-425		250

Deficiency	Law/Reg Cite	Conditions	\$ Monetary Penalty
19. Pharmacists not verifying or failing to document verification of accuracy of dispensed prescriptions	18VAC110-20-270, 18VAC110-20-420 and 18VAC110-20-425	10% threshold for documentation	500
20. Pharmacist not checking and documenting repackaging or bulk packaging	54.1-3410.2, 18VAC110-20-355 and 18VAC110-20-425	Review all entries for 5 drugs for six consecutive months. Deficiency if 10% or more are not compliant.	250
20a. Pharmacist not documenting verification of accuracy of non-sterile compounding process and integrity of compounded products	54.1-3410.2, 18VAC110-20-355	10% threshold	500
20b. Pharmacist not documenting verification of accuracy of sterile compounding process and integrity of compounded products	54.1-3410.2, 18VAC110-20-355		5000
21. No clean room	54.1-3410.2		10000
21a. Performing sterile compounding outside of a clean room.	54.1-3410.2	Compliant clean room present but not utilized for preparation of compounded sterile drug products.	3000

Deficiency	Law/Reg Cite	Conditions	\$ Monetary Penalty
21b. Presterilization procedures for Category 2 or Category 3 CSPs, such as weighing and mixing, are completed in areas not classified as ISO Class 8 or better.	54.1-3410.2		500
22. Certification of the direct compounding area (DCA) for compounded sterile preparations indicating ISO Class 5 not performed by a qualified individual no less than every 6 months, whenever there are changes to the area such as redesign, construction, replacement or relocation of any PEC, or alteration in the configuration of the room that could affect airflow quality, and/or certification does not include airflow testing, HEPA filter integrity testing, total particle count testing, and dynamic airflow smoke pattern test.	54.1-3410.2	Review 2 most recent reports; certification must be performed no later than the last day of the sixth month from the previous certification	3000
23. Certification of the buffer or clean room and ante room indicating ISO Class 7 / ISO Class 8 or better not performed by a qualified individual no less than every six months, whenever there are changes to the area such as redesign, construction, replacement or relocation of any PEC, or alteration in the configuration of the room that could affect airflow quality, and/or certification does not include airflow testing, HEPA filter integrity testing, total particle count testing, and dynamic airflow smoke pattern test.	54.1-3410.2	Review 2 most recent reports; certification must be performed no later than the last day of the sixth month from the previous certification	1000

Deficiency	Law/Reg Cite	Conditions	\$ Monetary Penalty
24. Sterile compounding of hazardous drugs performed in a non-compliant clean room	54.1-3410.2		2000
25. No documentation of sterilization methods or endotoxin pyrogen testing for Category 2 CSPs and/or Category 3 CSPs when required by USP	54.1-3410.2		5000
25a. No documentation of initial and at least every 3 months media-fill testing or gloved fingertip testing for persons performing compounding of Category 3 CSPs.	54.1-3410.2	Review 2 most recent reports. Media-fill testing and gloved fingertip testing must be performed no later than the last day of the third month from the date the previous media-fill test and gloved fingertip testing was initiated.	5000
25b. Category 3 compounded sterile preparations intended for use are improperly stored	54.1-3410.2		5000
25c. Category 1 or 2 CSPs intended for use are improperly stored	54.1-3410.2		500

Deficiency	Law/Reg Cite	Conditions	\$ Monetary Penalty
25d. No documentation of results of the evaluation to determine cause of failure for a person who failed a media-fill test or gloved fingertip and thumb sampling	54.1-3410.2		5000 if performing Category 3 500 if performing Category 1 and 2
26. No documentation of initial and at least every 6 months media-fill testing or gloved fingertip testing for persons performing compounding of Category 1 and Category 2 CSPs.	54.1-3410.2	Review 2 most recent reports. Media-fill testing and gloved finger-tip testing must be performed no later than the last day of the sixth month from the date the previous media-fill test and gloved fingertip testing was initiated.	500
26a. Repealed 12/2023			
26b. No documentation of initial and at least every 12 months media-fill testing or gloved fingertip testing for persons who have direct oversight of compounding personnel, but do not compound.	54.1-3410.2		500
27. Compounding using ingredients in violation of 54.1-3410.2.	54.1-3410.2		1000

Deficiency	Law/Reg Cite	Conditions	\$ Monetary Penalty
28. Compounding copies of commercially available products	54.1-3410.2	per Rx dispensed up to maximum of 100 RX or \$5000	50
29. Unlawful compounding for further distribution by other entities	54.1-3410.2		500
30. Security of after-hours stock not in compliance	18VAC110-20-450		First documented occurrence and no drug loss = no penalty Drug loss or repeat = \$ penalty 500
31. Drugs removed and administered to a patient from an automated dispensing device in a nursing home prior to review of the order and authorization by a pharmacist.	18VAC110-20-555	Except for drugs that would be stocked in an emergency drug kit as allowed by 18VAC110-20-555 (3)(C)	First documented occurrence and no known patient harm = no penalty Repeat = \$ penalty 250
32. Have clean room, but not all physical standards in compliance, e.g., flooring, ceiling	54.1-3410.2		2000
33. Immediate use, Category 1, or Category 2 CSPs assigned inappropriate beyond use date (BUD)	54.1-3410.2		1000
33a. Category 3 CSPs assigned inappropriate BUD	54.1-3410.2		5,000
34. Combined with Deficiency 142 – 12/2013.			

Deficiency	Law/Reg Cite	Conditions	\$ Monetary Penalty
35. Schedule II through VI drugs are being purchased from a wholesale distributor or warehouse not licensed or registered by the board or from another pharmacy in a non-compliant manner	18VAC110-20-395		250

Other Deficiencies

If five (5) or more deficiencies in this category are cited, a \$250 monetary penalty shall be imposed. Another \$100 monetary penalty will be added for each additional deficiency cited in this category, over the initial five.

Deficiency	Law/Regulation Cite	Conditions
101. Repealed 6/2011		
102. Special/limited-use scope being exceeded without approval	18VAC110-20-120	
103. Repealed 12/2013		
104. Sink with hot and cold running water not available within the prescription department.	18VAC110-20-150	
105. No thermometer or non-functioning thermometer in refrigerator/freezer, but temperature within range, +/-4 degrees Fahrenheit. Temperature not being recorded daily or record of such not maintained properly.	18VAC110-20-150 and 18VAC110-20-10	determined using inspector's calibrated thermometer
106. Prescription department substantially not clean and sanitary and in good repair	18VAC110-20-160	must have picture documentation

Deficiency	Law/Regulation Cite	Conditions
107. Current dispensing reference not maintained	18VAC110-20-170	
108. Emergency access alarm code/key not maintained in compliance	18VAC110-20-190	
109. Expired drugs in working stock, dispensed drugs being returned to stock not in compliance, dispensed drugs returned to stock container or automated counting device not in compliance. (i.e. appropriate expiration date not placed on label of returned drug, mixing lot numbers in stock container)	54.1-3457 18VAC110-20-200 18VAC110-20-355	10% threshold
110. Storage of paraphernalia/Rx devices not in compliance	18VAC110-20-200	

Deficiency	Law/Regulation Cite	Conditions
111. Storage of prescriptions awaiting delivery outside of the prescription department not in compliance	18VAC110-20-200	
112. Biennial taken late but within 30 days	54.1-3404 and 18VAC110-20-240	
113. Inventories taken on time, but not in compliance, i.e., no signature, date, opening or close, Schedule II drugs not separate, failure to include expired drugs.	54.1-3404, 54.1-3434 and 18VAC110-20-240	
114. Records of receipt (e.g. invoices) not on site or retrievable	54.1-3404 and 18VAC110-20-240	
115. Other records of distributions not maintained as required	54.1-3404 and 18VAC110-20-240	
116. Prescriptions do not include required information. Prescriptions not transmitted as required (written, oral, fax, electronic, etc.)	54.1-3408.01, 54.1-3408.02, 54.1-3410, 18VAC110-20-280 and 18VAC110-20-285 18VAC110-20-270	10% threshold
117. Deficiency 117 combined with Deficiency 116 – 6/2011		
118. Schedule II emergency oral prescriptions not dispensed in compliance	54.1-3410 and 18VAC110-20-290	>3
119. Not properly documenting partial filling of prescriptions	54.1-3412, 18VAC110-20- 255, 18VAC110-20-310, and 18VAC110-20-320	
120. Offer to counsel not made as required	54.1-3319	

Deficiency	Law/Regulation Cite	Conditions
121. Prospective drug review not performed as required	54.1-3319	
122. Engaging in alternate delivery not in compliance	18VAC110-20-275	
123. Engaging in remote processing not in compliance	18VAC110-20-276 and 18VAC110-20-515	
124. Labels do not include all required information	54.1-3410, 54.1-3411 and 18VAC110-20-330	10% Threshold Review 25 prescriptions
125. Repealed 6/25/2024 Compliance packaging or labeling does not comply with USP- NF standards for customized patient medication packages	18VAC110-20-340	
126. Special packaging not used or no documentation of request for non-special packaging	54.1-3426, 54.1-3427 and 18VAC110-20-350	10% threshold Review 25 prescriptions
127. Repackaging records and labeling not kept as required or in compliance	18VAC110-20-355	10% threshold
128. Unit dose procedures or records not in compliance	18VAC110-20-420	
129. Robotic pharmacy systems not in compliance	18VAC110-20-425	
130. Required compounding/dispensing/distribution records not complete and properly maintained	54.1-3410.2	
130a Compounded products not properly labeled	54.1-3410.2	

Deficiency	Law/Regulation Cite	Conditions
131. Required “other documents” for USP-NF 797 listed on the pharmacy inspection report are not appropriately maintained	54.1-3410.2	
132. Personnel preparing compounded sterile preparations and/or who have direct oversight of compounding personnel, but do not compound, do not comply with cleansing and garbing requirements	54.1-3410.2	
133. Compounding facilities and equipment used in performing non-sterile compounds not in compliance with 54.1-3410.2	54.1-3410.2	
134. Policies and procedures for proper storage, security and dispensing of drugs in hospital not established or assured	18VAC110-20-440	
135. Policies and procedures for drug therapy reviews not maintained or followed	18VAC110-20-440	
136. After hours access to a supply of drugs or records not in compliance	18VAC110-20-450	10% threshold
137. Floor stock records not in compliance, pharmacist not checking, required reconciliations not being done	18VAC110-20-460	10% threshold
138. Automated dispensing device loading, records, and monitoring/reconciliation not in compliance	54.1-3434.02, 18VAC110-20-490 and 18VAC110-20-555	Cite if no documentation of monitoring. Review ADD in areas that do not utilize patient specific profile. Review 3 months of records – 30% threshold. Cite if exceeds threshold. Describe in comment section steps pharmacy is taking to comply. Educate regarding requirements.

Deficiency	Law/Regulation Cite	Conditions
139. Emergency medical services procedures or records not in compliance	18VAC110-20-500	10% threshold
140. Emergency kit or stat-drug box procedures or records not in compliance	18VAC110-20-540 and 18VAC110-20-550	10 % threshold
141. Maintaining floor stock in a long-term care facility when not authorized	18VAC110-20-520 and 18VAC110-20-560	
142. No record maintained and available for 12 months from date of analysis of dispensing errors or submission to patient safety organization	18VAC110-20-418	
143. Repealed 6/21/2018		
144. Repealed 6/21/2018		
145. Repealed 6/21/2018		
146. Repealed 6/21/2018		
147. Particle counts, environmental sampling, and smoke pattern testing not performed under dynamic conditions.	54.1-3410.2	
148. Theft/unusual loss of drugs reported to board but report not maintained by pharmacy	54.1-3404 and 18VAC110-20-240	

Deficiency	Law/Regulation Cite	Conditions
149. <u>Surface sample testing not being performed</u>	54.1-3410.2	

NOTE: A “repeat” deficiency is a deficiency that was cited during the routine or focused inspection performed immediately prior to the current routine inspection and after July 1, 2018.

Examples:

Routine inspection on 7/1/18 – Cited for Deficiency 3. No monetary penalty.

Routine inspection on 7/1/20. Cited for Deficiency 3. Monetary penalty.

Routine inspection on 7/1/18 – Cited for deficiency 3. No monetary penalty.

Routine inspection on 7/1/20 – No deficiency.

Routine inspection on 7/1/22 – Cited for deficiency 3. No monetary penalty.

Routine inspection on 7/1/24 – Cited for deficiency 3. Monetary penalty.

Agenda Topic: Discussion regarding pharmacy technician educational standard and workforce challenges; adopt revised 2024 Pharmacy Technician Workforce Survey Report

Staff notes: This topic was identified during the December 2023 full board meeting as a topic that the Board wanted to discuss at a future meeting.

Among the changes, HB1304 passed by the 2020 General Assembly created a new licensing category for pharmacy technician trainees which was implemented in January 2021. Per regulation, a trainee registration is valid for 2 years. Additionally, the legislation removed the allowance for completing a Board-approved pharmacy technician training program and required completion of a training program that is (i) an accredited training program approved by the Board, (ii) operated through a federal agency or branch of the military, or (iii) operated through the Department of Education's Career and Technical Education program. Such educational requirements became effective on July 1, 2022.

Included in agenda packet:

- Current count of licenses report as of Q3 2024
- New licenses count report as of Q3 2024 (number of new registrations issued each quarter)
- New licenses count report as of Q4 2020 (number of new registrations issued each quarter prior to change in educational standards)
- Relevant law and regulation
- Comparisons of state requirements for educational standards
 - Document provided by board staff
 - Excerpt from NABP 2024 Survey of Pharmacy Law report
- NABP task force report
- Revised 2024 Pharmacy Technician Workforce Survey Report



Virginia Department of Health Professions

Current Count of Licenses

Quarterly Summary

Quarter 3 - Fiscal Year 2024

Current licenses by board and occupation as of the last day of the quarter.

** New Occupation

*** Veterinary Establishments are now grouped together, as the board works on designating existing establishments as "Ambulatory" or "Stationary", instead of "Full Service" or "Restricted Service".

Quarter Date Ranges	
Quarter 1	July 1 - September 30
Quarter 2	October 1- December 31
Quarter 3	January 1 - March 31
Quarter 4	April 1 - June 30

BOARD	Occupation	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	CURRENT Q3 2024
Optometry	Optometrist	88	77	77	77	78	65	65	65	65	49	50	51	51
	Optometrist-Volunteer Registration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	Professional Designation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	TPA Certified Optometrist	1,720	1,680	1,716	1,736	1,749	1,708	1,758	1,784	1,808	1,777	1,820	1,852	1,879
	Total	1,808	1,757	1,793	1,813	1,827	1,773	1,823	1,849	1,873	1,826	1,871	1,903	1,930
Pharmacy	Business CSR	1,378	1,461	1,478	1,510	1,399	1,463	1,507	1,529	1,423	1,465	1,508	1,533	1,417
	CE Courses	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
	Humane Society	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Limited Use Facility Dispensing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	3	3	4
	Limited Use Pharmacy Technician	8	8	8	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	6
	Limited Use Practitioner Dispensing	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	3	3	3	4	6	8
	Medical Equipment Supplier	224	223	230	229	209	217	223	226	213	220	226	224	205
	Non-Resident Manufacturer	194	202	209	215	206	213	218	224	217	226	231	236	229
	Non-Resident Medical Equipment Supplier	322	349	363	373	331	354	361	369	346	355	367	379	345
	Non Resident Outsourcing facility	33	33	34	33	30	29	32	33	35	33	32	31	31
	Non Resident Pharmacy	866	874	876	885	882	898	910	911	924	923	923	934	943
	Non-Resident Wholesale Distributor	604	635	644	660	624	634	643	641	610	624	635	641	612
	Non Restricted Manufacturer	28	28	29	30	31	32	34	34	35	35	35	35	32
	Non-Resident Third Party Logistics Prov.	169	182	186	191	181	181	194	206	207	219	229	238	234
	Non Resident Warehouse	79	91	96	101	98	99	105	115	109	114	123	130	127
	Outsourcing Facility	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
	Permitted Physician	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Pharmacist	15,668	15,865	16,210	16,445	15,858	16,079	16,414	16,619	16,064	16,273	16,606	16,796	16,147
	Pharmacist-Volunteer Registration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	Pharmacy	1,772	1,771	1,770	1,767	1,773	1,768	1,765	1,765	1,762	1,755	1,751	1,738	1,744
Pharmacy Intern	1,464	1,489	1,499	1,457	1,247	1,312	1,267	1,352	1,166	1,235	1,213	1,274	1,074	
Pharmacy Technician	12,751	13,248	13,689	14,042	12,421	12,924	13,522	13,875	12,312	12,871	13,310	13,640	12,275	
Pharmacy Technician Trainee	831	2,406	3,309	4,628	5,930	6,258	6,977	8,041	8,581	8,178	8,190	8,063	8,095	



Virginia Department of Health Professions

New License Count

Quarterly Summary

Quarter 3- Fiscal Year 2024

Licenses issued by board and occupation during the quarter.

Quarter Date Ranges	
Quarter 1	July 1 - September 30
Quarter 2	October 1- December 31
Quarter 3	January 1 - March 31
Quarter 4	April 1 - June 30

		Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	CURRENT Q3 2024
BOARD	Occupation													
	Non-resident Outsourcing Facility	-	1	2	1	-	2	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
	Non-resident Pharmacy	36	26	13	22	22	28	23	17	28	18	24	21	25
	Non-resident Wholesale Distributor	11	24	11	17	10	4	11	4	9	10	14	9	8
	Non-restricted Manufacturer	1	-	1	1	1	1	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
	Outsourcing Facility	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	Permitted Physician	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Pharmacist	157	188	332	210	161	194	327	164	152	184	317	168	136
	Pharmacist-Volunteer Registration	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	2	-	1	4	-	-
	Non-resident Third Party Logistics Prov.	-	-	4	6	4	2	12	13	12	11	11	11	5
	Non-resident Warehouse	-	-	5	6	5	1	6	9	3	4	9	6	8
	Pharmacy Intern	101	76	178	34	115	86	88	126	132	83	85	104	88
	Pharmacy	4	16	8	12	12	10	9	10	15	8	12	11	15
	Pharmacy Technician	517	412	397	309	407	445	528	292	383	463	376	270	412
	Pharmacy Technician Training Program	4	8	1	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Pharmacy Technician Trainee	841	1,649	988	1,431	1,456	692	1,072	1,186	983	971	966	1,103	999
	Physician Selling Controlled Substances	9	10	41	17	20	24	27	40	30	13	31	28	18
	Pilot Programs	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	2	-	2	1
	Repackaging Training Program	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

New License Count

Quarterly Summary

Quarter 4- Fiscal Year 2020

Licenses issued by board and occupation during the quarter

Quarter Date Ranges	
Quarter 1	July 1 - September 30
Quarter 2	October 1- December 31
Quarter 3	January 1 - March 31
Quarter 4	April 1 - June 30

														CURRENT
BOARD	Occupation	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q22018	Q3 2018	Q42018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020
Pharmacy	Non-resident Outsourcing Facility	8	20	1	3	7	1	2	0	0	1	-	1	3
	Non-resident Pharmacy	38	4	40	32	35	29	24	31	20	24	17	36	20
	Non-resident Wholesale Distributor	17	38	9	21	18	15	11	10	6	12	13	8	13
	Non-restricted Manufacturer	0	9	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	2	-	1	-
	Outsourcing Facility	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
	Pharmaceutical Processor					-	-	-	0	0	0	-	1	2
	Permitted Physician	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
	Pharmacist	181	439	200	148	183	435	216	196	130	428	209	161	176
	Pharmacist-Volunteer Registration	0	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	-	-	-
	Non-resident Third Party Logistics Prov.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	18	0	22	-	9
	Non-resident Warehouse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	0	7	-	18
	Pharmacy Intern					-	-	207	120	82	157	85	141	98
	Pharmacy	28	18	9	9	14	22	17	11	11	10	11	11	7
	Pharmacy Technician	578	564	287	384	380	384	372	412	288	452	464	467	246
	Pharmacy Technician Training Program	8	2	5	4	3	1	5	3	2	2	3		2
	Physician Selling Controlled Substances	25	47	27	24	51	3	49	26	14	26	24	25	17
	Physician Selling Drugs Location	4	7	4	3	13	5	4	8	5	6	3	5	8
	Pilot Programs	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	3	1	-	1
	Registered Patient For CBD/THC-A Oil	-	-	-	-	-	32	0	33	0	0	-	-	-
	Registered Physician For CBD/THC-A Oil	-	-	-	-	-	145	69	191	26	0	-	-	50
Registered Practitioner for CBD/THC-A Oil											53	55	-	
Repackaging Training Program	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	-	-	-	

Relevant Law and Regulation

§ 54.1-3321. Registration of pharmacy technicians.

A. No person shall perform the duties of a pharmacy technician without first being registered as a pharmacy technician with the Board. Upon being registered with the Board as a pharmacy technician, the following tasks may be performed:

1. The entry of prescription information and drug history into a data system or other record keeping system;
 2. The preparation of prescription labels or patient information;
 3. The removal of the drug to be dispensed from inventory;
 4. The counting, measuring, or compounding of the drug to be dispensed;
 5. The packaging and labeling of the drug to be dispensed and the repackaging thereof;
 6. The stocking or loading of automated dispensing devices or other devices used in the dispensing process;
 7. The acceptance of refill authorization from a prescriber or his authorized agency, so long as there is no change to the original prescription;
 8. Under the supervision of a pharmacist, meaning the supervising pharmacist is at the same physical location of the technician or pharmacy intern, and consistent with the requirements of § 54.1-3303.1, administration of the following drugs and devices to persons three years of age or older as set forth in regulations of the Board: vaccines included on the Immunization Schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and vaccines for COVID-19; and 9. The performance of any other task restricted to pharmacy technicians by the Board's regulations.
- B. To be registered as a pharmacy technician, a person shall submit:

1. An application and fee specified in regulations of the Board;
2. Evidence that he has successfully completed a training program that is (i) an accredited training program, including an accredited training program operated through the Department of Education's Career and Technical Education program or approved by the Board, or (ii) operated through a federal agency or branch of the military; and
3. Evidence that he has successfully passed a national certification examination administered by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board or the National Healthcareer Association.

C. The Board shall promulgate regulations establishing requirements for:

1. Issuance of a registration as a pharmacy technician to a person who, prior to the effective date of such regulations, (i) successfully completed or was enrolled in a Board-approved pharmacy technician training program or (ii) passed a national certification examination required by the Board but did not complete a Board-approved pharmacy technician training program;

2. Issuance of a registration as a pharmacy technician to a person who (i) has previously practiced as a pharmacy technician in another U.S. jurisdiction and (ii) has passed a national certification examination required by the Board; and

3. Evidence of continued competency as a condition of renewal of a registration as a pharmacy technician.

D. The Board shall waive the initial registration fee for a pharmacy technician applicant who works as a pharmacy technician exclusively in a free clinic pharmacy. A person registered pursuant to this subsection shall be issued a limited-use registration. A pharmacy technician with a limited-use registration shall not perform pharmacy technician tasks in any setting other than a free clinic pharmacy. The Board shall also waive renewal fees for such limited-use registrations. A pharmacy technician with a limited-use registration may convert to an unlimited registration by paying the current renewal fee.

E. Any person registered as a pharmacy technician prior to the effective date of regulations implementing the provisions of this section shall not be required to comply with the requirements of subsection B in order to maintain or renew registration as a pharmacy technician.

F. A pharmacy technician trainee enrolled in a training program for pharmacy technicians described in subdivision B 2 may engage in the acts set forth in subsection A for the purpose of obtaining practical experience required for completion of the training program, so long as such activities are directly monitored by a supervising pharmacist.

G. To be registered as a pharmacy technician trainee, a person shall submit an application and a fee specified in regulations of the Board. Such registration shall only be valid while the person is enrolled in a pharmacy technician training program described in subsection B and actively progressing toward completion of such program. A registration card issued pursuant to this section shall be invalid and shall be returned to the Board if such person fails to enroll in a pharmacy technician training program described in subsection B.

H. A pharmacy intern may perform the duties set forth for pharmacy technicians in subsection A when registered with the Board for the purpose of gaining the practical experience required to apply for licensure as a pharmacist.

I. A registered nurse or licensed practical nurse practicing at an opioid treatment program pharmacy may perform the duties set forth for pharmacy technicians in subsection A, provided that all take-home medication doses are verified for accuracy by a pharmacist prior to dispensing.

2001, c. 317; 2004, c. 47; 2020, cc. 102, 237; 2022, cc. 138, 790, 791.

18VAC110-21-141. Requirements for pharmacy technician training.

A. Any person wishing to apply for registration as a pharmacy technician shall submit the application fee and an application on a form approved by the board.

B. To be registered as a pharmacy technician, an applicant shall provide evidence of the following:

1. Completion of a pharmacy technician training program that is:

a. Jointly accredited by the ASHP and ACPE;

b. An accredited training program operated through the Department of Education's Career and Technical Education Program;

c. Operated through a federal agency or branch of the military; or

d. Accredited by an accreditation body approved by the board.

2. Successfully having passed a national certification examination administered by PTCB or NHA.

C. A pharmacy technician who has previously practiced in another United States jurisdiction may be eligible to obtain registration as a pharmacy technician upon documentation of previous practice and having passed a national certification examination administered by PTCB or NHA.

D. A person who successfully completed or was enrolled in a board-approved pharmacy technician training program but did not successfully pass a national examination prior to July 1, 2022, may be eligible to obtain registration as a pharmacy technician after successfully passing a national certification examination administered by PTCB or NHA and submitting to the board documentation of such completion or enrollment in a board-approved pharmacy technician training program and passing examination score. E. A person who passed a national certification examination administered by PTCB or NHA but did not complete a board-approved pharmacy technician training program prior to July 1, 2022, may be eligible to obtain registration as a pharmacy technician upon documentation of having passed such examination.

States known to staff to require national accredited training:

- Louisiana
 - Currently has proposed rules which will also allow training programs that "meet the minimum requirements of a board-approved pharmacy technician certification examination provider."
- North Dakota
- Utah
 - Has required accredited education/training for several years now, but it had a carveout for TRC's Pharmacy Technicians University product. The proposed rule would eliminate that carveout.
- Virginia

Many states will accept national accredited training program or a board-approved training program. Below are examples of states that specifically outline content required to be included in a board-approved training program:

California
Kansas
Maryland
Montana
New Mexico
Rhode Island
South Carolina
Texas
West Virginia

12. Regulation of Pharmacy Technicians (cont.)

State	Technician Training Requirements	Does State Require Pharmacy Technicians to Complete Accredited Pharmacy Technician Education/Training?	Technician CPE Requirements	Technician Examination Requirement
Alabama	Yes K4	No	Yes 6 hrs/2 yrs MM	—
Alaska	Yes S	No	Yes 10 hrs/2 yrs	No
Arizona	Yes	Yes	NN	Yes AA
Arkansas	No	No	None	No
California	Yes K5, CC	No CC	Yes J5	No CC
Colorado	No	Yes M5	Yes DDD	No
Connecticut	Yes S	No	No	No
Delaware	Yes	No L5	N/A	No
District of Columbia	Yes BBB	Yes P5	Yes BBB	Yes BBB
Florida	Yes Q	No	Yes 20 hrs/2 yrs	No
Georgia	No	—	None	No
Guam	No J	No	None J	No
Hawaii	No	—	No	No
Idaho	No OO	No	No C4	No C4
Illinois	Yes PP	MMM	Yes A5	Yes QQ
Indiana	Yes	—	No	No U
Iowa	Yes H	No	No C5	No
Kansas	Yes	No	Yes YYY	Yes A4
Kentucky	No	No	None	No
Louisiana	Yes	Yes M5	Yes 10 hrs/yr OOO	Yes AA
Maine	Yes UUU	No	No	No
Maryland	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Massachusetts	Yes	No	No BB	Yes
Michigan	Yes D4	No N5	Yes E4	Yes F4
Minnesota	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Mississippi	Yes	No	No	No
Missouri	Yes HHH	No	None	No
Montana	Yes** T	No P5	Yes SS	Yes AA
Nebraska	Yes** I	—	No	No
Nevada	Yes	No	Yes Y	No
New Hampshire	Yes	—	Yes P	Yes P
New Jersey	No	No	No	No
New Mexico	Yes** H	Yes O5	None	Yes AA
New York	Yes D5	No P5	No	No D5
North Carolina	Yes	No Q5	None	No
North Dakota	Yes R	Yes R5	Yes 10 hrs AA	Yes
Ohio	Yes	No S5	Yes 10 hrs/2 yrs J4	Yes P
Oklahoma	Yes	No	None	Yes
Oregon	Yes	No	Yes H4	No
Pennsylvania	Yes ZZ, MMM	No MMM	MMM	MMM
Puerto Rico	Yes F	Yes	Yes 20 hrs/3 yrs	Yes F
Rhode Island	Yes	Yes W5	Yes BB	Yes V
South Carolina	Yes DD	No	Yes 10 hrs/yr EE	Yes DD
South Dakota	Yes D	No	None	Yes D
Tennessee	No	No	None	No
Texas	Yes C	Yes X5	Yes 20 hrs/2 yrs XXX	Yes
Utah	Yes	—	Yes 20 hrs/2 yrs	Yes E
Vermont	Yes J	No	No J	No
Virginia	Yes H5	Yes Y5	Yes 5 hrs/yr	Yes H5
Washington	Yes VVV	No	Yes XX	Yes VVV
West Virginia	Yes I, K	No	None AA	Yes
Wisconsin	No G4	No	No	No
Wyoming	Yes ZZ	No	Yes 10 hrs	Yes E

**Contact the state board of pharmacy office to obtain requirements.

12. Regulation of Pharmacy Technicians (cont.)

Legend

- A — All new pharmacy technicians have one year after initial licensure to obtain national certification.
- B — Technician trainee receives a three-year nonrenewable license.
- C — A person may be a technician trainee for no more than two years while seeking certification. Contact the Board for specific training requirements.
- D — Same as PTCB requirements.
- E — PTCB examination or the ExCPT.
- F — 1,000 hours of internship under direct supervision of a registered pharmacist and passing an examination prepared by the Board are required for certification. Designated pharmacy technician intern for three years maximum.
- G — Biennial at birthday. (MD – First renewal 10 CE, all other renewals 20 CE. MA – No CE required.)
- H — Technicians must be under direct pharmacist supervision, unless in an approved telepharmacy. (IA-remote supervision permitted in other circumstances with conditions). Technician training must be documented and maintained. Additional training required for telepharmacy technicians.
- I — Training requirements developed by training pharmacies and approved by the board. (WV – PTCB or National Healthcareer Association certified pharmacy technician certification. As of July 1, 2014, technician must have graduated from a competency-based pharmacy technician training and education program or completed training requirements stated above.)
- J — The Board is proposing/developing regulations.
- K — Designated as a “technician-in-training” prior to meeting requirements for licensure.
- L — The term “Support Personnel” is also used.
- M — Fee changes annually. Check with the Board.
- N — A “Pharmacy Technician” is a subset of “Supportive Personnel.”
- O — Technicians are not considered “registered,” but are issued a “permit.”
- P — Required for certified pharmacy technicians, but not pharmacy technicians.
- Q — Pharmacy technicians may register in Florida if they complete a Board-approved training program.
- R — Technicians must complete ASHP-accredited program.
- S — On-the-job training by PIC appropriate to technician’s duties.
- T — Technician utilization plan filed with Board or didactic course.
- U — Passage of the PTCB examination is one way to become certified as a technician in this state. Must also file application for licensure.
- V — To be eligible for registration, a pharmacy technician must either hold a current PTCB certification, or must have passed a training program and examination approved by the Board.
- W — Plus a fingerprint fee paid to a contracted agency.
- X — \$25 initial; \$30 renewal/2 years.
- Y — However, technicians must complete twelve hours of in-service training during the two-year period immediately preceding the renewal of the registration. One of the 12 hours of in-service training must be a jurisprudence program approved by or presented by the Board.
- Z — CPhT annual renewal. Trainee registration valid for one year with renewal permitted in exceptional circumstances.
- AA — PTCB or ExCPT certification required (WV – and maintenance for CPE).
- BB — However, “certified pharmacy technicians” must maintain certification which may require CPE.
- CC — Educational training and/or is certified by a pharmacy technician-certifying organization offering a pharmacy technician certification program accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies that is approved by the Board.
- DD — To be certified as a pharmacy technician an individual must have worked for 1,000 hours under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist as a technician and must have completed a Board of Pharmacy-approved technician course as provided for in subsection (D); a high school diploma or equivalent; and passed the National Pharmacy Technician Certification Examination or a Board of Pharmacy-approved examination and has maintained current certification; and fulfilled CE requirements as provided for in Section 40-43-130(G).
- EE — As a condition of registration renewal, a registered pharmacy technician shall complete 10 hours of ACPE-accredited CE or CME Category I each year.

Colored text denotes change from 2023 edition.

12. Regulation of Pharmacy Technicians (cont.)

Legend cont.

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| <p>FF — State-level background check is completed; a federal biometric check is not required.</p> <p>GG — Annual (by birth month).</p> <p>HH — Plus one-time application fee of \$50.</p> <p>II — Odd numbered years.</p> <p>JJ — Revoked 28 pharmacy technician permits, 0 probations, 0 suspensions, and 0 fines.</p> <p>KK — “Technicians-in-Training” are registered until they meet the requirements for licensure. The technician-in-training permit is valid for no more than two years from date of issue.</p> <p>LL — Registration effective April 6, 2018.</p> <p>MM — Two hours must be live. No carry-over.</p> <p>NN — Three hours must be opioid-related, substance use disorder-related, or addiction-related).</p> <p>OO — Must be 16 years of age unless waived; or in school-supervised employment.</p> <p>PP — Refer to 225 ILCS 85/9.5 and 85/17.1 and 68 Illinois Administrative Code Sections 1330.210 and 1330.220.</p> <p>QQ — Beginning on January 1, 2017, within two years after initial licensure as a registered pharmacy technician, licensee must become certified by successfully passing an examination accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies, as approved by the Board or by rule, and registering as a certified pharmacy technician with the Department. Does not apply to pharmacy technicians registered prior to January 1, 2008. See 225 ILCS 85/9 and 85/9.5.</p> <p>RR — Biennial, January 1 of odd years.</p> <p>SS — Must comply with CE requirements of certifying entity.</p> <p>TT — Additional \$35 for criminal background check.</p> <p>UU — Application fees are reevaluated June of even-numbered years.</p> <p>VV — Plus fingerprinting fee. Additional \$46.25 for national fingerprint-based background check for initial licensure.</p> <p>WW — Indiana State Police collect an additional fee for a background check.</p> <p>XX — Twenty hours of CPE or 2.0 CPE units that are ACPE accredited.</p> <p>YY — Even numbered years.</p> <p>ZZ — On-the-job training in permitted activities.</p> <p>AAA — As of July 1, 2014, switched from certification. Must still hold technician-in-training permit or be PTCB- or ExCPT-certified prior to licensure.</p> <p>BBB — D.C. Law §17-99.</p> | <p>CCC — Does not apply to those registered prior to July 1, 2011.</p> <p>DDD — Effective March 30, 2020, state certification will require proof of a national certification as determined by the Board. CPE requirements for the purpose of state certification renewal will be determined by the Board at a later date.</p> <p>EEE — North Carolina recognizes PTCB certification, which allows pharmacy technician to perform additional duties.</p> <p>FFF — See IC 25-26-19-5.</p> <p>GGG — Required to perform certain functions.</p> <p>HHH — Additional training required for technicians engaged in sterile compounding, providing remote data entry, immunizing/administering medication, assisting outside of a pharmacy, technology-assisted final product verification, or at a remote dispensing site pharmacy.</p> <p>III — <i>However, this may be increased upon request from the pharmacy to the Board.</i></p> <p>JJJ — Prior to initial license as a Certified Oregon Pharmacy Technician, but not for license renewal.</p> <p>KKK — Applicants for pharmacy technician registration must have taken and passed a certification examination approved by the Board and have a current certificate. Contact Board for additional requirements.</p> <p>LLL — Idaho candidates under age 18 are exempt from fingerprint-based criminal history check.</p> <p>MMM — Regulations pending (TN – Regulations revision pending).</p> <p>NNN — Or provide satisfactory proof to the Board of successful completion of a pharmacy technician training program approved by the Board.</p> <p>OOO — Must be technician-specific and ACPE accredited.</p> <p>PPP — One-year technician trainee registration with renewal permitted in exceptional circumstances.</p> |
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NABPLAW Online Search Terms

Status of Pharmacy Technicians (*type as indicated below*)

- technician certification
- technician fee
- technician registration
- technician renewal
- technician requirements
- technician training
- technician license

Note: “ancillary personnel”; “non-licensed personnel”; and “support personnel” can be substituted for “technician.”

12. Regulation of Pharmacy Technicians (cont.)

Legend cont.

- QQQ — Only required to be actively certified through PTCB or ExCPT at time of initial application if using this option for application of registration. 18VAC110-21-140.
- RRR — Only for pharmacy technicians. Not required for pharmacy technician trainees. (RI – National certification required for pharmacy technician II, not for pharmacy technician I.)
- SSS — See 225 ILCS 85/9 and 85/9.5.
- TTT — However, if at least one technician is certified, a pharmacy can exceed the base technician-to-pharmacist ratio by having one additional technician on duty within the pharmacy.
- UUU — See Maine Pharmacy Rules 02 392, Chapter 7, Section 2, Training.
- VVV — Pharmacy technicians must be 18 years old and hold a high school diploma or GED and complete a Commission-approved program (academic/formal or on-the-job). The program must include didactic training and practical experience (WAC 246-945-215). Technicians trained out-of-state must demonstrate that their training and education are similar to a Commission-approved program. For initial certification, all new pharmacy technicians must pass a Commission-approved national standardized examination. The Commission recognizes exams administered by organizations accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies. The Commission does not require technicians to maintain national certification.
- WWW — S.C. Code 40-43-86(B)(4)(c) The pharmacist to technician ratio may not exceed a one to three employment ratio. The allowable employment ratio for a site is determined by comparing the number of pharmacists employed at the site to the number of pharmacy technicians employed at the site. The day-to-day operational pharmacist to technician personal supervision ratio is to be determined by the pharmacist-in-charge.
- XXX — One hour must be related to Texas pharmacy laws or rules.
- YYY — Twenty hours (approved) per biennial renewal period. No carry-over. Must be earned in prior registration period.
- ZZZ — Board recommends to Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health.
- A4 — All technicians initially registered after July 1, 2017, shall be required to pass the PTCB or ExCPT certification exam prior to their first registration renewal (approximately two years). Does not apply to technicians registered prior to July 1, 2017, unless the registration lapses. A one-time, six-month extension may be granted for good cause shown.
- B4 — Three eligibility options for Pharmacy Technician Candidate (PTC) Registration – (a) Proof of enrollment in a nationally accredited and board-approved pharmacy technician training program; (b) Proof of successful completion of a board-approved pharmacy technician certification examination; (c) Credential issued by another state board of pharmacy with practice for at least one year as a technician in that state plus proof of successful completion of a board-approved pharmacy technician certification examination. Once issued, PTC registration is valid for a maximum of two years, during which time the PTC shall earn at least 600 hours of practical experience in a LA-licensed pharmacy, or the number of hours required by the curriculum of the nationally-accredited and board-approved pharmacy technician training program.
- C4 — Only for certified pharmacy technicians.
- D4 — Must submit certification of examination scores. Training is not required except for a one-time training in identifying victims of human trafficking per Rule 338.3659 for initial licenses beginning 2021 and for renewals in 2018. Beginning June 1, 2022, two hours in implicit bias training are required pursuant to R 338.7004.
- E4 — 20 hours of CPE required. No more than 12 hours may be earned during a 24-hour period; no credit for program identical to program already used in the same renewal period; five credits must be in live courses, programs, or activities; one hour must be in pain and symptom management relating to practice of pharmacy; one hour must be in patient safety; one must be in pharmacy law; and 17 in listed subjects. May take a proficiency examination in lieu of CE. In addition to the 20 hours, beginning June 1, 2022, one hour of implicit bias training is required pursuant to R 338.7004 for each year of the applicant's license cycle.
- F4 — PTCB, or examination given by the National Healthcareer Association, or nationally recognized and administered certification examination approved by the Board, or

12. Regulation of Pharmacy Technicians (cont.)

Legend cont.

- G4 — an employer-based training program examination approved by the Board.

G4 — Job-specific training is required as deemed necessary by managing pharmacist or to perform specific jobs such as sterile compounding and vaccine administration.
- H4 — Each renewal cycle (every two years), Certified Oregon Pharmacy Technicians and Pharmacy Technicians must satisfactorily complete twenty (20) hours of CPE. A minimum of two (2) hours must be earned in the area of pharmacy law, a minimum of two (2) hours must be earned in the area of patient safety or medication error prevention, and a minimum of two (2) hours must be earned in the area of cultural competency. (OAR 855-135-0070).
- I4 — Initial and renewal fee is \$20. The Board fee consists of the combined initial license fee of \$20 and \$21 for criminal history record check, not required for renewal.
- J4 — For registered pharmacy technicians only. Certified technicians must complete all continuing education requirements necessary to maintain the registrant's pharmacy technician certification from an organization that has been recognized by the Board (PTCB/ExCPT).
- K4 — Effective January 1, 2020.
- L4 — For initial applications, the technician applicant submits a fingerprint clearance card.
- M4 — If an applicant answers yes to any good moral character questions, they are required to submit a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) Acknowledgement Form with their application.
- N4 — Pursuant to 5 MRS §5301 - 5303, the state of Maine is granted the authority to take into consideration an applicant's criminal history record.
- O4 — Pursuant to MCL 333.16174(3) and MCL 333.17739a. Technicians are licensed, not registered.
- P4 — However, Board may require it.
- Q4 — Self-disclosure of criminal history is required on pharmacy technician applications. Failure to disclose is a basis for denying a technician registration or voiding a registration already granted.
- R4 — Applicant must answer application question regarding criminal history. If applicant answers in the affirmative, a criminal background and explanation is required to be submitted with the application.
- S4 — Trainee registration not required.
- T4 — The Board requires Criminal Offender Record Information from the Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- U4 — Background checks are conducted randomly, although Board staff has the authority to use discretion to run them on any applicant/registrant.
- V4 — Utah Code 58-17b-307(1)(a).
- W4 — If an individual applies for registration in Kentucky and answers yes to one or more of six questions on the application, a state-level background check will be done.
- X4 — Criminal history record checks include the Washington State Patrol and, in some cases, an FBI fingerprint background check as well.
- Y4 — State certification as well as a national certification exam approved by the Commission.
- Z4 — Fees are set by the Secretary of the Department of Health.
- A5 — 20 hours of CPE every 24 months is required; IDFPR is currently working on rules to implement this requirement.
- B5 — Applicants must answer criminal history questions but a background screening is not required.
- C5 — One hour of CPE related to immunizations if technician is engaged in vaccine administration. Telepharmacy technicians required to obtain two hours CPE each for pharmacy law and patient safety/medication errors each renewal period.
- D5 — Registered pharmacy technicians are required to meet the criteria for licensure, including obtaining certification from a nationally accredited pharmacy technician certification program for which an examination may be required.
- E5 — Certification is required in order for a qualified pharmacy technician to work in a remote pharmacy, not under the personal charge of the pharmacist, pursuant to MCL 333.17742b.
- F5 — Registered pharmacy technicians may practice in hospitals, nursing homes and diagnostic treatment centers, or pharmacies owned and operated by such facilities. Pharmacy support staff working outside of these facilities are deemed unlicensed personnel and may not utilize the title registered pharmacy technician. For more information, please contact the Board office.
- G5 — Authority falls under the Board of Regents.
- H5 — Exams currently approved are PTCB and ExCPT. Effective July 1, 2022, to be registered as a pharmacy technician, an

Colored text denotes change from 2023 edition.

12. Regulation of Pharmacy Technicians (cont.)

Legend cont.

- applicant shall provide evidence of the following: 1. Completion of a pharmacy technician training program that is: a. Jointly accredited by the ASHP and ACPE; b. An accredited training program operated through the Department of Education's Career and Technical Education program; c. Operated through a federal agency or branch of the military; or d. Accredited by an accreditation body approved by the board. 2. Evidence that the applicant successfully passed a national certification examination administered by PTCB or NHA. (18VAC110-21-141)
- I5 — Alabama Board of Pharmacy approved training only.
- J5 — One (1) hour of CE on Cultural Competency.
- K5 — The technician trainee must be under the direct supervision and control of a pharmacist; a pharmacist may only supervise one technician trainee, technician externship must be for a period of no fewer than 120 hours and no more than 140 hours and a period of no more than six consecutive months in a community pharmacy and for a total of no more than 12 months if rotations involve community and hospital pharmacy while enrolled in a course of instruction at an institution.
- L5 — State does not require pharmacy technicians to be licensed or registered.
- M5 — Under certain circumstances in order to obtain a certified pharmacy technician license.
- N5 — An applicant for licensure as a pharmacy technician may complete an employer-based program accredited by ASHP/ACPE, an educational program that is accredited by ASHP/ACPE or by an agency accredited by the United States Department of Education, or may complete a Board of Pharmacy-approved unaccredited training program that complies with the requirements of Rule 338.3655.
- O5 — Pharmacy technicians are required to take and pass a certification exam within one year of becoming licensed and maintain current certification. Pharmacy technicians who administer vaccines must complete an ACPE-accredited immunization certification course.
- P5 — Registered pharmacy technicians are required to have certification from a nationally accredited pharmacy technician certification program acceptable to the department (currently PTCB or NHA).
- Q5 — Only for technicians who are trained to administer vaccines - 2 hours of ACPE-accredited immunization-related CPE each year. GS 90-85.15B(f).
- R5 — (ASHP/ACPE)
- S5 — See OAC 4729:3-3-02.
- T5 — 3:1 ratio only for technician trainees.
- U5 — For community pharmacy, a ratio of no more than two pharmacy technicians per supervising pharmacist on duty shall be maintained. A licensed pharmacy that conducts significant compounding (10% of prescription volume) may utilize up to two pharmacy technicians specifically trained in compounding who shall, only while performing compounding duties, not be counted for the purposes of the pharmacy technician-to-pharmacist ratio of two pharmacy technicians to one supervising pharmacist.
- V5 — For hospital pharmacy, the ratio of pharmacy technicians to supervising pharmacists shall be set by the director of pharmacy and should be a ratio that would be considered safe and reasonable by the certifying pharmacist. The ratio shall not exceed four pharmacy technicians to one supervising pharmacist.
- W5 — For Pharmacy Technician II (which is a nationally certified technician).
- X5 — If compounding sterile preparations.
- Y5 — New applicants must provide evidence that they have successfully completed a training program that is (i) an accredited training program, including an accredited training program operated through the Department of Education's Career and Technical Education program or approved by the Board, or (ii) operated through a federal agency or branch of the military.
- Z5 — Pharmacies may have an increased pharmacist-to-technician ratio when vaccines are administered. From September 1 to March 31 of the following year, a certified and registered pharmacy technician shall not count toward the pharmacist-to-technician ratio if such pharmacy technician: Is authorized to administer vaccines; and, Exclusively performs duties related to the administration of vaccines during such period.

Footnotes (*)

Colored text denotes change from 2023 edition.

12. Regulation of Pharmacy Technicians (cont.)

Footnotes (*) cont.

- AL — 4:1 if two technicians are PTCB certified, otherwise 2:1. All technicians must be at least 17.
- CA — In community pharmacy, the ratio is 1:1 for the first pharmacist on duty, then 2:1 for each additional pharmacist on duty. The ratio is 2:1 for the preparation of a prescription for an inpatient of a licensed health facility (hospital, skilled nursing facility) and licensed home health agency. The ratio does not apply for preparation of a prescription for an inmate of a correctional facility of the Department of the Youth Authority, Department of Corrections, State Department of Mental Health, State Department of Developmental Services, or the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- CT — Refer to Section 20-576-36 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. In summary, ratio not to exceed 2:1 when both technicians are registered. Ratio of 3:1 permitted when there are two registered technicians and one certified technician. However, a pharmacist is permitted to refuse the 3:1 ratio for the 2:1 ratio. In an institutional outpatient pharmacy, ratio is 2:1. The pharmacist manager may petition the Commission to increase ratio to 3:1 in a licensed or institutional outpatient pharmacy. Inpatient pharmacy ratio is 3:1 generally, but pharmacy can petition for ratio of up to 5:1; satellite pharmacy 3:1, but can petition for up to 5:1.
- FL — Rule 64B16-27.410 outlines the acceptable ratios as follows:
(A) Three to One (3:1) Ratio: Any pharmacy or any pharmacist engaged in sterile compounding shall not exceed a ratio of up to three (3) registered pharmacy technicians to one (1) pharmacist (3:1). The 3:1 ratio only applies to pharmacists and technicians engaged in sterile compounding, and does not affect the technician ratios for other activities not involving sterile compounding in areas of the pharmacy physically separated from the area in which sterile compounding activities take place.
(B) Six to One (6:1) Ratio: Any pharmacy or any pharmacist may allow a supervision ratio of up to six (6) registered pharmacy technicians to one (1) pharmacist (6:1), as long as the pharmacist or registered pharmacy technicians are not engaged in sterile compounding.
(C) Eight to One (8:1) Ratio: (a) Non-dispensing pharmacies. Any pharmacy which does not dispense medicinal drugs, and the pharmacist(s) employed by such pharmacy, may allow a supervision ratio of up to eight (8) registered pharmacy technicians to one (1) pharmacist (8:1), as long as the pharmacist or registered pharmacy technicians are not engaged in sterile compounding.
(D) Dispensing pharmacies. A pharmacy which dispenses medicinal drugs may utilize an eight to one (8:1) ratio in any physically separate area of the pharmacy from which medicinal drugs are not dispensed. A “physically separate area” is a part of the pharmacy which is separated by a permanent wall or other barrier which restricts access between the two areas.
- GA — One of the three pharmacy technicians must be certified. Board may consider and approve an application to increase the ratio in a hospital pharmacy.
- IA — In technician product verification programs, no more than three checking technicians per pharmacist within the prescription-filling process.
- ID — Ratio includes technicians, technicians-in-training, and student pharmacists.
- IN — Technicians must be under the immediate and personal supervision of the pharmacist.
- KS — A pharmacist shall not supervise at any time more than two pharmacy technicians who have not passed a certification examination approved by the Board.
- LA — Total of 4 pharmacy technicians/pharmacy technician candidates/pharmacy interns: 1 pharmacist with no more than 2 of those being pharmacy technician candidates.
- MA — Up to 4:1 as long as there are at least two certified pharmacy technicians, two pharmacy interns, or a combination.
- MO — Technician must be under the direct supervision and responsibility of a pharmacist.
- MT — Technician ratio was removed March 2022. See ARM 24.174.711. The pharmacist-in-charge will ensure that the number of pharmacy technicians on duty can be satisfactorily supervised by the pharmacist(s) on duty to ensure patient safety and a safe work environment.
- NC — Ratio may be increased above 2:1 if

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12. Regulation of Pharmacy Technicians (cont.)

Footnotes (*) cont.

- additional technicians are certified and the Board approves the increase in advance.
- ND — For closed-door pharmacies not dealing directly with patients, the ratio is 5:1.
- NJ — See NJAC 13:39-6.15(e).
- NY — A pharmacist may supervise no more than four individuals at once. In Article 28 facilities or pharmacies owned and operated by such a facility, a pharmacist may supervise up to two registered pharmacy technicians in addition to two unlicensed personnel for a total of no more than four individuals at once.
- NV — Technician to pharmacist ratio is now 3:1; however, initial prescription data input can now only be done by a registered pharmaceutical technician or a pharmacist. A clerk may enter demographic and insurance data only on new prescriptions.
- OH — A pharmacist is not permitted to supervise more than three pharmacy technician trainees at any time, unless otherwise approved by the Board.
- OK — For nuclear pharmacy, the ratio of pharmacy technicians to supervising pharmacists shall be set by the PIC and shall be a ratio that would be considered safe and reasonable by the certifying pharmacist. This ratio shall not exceed three pharmacy technicians to one supervising pharmacist.
- SC — The PIC shall develop and implement written policies and procedures to specify the duties to be performed by pharmacy technicians. The duties and responsibilities of these personnel shall be consistent with their training and experience. These policies and procedures shall, at a minimum, specify that pharmacy technicians are to be personally supervised by a licensed pharmacist who has the ability to control and who is responsible for the activities of pharmacy technicians and that pharmacy technicians are not assigned duties that may be performed only by a licensed pharmacist. One pharmacist may not supervise more than four pharmacy technicians at a time; at least two of these four technicians must be state certified. If a pharmacist supervises only one or two pharmacy technicians, these technicians are not required to be state certified. Pharmacy technicians do not include personnel in the prescription area performing only clerical functions, including data entry up to the point of dispensing, as defined in Section 40-43-30(14).
- TN — Up to 4:1 if two technicians are certified.
- TX — 6:1. A maximum of three of the six can be pharmacy technician trainees.
- UT — Pharmacist determined for licensed pharmacy technicians, only one technician-in-training per supervising pharmacist.



Report of the Task Force to

**CREATE AN INDUSTRY STANDARD FOR
PHARMACY TECHNICIAN SCOPE OF PRACTICE
AND ENTRY-LEVEL REQUIREMENTS TO
SUPPORT INTERSTATE PORTABILITY**

Report of the Task Force to Create an Industry Standard for Pharmacy Technician Scope of Practice and Entry-Level Requirements to Support Interstate Portability

Members Present

Diane Halvorson (ND), *chair*; Lee Ann Bundrick (SC); Robert Carpenter (VT); Todd Dear (MS); Rick Fernandez (TX); Shauna Gerwing (SK); Christopher Harlow (KY); Julie Lanza (MA); William “Bill” Lee (VA); Brenda McCrady (AR); Kevin Mitchell (OH); Seung Oh (CA); Jeenu Philip (FL); Denise Scarpelli (IL); Shuler Spigener (SC); Christian Tadrus (MO).

Others Present

Traci Collier, *Executive Committee liaison*; Ryan Burke, Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB); *guest*; Lemrey “Al” Carter, Melissa Becker, Andrew Funk, Eileen Lewalski, Gertrude “Gg” Levine, Maureen Schanck, Romy Schafer, *NABP staff*.

Introduction

The task force met on November 13-14, 2023, at NABP Headquarters in Mount Prospect, IL. This task force was established pursuant to Resolution 119-5-23, Create an Industry Standard for Pharmacy Technician Scope of Practice and Entry-Level Requirements to Support Interstate Portability, which the NABP membership passed at the 119th NABP Annual Meeting in May 2023.

Review of the Task Force Charge

Charge of the task force:

1. Review current state regulations and the industry standard recommendations;
2. Consider the expanded role pharmacy technicians assumed based on the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) and state-specific state of emergency scope allowances; and
3. Amend, if necessary, the *Model State Pharmacy Act and Model Rules of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (Model Act)* accordingly.

Background and Discussion

Discussion began with a review of the task force charge and the recognition that the task force was established pursuant to Resolution 119-5-23, Create an Industry Standard for Pharmacy Technician Scope of Practice and Entry-Level Requirements to Support Interstate Portability, which was passed at the 119th Annual Meeting in May 2023 in Nashville, TN. The task force then



discussed the efforts and findings of PTCB and reviewed highlights from the PTCB meeting report, “Toward uniform standards for pharmacy technicians: Summary of the 2017 Pharmacy Technician Stakeholder Consensus Conference.” Participants in that meeting concluded that, 1. the profession should focus on entry-level standards and allow advanced-role standards to evolve over time, and 2. education and training go hand in hand. Several years ago, PTCB considered requiring accredited education and training for pharmacy technician certifications, but ultimately decided against it to avoid an undue burden for candidates. It was noted that PTCB’s Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE) has a pass rate of approximately 71% and that scores tend to be higher when candidates have taken accredited training programs as opposed to non-accredited programs. Candidates with practice experience also tend to score higher than those without. Some states require technicians to pass the PTCE.

The task force members then shared their states’ current regulations pertaining to pharmacy technicians, which revealed a wide variety among the states. For instance, many states and territories (35, according to the *2023 Survey of Pharmacy Law*) require technicians to be registered with the board, while 16 require licensure, and 25 require certification. Licensure generally carries additional requirements beyond registration to establish eligibility. Many states (30, per the *Survey*) also require criminal history checks for technicians.

Even though a handful of states have no legally required training requirements, members observed that education and certification requirements are important factors that allow technicians to perform at a higher level than they otherwise could. While a handful of states specifically require the training programs to be accredited, others accept education from non-accredited programs. In Massachusetts, for example, technicians must complete training and pass a competency exam to take part in more advanced duties as outlined in board policies.

Some members said their states have struggled with the question of whether to add a certification requirement for technicians when the technicians’ duties would remain the same. Members noted that some states, such as Vermont, provide several different pathways for technicians to become certified, such as degree programs and vocational or military training, to maximize the number of candidates. Others stated that when their boards implemented a certification requirement, they included a grandfather clause for technicians with work experience.

Regarding the tasks that pharmacy technicians may perform, the task force observed that the 2020 PREP Act expanded technicians’ scope of practice. The PREP Act was passed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and empowered technicians and pharmacy interns to administer certain vaccines, tests, and treatments.

Aside from those allowed through the PREP Act, technician responsibilities vary greatly between states. Several states, including Vermont, allow technicians to perform any tasks the supervising pharmacist allows them to do other than re-delegate tasks to other personnel. As mentioned above, some states recognize and assign different duties to entry-level and advanced tiers of

technicians, such as New Hampshire, where advanced technicians must pass a jurisprudence examination. Members noted that Saskatchewan has both pharmacy technicians and pharmacy assistants, with more educational requirements and responsibilities for technicians, including supervising assistants.

Having discussed the many differences between the states, the task force examined the similarities and looked for ways to streamline license portability and to enhance technicians' status nationwide. The task force agreed on the need to outline common licensure requirements for states to adopt so as to allow for portability among the states. It was noted that once common requirements are set, states may choose to promulgate additional requirements. With this agreed upon, members sought to identify barriers in the states that would prevent establishing these common requirements as baseline standards. Some members expressed doubt that all states could agree on any one set of standards, partially because some of their requirements are written into statute and would be difficult to change. Others noted that some states already recognize national certification programs and may not want to add additional licensure requirements, which could add burdensome work to board staff. Still others noted that pressures from regulated entities that do not want additional requirements could come into play.

Members acknowledged that, in order for the boards to fulfill their primary responsibility of protecting public health, certification should be a requirement for licensure and, thus, license portability. This point raised questions about how much experience is necessary and whether the educational programs must be accredited for certification and, thus, licensure.

In addition, members discussed a national competency exam and the difficulty associated with developing such an exam because it would need to cover the many different areas of pharmacy, which may be impractical for technicians working in a specific practice setting. Others noted that pharmacists take a general practice exam yet may end up working in specific practice settings. Also noted was that developing a general practice exam is far more practical than developing different exams for different practice types.

The task force acknowledged PTCB's list of recognized training programs that teach the content that PTCB has outlined for inclusion in the curriculum. It was further noted that PTCB is performing a job task analysis to inform its exam blueprint focusing on two key areas: 1. entry-level tasks and the frequency at which the tasks are performed by technicians, and 2. the level of skill required to perform those tasks. PTCB expected to conduct a survey in December 2023 to determine whether the blueprint should be modified in 2024.

The task force recognized the need for a balance between having enough technicians in the workforce and having sufficient standards in place to protect public health. With this in mind, the task force aspired to develop a plan that the practice of pharmacy could *grow* into, rather than *fit* into, while also not setting the standards so low that everyone can meet them. The members discussed building the technician role into a career, which should enable technicians to transfer



their skills to other facilities. On the other hand, members noted that establishing too high of a threshold would reduce the number of technicians in the workforce, which could pose a public health risk.

Regarding portability, the task force considered whether to emulate a nursing compact, in which licensure in one state enables licensees to practice in other states. Members noted that a compact might work well for clusters of adjacent states where technicians might practice in more than one state but expressed doubt that it would be accepted nationwide. Again, the task force considered the baseline requirements that states should adopt to allow for technician license portability. Some members suggested that multiple avenues to eligibility should be considered; others stated that only technicians certified by one of the national technician certification organizations should be allowed to transfer their license. It was observed, however, that the eligibility requirements – eg, training, experience, background checks – for certification vary from state to state and that not all states recognize any of the national technician certification programs and may even use the term “certified pharmacy technician” when national certification is not required. As such, members noted that states may be hesitant to accept technicians from other states with less rigorous standards.

Turning its attention to the *Model Act*, the task force reviewed the definitions of “certified pharmacy technician” and “certified pharmacy technician candidate” and agreed that no changes were necessary. Next, they examined the NABP Emergency Passport Program, which “verifies pharmacists, certified pharmacy technicians, pharmacy interns, and pharmacies meet the standard of licensure and are in good standing in states of licensure in order to practice on a temporary or emergency basis.” Members observed that states are more willing to lower their requirements during emergencies than they are on a regular basis, noting that the temporary status of an emergency raises the comfort level for some allowances.

In contrast to a temporary allowance, NABP Verify™ is a program that “verifies pharmacists and applicable business entities are licensed in good standing” on an *ongoing* basis. The task force deliberated whether to include technicians within the scope of NABP Verify but determined that more information is needed first. The task force recognized a need for a gap analysis to assess the states’ requirements for technician education and training, noting that the 2019 Task Force on Requirements for Pharmacy Technician Education had recommended that “NABP perform a gap analysis of accreditation standards for pharmacy technician educational programs.”

Members then examined *Model Act* Section 304, Qualifications for Licensure Transfer, in which Subparagraph (1) pertains to pharmacists, and recommended mirroring this language with minor changes as applicable to technicians. In order to accomplish this, they recommended adding a Subparagraph (2) that contains language enabling a certified pharmacy technician currently licensed in one jurisdiction to obtain a license as a certified pharmacy technician by licensure transfer to another. Changes included substituting “engaged in the practice of pharmacy” with “assisted in the practice of pharmacy,” and leaving the age requirement and length of experience requirement blank and letting the states decide those details.



Members recognized the need for a database to house information on pharmacy technician qualifications and suggested that NABP incorporate technicians into its existing NABP e-Profile® platform and Electronic Licensure Transfer Program® (eLTP) process so that boards of pharmacy are able to make informed decisions about technicians applying for licensure transfer. Because these modifications may be affected by the NABP Bylaws, the task force agreed to have the NABP Committee on Constitution and Bylaws review the NABP Clearinghouse Participation and Licensure Transfer Requirements section with the goal of including technicians.

Recommendations

After careful review and deliberation, the task force made the following recommendations:

1. NABP should incorporate pharmacy technicians into the eLTP process.
2. The NABP Committee on Constitution and Bylaws should review the NABP Bylaws to determine whether an amendment to accommodate incorporating pharmacy technicians into the eLTP process is necessary.
3. NABP should perform a gap analysis of states' education and training requirements for pharmacy technicians.
4. NABP should amend the *Model Act* to add pharmacy technicians to Section 304, Qualifications for Licensure Transfer. The amendments recommended by the task force are denoted by underlines in the following excerpt.



Model State Pharmacy Act and Model Rules of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy

August 2023

...

Section 105. Definitions.

...

(13) “Certified pharmacy technician” means personnel licensed by the board who have completed a certification program approved by the board and may, under the supervision of a pharmacist, perform certain activities involved in the practice of pharmacy that are within their scope of certification and as delegated by the pharmacist, but excluding clinical patient care activities such as, but not limited to:

- (a) drug utilization review (DUR);
- (b) clinical conflict resolution; and
- (c) patient counseling.

(14) “Certified pharmacy technician candidate” means personnel licensed by the Board who intend to complete a certification program approved by the board and may, under the supervision of a pharmacist, perform certain activities involved in the practice of pharmacy that are within their scope of education and training and as delegated by the pharmacist, but excluding clinical patient care activities such as, but not limited to:

- (a) drug utilization review (DUR);
- (b) clinical conflict resolution; and
- (c) patient counseling.

...

(58) “NABP Emergency Passport Program” means a program, operated by NABP, that verifies pharmacists, certified pharmacy technicians, pharmacy interns, and pharmacies meet the standard of licensure and are in good standing in states of licensure in order to practice on a temporary or emergency basis according to state public health emergency orders or as otherwise determined by the state board of pharmacy.

...

(60) “NABP Verify” means an ongoing credentialing and license monitoring service, operated by NABP, that verifies pharmacists and applicable business entities are licensed in good standing and provides proof of that status

...

Section 304. Qualifications for Licensure Transfer.¹

- (1) In order for a pharmacist currently licensed in another jurisdiction to obtain a license as a pharmacist by licensure transfer in this state, an applicant shall:²
 - (a) have submitted an application in the form prescribed by the board of pharmacy;
 - (b) have attained the age of 18 years;
 - (c) have possessed at the time of initial licensure as a pharmacist all qualifications necessary to have been eligible for licensure at that time in this state;
 - (d) have engaged in the practice of pharmacy for a period of at least one (1) year or have met the pharmacy practice experience requirements of this state within the one (1) year period immediately preceding the date of such application;
 - (e) have presented to the board proof of an active license in good standing;
 - (f) have presented to the board proof that any other license granted to the applicant by any other state has not been suspended, revoked, or otherwise restricted for any reason, except nonrenewal or for the failure to obtain the required continuing education credits, in any state where the applicant is currently licensed but not engaged in the practice of pharmacy; and
 - (g) have paid the fees specified by the board.
- (2) In order for a certified pharmacy technician currently licensed in another jurisdiction to obtain a license as a certified pharmacy technician by licensure transfer in this state, an applicant shall:
 - (a) have submitted an application in the form prescribed by the board of pharmacy;
 - (b) have attained the age of ____ years;
 - (c) have possessed at the time of transfer all qualifications necessary to be eligible for licensure in this state;
 - (d) have assisted in the practice of pharmacy for a period of at least ____ or have met the experience requirements of this state;
 - (e) have presented to the board proof of an active license in good standing;
 - (f) have presented to the board proof that any other license granted to the applicant by any other state has not been suspended, revoked, or otherwise restricted for any reason, except nonrenewal or for the failure to obtain the required continuing

¹ See the NABP Model Rules for Public Health Emergencies or Significant Public Health Concerns for language that addresses the temporary recognition of nonresident pharmacist licensure in the case of a declared state of emergency issued due to a public health emergency.

² It is intended that NABP's National Disciplinary Clearinghouse would be utilized by state boards for verifying information provided by applicants.



NABP

- (g) education credits, in any state where the applicant is currently licensed but not assisted in the practice of pharmacy; and
have paid the fees specified by the board.

DRAFT

Virginia's Pharmacy Technician Workforce: 2023

Healthcare Workforce Data Center

February 2024

Virginia Department of Health Professions
Healthcare Workforce Data Center
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Follow us on Tumblr: www.vahwdc.tumblr.com

Get a copy of this report from:

<https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/PublicResources/HealthcareWorkforceDataCenter/ProfessionReports/>

Nearly 11,000 Pharmacy Technicians voluntarily participated in this survey. Without their efforts, the work of the center would not be possible. The Department of Health Professions, the Healthcare Workforce Data Center, and the Board of Pharmacy express our sincerest appreciation for their ongoing cooperation.

Thank You!

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The Pharmacy Technician Workforce At a Glance:

The Workforce

Registrants:	13,659
Trainees*:	8,063
Virginia's Workforce:	12,535
FTEs:	9,754

Background

Rural Childhood:	40%
HS Degree in VA:	74%
% Work Non-Metro:	13%

Current Employment

Employed in Prof.:	82%
Hold 1 Full-Time Job:	70%
Satisfied?:	90%

Survey Response Rate

All Registrants:	79%
Renewing Practitioners:	99%

Education

High School/GED:	56%
Associate Degree:	21%

Job Turnover

Switched Jobs:	5%
Employed Over 2 Yrs.:	52%

Demographics

Female:	85%
Diversity Index:	61%

Finances

Median Income: \$35k-\$40k	
Health Insurance:	59%

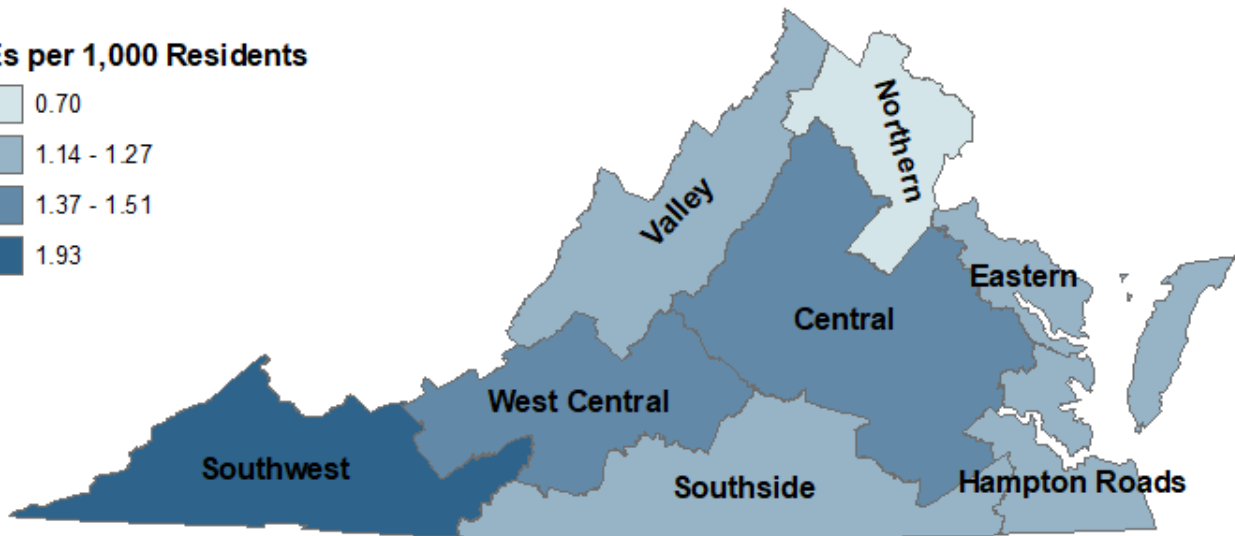
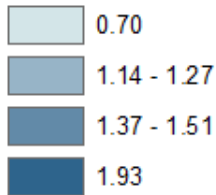
Primary Roles

Medication Disp.:	54%
Administration:	6%

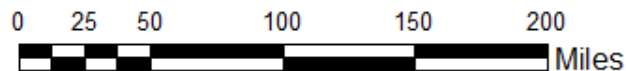
Full-Time Equivalency Units Provided by Pharmacy Technicians per 1,000 Residents by Virginia Performs Region

Source: Va Healthcare Work force Data Center

FTEs per 1,000 Residents



Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: July 1, 2022
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division



*The survey was not available to Pharmacy Technician Trainees.

Results in Brief

This report contains the results of the 2023 Pharmacy Technician Workforce survey. A total of 10,854 pharmacy technicians voluntarily participated in this survey. The Virginia Department of Health Professions' Healthcare Workforce Data Center (HWDC) administers the survey during the registration renewal process, which takes place every December for pharmacy technicians. These survey respondents represent 79% of the 13,659 pharmacy technicians who are registered in the state and 99% of renewing practitioners. **Additionally, there were 8,063 pharmacy technician trainees registered with the department of health professions.**

The HWDC estimates that 12,535 pharmacy technicians participated in Virginia's workforce during the survey period, which is defined as those who worked at least a portion of the year in the state or who live in the state and intend to return to work in the profession at some point in the future. Virginia's pharmacy technician workforce provided 9,754 "full-time equivalency units," which the HWDC defines simply as working 2,000 hours per year.

Among all pharmacy technicians, 85% are female. In addition, the median age of this workforce is 37. In a random encounter between two pharmacy technicians, there is a 61% chance that they would be of different races or ethnicities, a measure known as the diversity index. This diversity index increases to 65% for those pharmacy technicians who are under the age of 40. For Virginia's overall population, the comparable diversity index is 60%. Two out of every five pharmacy technicians grew up in a rural area, and 27% of pharmacy technicians who grew up in a rural area currently work in a non-metro area of Virginia. In total, 13% of all pharmacy technicians work in a non-metro area.

More than four out of every five pharmacy technicians are currently employed in the profession, 70% hold one full-time position, and 52% work between 40 and 49 hours per week. More than seven out of every ten pharmacy technicians work in the for-profit sector, and another 17% are employed in the non-profit sector. The median annual income for pharmacy technicians is between \$35,000 and \$40,000, and 90% of pharmacy technicians receive this income in the form of an hourly wage. Nine out of every ten pharmacy technicians indicated that they are satisfied with their current work situation, including 49% who indicated that they are "very satisfied."

Summary of Trends

In this section, all statistics for the current year are compared to the 2013 pharmacy technician workforce. The number of registered pharmacy technicians has decreased by 4% (13,659 vs. 14,262). The size of Virginia's pharmacy technician workforce has fallen by 6% (12,535 vs. 13,404), while the number of FTEs provided by this workforce has fallen by 9% (9,754 vs. 10,703). Renewing pharmacy technicians are more likely to respond to the survey (99% vs. 91%).

The percentage of pharmacy technicians who are female has increased (85% vs. 84%), and the median age of this workforce has risen (37 vs. 34). The diversity index of this workforce has increased as well (61% vs. 57%), a trend that has also occurred among those who are under the age of 40 (65% vs. 61%). The percentage of pharmacy technicians who grew up in a rural area has declined (40% vs. 41%), and pharmacy technicians who grew up in a rural area are less likely to work in a non-metro area (27% vs. 28%). In total, the percentage of all pharmacy technicians who work in a non-metro county has declined (13% vs. 15%). Pharmacy technicians are relatively more likely to hold either an associate degree (21% vs. 20%) or a baccalaureate degree (19% vs. 18%) as their highest professional degree than a high school degree/GED (56% vs. 59%). Although pharmacy technicians are less likely to hold education debt (36% vs. 38%), the median outstanding balance among those with education debt has increased (\$18k-\$20k vs. \$10k-\$12k).

Pharmacy technicians are more likely to work in the profession (82% vs. 79%), hold one full-time position (70% vs. 61%), and work between 40 and 49 hours per week (52% vs. 39%). Pharmacy technicians are relatively more likely to work in the non-profit sector (17% vs. 13%) than in the for-profit sector (72% vs. 76%). In addition, pharmacy technicians are relatively more likely to work in the inpatient or outpatient department of a hospital (25% vs. 18%) than in a large chain community pharmacy (29% vs. 35%). The median annual income of pharmacy technicians has increased (\$35k-\$40k vs. \$20k-\$22.5k), and pharmacy technicians are also more likely to receive at least one employer-sponsored benefit (78% vs. 74%). Pharmacy technicians are more likely to indicate that they are satisfied with their current work situation (90% vs. 89%), including those who indicated that they are "very satisfied" (49% vs. 47%).

A Closer Look:

Registrant Counts		
Registration Status	#	%
Renewing Practitioners	10,370	76%
New Registrants	1,346	10%
Non-Renewals	1,943	14%
All Registrants	13,659	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

HWDC surveys tend to achieve very high response rates. Among all renewing pharmacy technicians, 99% submitted a survey. These represent 79% of the 13,659 pharmacy technicians who were registered at some point in 2023.

Definitions

- The Survey Period:** The survey was conducted in December 2023.
- Target Population:** All professionals who held a Virginia registration at some point in 2023.
- Survey Population:** The survey was available to those who renewed their registration online. It was not available to those who did not renew, including some professionals newly registered in 2023.

Response Rates			
Statistic	Non Respondents	Respondents	Response Rate
By Age			
Under 30	1,155	2,615	69%
30 to 34	449	1,669	79%
35 to 39	360	1,546	81%
40 to 44	243	1,291	84%
45 to 49	166	1,019	86%
50 to 54	148	1,009	87%
55 to 59	100	758	88%
60 and Over	184	947	84%
Total	2,805	10,854	80%
New Registrations			
Issued in 2023	784	562	42%
Metro Status			
Non-Metro	332	1,608	83%
Metro	2,038	8,471	81%
Not in Virginia	435	775	64%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Response Rates	
Completed Surveys	10,854
Response Rate, All Registrants	79%
Response Rate, Renewals	99%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance:

Registered Pharmacy Tech.

Number: 13,659
 New: 10%
 Not Renewed: 14%

Survey Response Rates

All Registrants: 79%
 Renewing Practitioners: 99%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance:

Workforce

Pharmacy Tech. Workforce: 12,535
 FTEs: 9,754

Utilization Ratios

Registrants in VA Workforce: 92%
 Registrants per FTE: 1.40
 Workers per FTE: 1.29

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

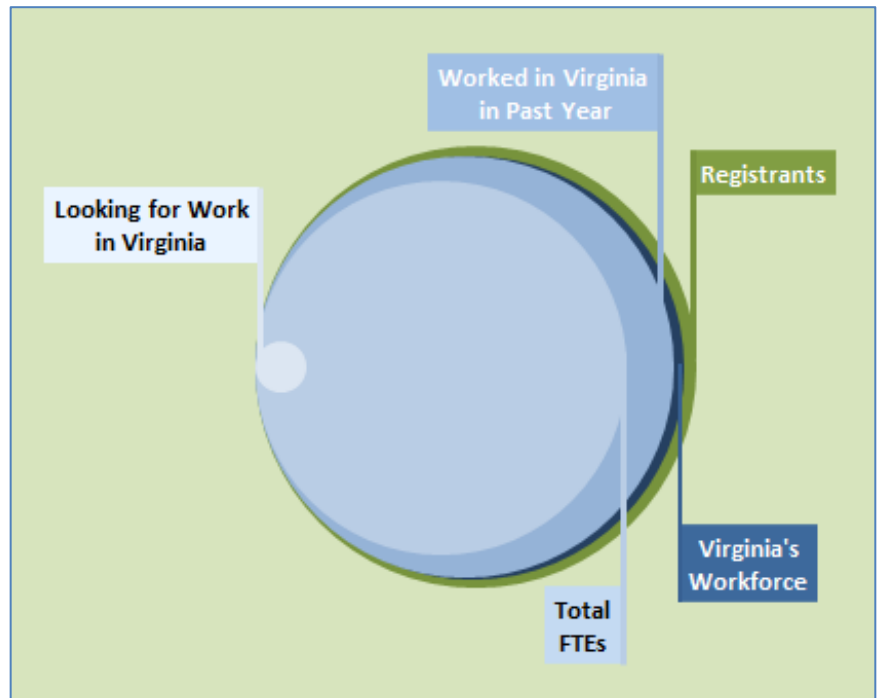
Pharmacy Tech. Workforce		
Status	#	%
Worked in Virginia in Past Year	12,343	98%
Looking for Work in Virginia	191	2%
Virginia's Workforce	12,535	100%
Total FTEs	9,754	
Registrants	13,659	

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Definitions

- 1. Virginia's Workforce:** A registrant with a primary or secondary work site in Virginia at any time in the past year or who indicated intent to return to Virginia's workforce at any point in the future.
- 2. Full-Time Equivalency Unit (FTE):** The HWDC uses 2,000 (40 hours for 50 weeks) as its baseline measure for FTEs.
- 3. Registrants in VA Workforce:** The proportion of registrants in Virginia's Workforce.
- 4. Registrants per FTE:** An indication of the number of registrants needed to create 1 FTE. Higher numbers indicate lower registrant participation.
- 5. Workers per FTE:** An indication of the number of workers in Virginia's workforce needed to create 1 FTE. Higher numbers indicate lower utilization of available workers.

Weighting is used to estimate the figures in this report. Unless otherwise noted, figures refer to the Virginia workforce only. For more information on the HWDC's methodology, visit: <https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/PublicResources/HealthcareWorkforceDataCenter/>



Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

Age & Gender						
Age	Male		Female		Total	
	#	% Male	#	% Female	#	% in Age Group
Under 30	558	18%	2,610	82%	3,168	30%
30 to 34	264	16%	1,356	84%	1,620	16%
35 to 39	187	13%	1,220	87%	1,407	14%
40 to 44	136	12%	958	88%	1,094	11%
45 to 49	138	16%	723	84%	860	8%
50 to 54	98	12%	739	88%	837	8%
55 to 59	81	13%	549	87%	629	6%
60 and Over	97	12%	686	88%	783	8%
Total	1,557	15%	8,840	85%	10,398	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Race & Ethnicity					
Race/ Ethnicity	Virginia*	Pharmacy Tech.		Pharmacy Tech. Under 40	
	%	#	%	#	%
White	59%	5,949	57%	3,288	53%
Black	18%	2,342	22%	1,453	23%
Asian	7%	958	9%	556	9%
Other Race	1%	132	1%	76	1%
Two or More Races	5%	443	4%	340	5%
Hispanic	10%	668	6%	510	8%
Total	100%	10,492	100%	6,223	100%

*Population data in this chart is from the U.S. Census, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin for the United States, States, and Counties: July 1, 2022.

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Among the 60% of pharmacy technicians who are under the age of 40, 84% are female. In addition, the diversity index among pharmacy technicians who are under the age of 40 is 65%.

At a Glance:

Gender

% Female: 85%
% Under 40 Female: 84%

Age

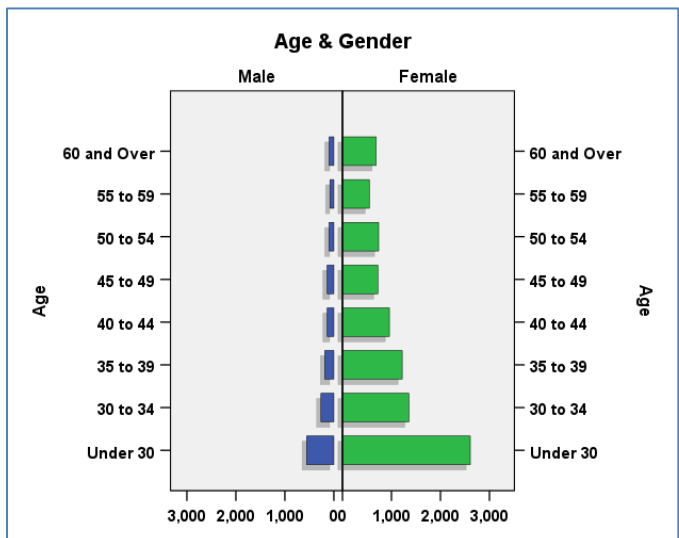
Median Age: 37
% Under 40: 60%
% 55 and Over: 14%

Diversity

Diversity Index: 61%
Under 40 Div. Index: 65%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

In a chance encounter between two professionals, there is a 61% chance that they would be of different races or ethnicities (a measure known as the diversity index). For Virginia's overall population, the comparable diversity index is 60%.



Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance:

Childhood

Urban Childhood: 19%
 Rural Childhood: 40%

Virginia Background

HS in Virginia: 74%
 HS in VA, Past 5 Years: 71%

Location Choice

% Work Non-Metro: 13%
 % Rural to Non-Metro: 27%
 % Urban/Suburban to Non-Metro: 4%

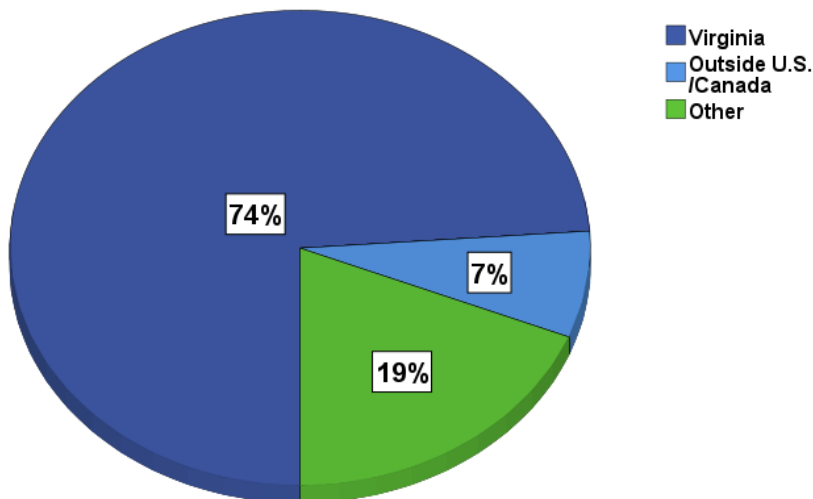
Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

Primary Location: USDA Rural Urban Continuum		Rural Status of Childhood Location		
Code	Description	Rural	Suburban	Urban
Metro Counties				
1	Metro, 1 Million+	24%	52%	25%
2	Metro, 250,000 to 1 Million	58%	30%	12%
3	Metro, 250,000 or Less	63%	28%	10%
Non-Metro Counties				
4	Urban, Pop. 20,000+, Metro Adjacent	64%	24%	12%
6	Urban, Pop. 2,500-19,999, Metro Adjacent	78%	17%	5%
7	Urban, Pop. 2,500-19,999, Non-Adjacent	93%	6%	1%
8	Rural, Metro Adjacent	87%	8%	5%
9	Rural, Non-Adjacent	75%	18%	8%
Overall		40%	42%	19%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

High School Location



Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Among all pharmacy technicians, 40% grew up in a self-described rural area, and 27% of pharmacy technicians who grew up in a rural area currently work in a non-metro county. In total, 13% of all pharmacy technicians are employed in a non-metro area of the state.

Top Ten States for Pharmacy Technician Recruitment

Rank	High School Location			
	All Pharmacy Technicians	#	Registered in the Past Five Years	#
1	Virginia	7,598	Virginia	2,801
2	Outside U.S./Canada	746	Outside U.S./Canada	273
3	Maryland	213	Maryland	118
4	North Carolina	166	North Carolina	87
5	New York	146	Florida	69
6	Florida	137	West Virginia	51
7	West Virginia	133	New York	51
8	Pennsylvania	118	California	46
9	California	111	Pennsylvania	46
10	New Jersey	85	Texas	45

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Among all pharmacy technicians, 74% received their high school diploma in Virginia. Among those pharmacy technicians who obtained their initial registration in the past five years, 71% received their high school degree in the state.

In total, 8% of Virginia's registered pharmacy technicians did not participate in the state's workforce in 2023. However, 81% of these professionals worked at some point in the past year, including 63% who currently work as pharmacy technicians.

At a Glance:

Not in VA Workforce

Total:	1,121
% of Registrants:	8%
Federal/Military:	4%
VA Border State/DC:	27%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

Highest Professional Degree		
Degree	#	%
High School/GED	5,715	56%
Associate	2,091	21%
Baccalaureate	1,944	19%
Masters	348	3%
PhD	43	0%
Total	10,141	100%

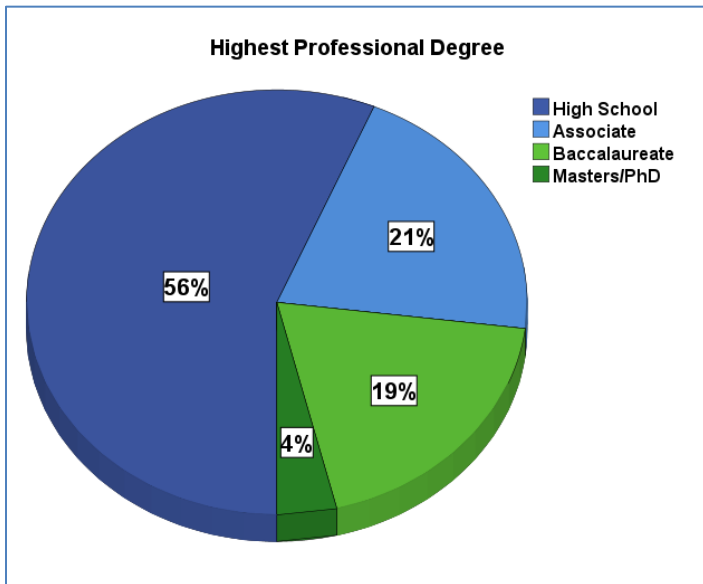
Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance:

Education
 High School/GED: 56%
 Associate Degree: 21%

Education Debt
 Carry Debt: 36%
 Under Age 40 w/ Debt: 46%
 Median Debt: \$18k-\$20k

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center



Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Among all pharmacy technicians, 56% hold either a high school degree or a GED as their highest professional degree.

More than one-third of all pharmacy technicians currently carry education debt, including 46% of those pharmacy technicians who are under the age of 40. For those pharmacy technicians with education debt, the median outstanding balance is between \$18,000 and \$20,000.

Education Debt				
Amount Carried	All Pharm. Tech.		Pharm. Tech. Under 40	
	#	%	#	%
None	4,951	64%	2,488	54%
Less than \$10,000	877	11%	687	15%
\$10,000-\$19,999	575	7%	433	9%
\$20,000-\$29,999	424	5%	324	7%
\$30,000 or More	917	12%	636	14%
Total	7,744	100%	4,568	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance:

Top Certifications

PTCB:	64%
ExCPT:	12%
Total w/ Cert.:	76%

National Certifications

Required:	63%
Pay Raise w/ Cert.:	46%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

Professional Certifications		
Certification	#	% of Workforce
Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB)	7,974	64%
Exam for Certification of Pharmacy Technicians (ExCPT)	1,500	12%
Total with Certification	9,474	76%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

More than three-quarters of Virginia's pharmacy technician workforce holds a professional certification, including 64% who hold a Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) credential.

Among all pharmacy technicians, 63% work for an employer that requires a national certification as a condition of employment. In addition, 46% of pharmacy technicians have received an increase in pay after having obtained a national certification.

National Certifications		
Required for Employment?	#	%
Yes	6,281	63%
No	3,766	37%
Pay Raise with Certification?	#	%
Yes	4,291	46%
No	4,634	50%
No Certification Held	423	5%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance:

Employment

Employed in Profession: 82%
Involuntarily Unemployed: 1%

Positions Held

1 Full-Time: 70%
2 or More Positions: 9%

Weekly Hours:

40 to 49: 52%
60 or More: 3%
Less than 30: 14%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

Current Work Status		
Status	#	%
Employed, Capacity Unknown	18	< 1%
Employed in a Pharmacy Technician-Related Capacity	8,321	82%
Employed, NOT in a Pharmacy Technician-Related Capacity	1,472	15%
Not Working, Reason Unknown	0	0%
Involuntarily Unemployed	73	1%
Voluntarily Unemployed	245	2%
Retired	38	< 1%
Total	10,167	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Among all pharmacy technicians, 82% are currently employed in the profession, 70% hold one full-time job, and 52% work between 40 and 49 hours per week.

Current Positions		
Positions	#	%
No Positions	356	4%
One Part-Time Position	1,710	17%
Two Part-Time Positions	136	1%
One Full-Time Position	7,010	70%
One Full-Time Position & One Part-Time Position	705	7%
Two Full-Time Positions	27	0%
More than Two Positions	34	0%
Total	9,978	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Current Weekly Hours		
Hours	#	%
0 Hours	356	4%
1 to 9 Hours	242	2%
10 to 19 Hours	475	5%
20 to 29 Hours	689	7%
30 to 39 Hours	2,260	23%
40 to 49 Hours	5,036	52%
50 to 59 Hours	358	4%
60 to 69 Hours	103	1%
70 to 79 Hours	68	1%
80 or More Hours	151	2%
Total	9,738	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

Annual Income		
Income Level	#	%
Volunteer Work Only	77	2%
Less than \$10,000	314	7%
\$10,000-\$14,999	170	4%
\$15,000-\$19,999	183	4%
\$20,000-\$24,999	282	6%
\$25,000-\$29,999	353	8%
\$30,000-\$34,999	568	13%
\$35,000-\$39,999	613	14%
\$40,000-\$44,999	641	15%
\$45,000-\$49,999	454	10%
\$50,000 or More	722	17%
Total	4,377	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance:

Annual Income
Median Income: \$35k-\$40k

Benefits
Health Insurance: 59%
Retirement: 56%

Satisfaction
Satisfied: 90%
Very Satisfied: 49%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Job Satisfaction		
Level	#	%
Very Satisfied	4,880	49%
Somewhat Satisfied	4,093	41%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	719	7%
Very Dissatisfied	288	3%
Total	9,980	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

The typical pharmacy technician earns between \$35,000 and \$40,000 per year. In addition, 78% of all pharmacy technicians receive at least one employer-sponsored benefit, including 59% who have access to health insurance.

Employer-Sponsored Benefits			
Benefit	#	%	% of Wage/Salary Employees
Paid Leave	5,356	64%	61%
Health Insurance	4,945	59%	56%
Dental Insurance	4,819	58%	54%
Retirement	4,699	56%	53%
Group Life Insurance	2,875	35%	32%
Signing/Retention Bonus	695	8%	8%
At Least One Benefit	6,472	78%	73%

*From any employer at time of survey.

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

Employment Instability in the Past Year		
In The Past Year, Did You . . . ?	#	%
Experience Involuntary Unemployment?	106	1%
Experience Voluntary Unemployment?	378	3%
Work Part-Time or Temporary Positions, but Would Have Preferred a Full-Time/Permanent Position?	309	2%
Work Two or More Positions at the Same Time?	1,210	10%
Switch Employers or Practices?	627	5%
Experience At Least One?	2,225	18%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Only 1% of pharmacy technicians were involuntarily unemployed at some point in the past year. By comparison, Virginia's average monthly unemployment rate was 2.9%.¹

Location Tenure				
Tenure	Primary		Secondary	
	#	%	#	%
Not Currently Working at This Location	244	3%	211	13%
Less than 6 Months	873	9%	216	13%
6 Months to 1 Year	1,145	12%	225	13%
1 to 2 Years	2,252	24%	335	20%
3 to 5 Years	2,117	23%	299	18%
6 to 10 Years	1,238	13%	182	11%
More than 10 Years	1,524	16%	205	12%
Subtotal	9,394	100%	1,674	100%
Did Not Have Location	538		10,639	
Item Missing	2,603		222	
Total	12,535		12,535	

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Nine out of every ten pharmacy technicians receive an hourly wage at their primary work location.

At a Glance:

Unemployment Experience

Involuntarily Unemployed: 1%
Underemployed: 2%

Turnover & Tenure

Switched Jobs: 5%
New Location: 26%
Over 2 Years: 52%
Over 2 Yrs., 2nd Location: 41%

Employment Type

Hourly Wage: 90%
Salary/Commission: 9%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

More than half of all pharmacy technicians have worked at their primary work location for more than two years.

Employment Type		
Primary Work Site	#	%
Salary/Commission	694	9%
Hourly Wage	7,311	90%
By Contract/Per Diem	46	1%
Business/Practice Income	12	0%
Unpaid	55	1%
Subtotal	8,118	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

¹ As reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The non-seasonally adjusted monthly unemployment rate fluctuated between a low of 2.5% and a high of 3.3%. The unemployment rate from December 2023 was still preliminary at the time of publication.

At a Glance:

Concentration

Top Region:	24%
Top 3 Regions:	68%
Lowest Region:	2%

Locations

2 or More (Past Year):	20%
2 or More (Now*):	16%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

More than two-thirds of all pharmacy technicians work in Central Virginia, Northern Virginia, and Hampton Roads.

A Closer Look:

Regional Distribution of Work Locations				
Virginia Performs Region	Primary Location		Secondary Location	
	#	%	#	%
Central	2,257	24%	364	20%
Eastern	184	2%	40	2%
Hampton Roads	2,027	22%	424	24%
Northern	2,057	22%	415	23%
Southside	384	4%	70	4%
Southwest	673	7%	108	6%
Valley	590	6%	85	5%
West Central	1,068	11%	216	12%
Virginia Border State/D.C.	22	0%	22	1%
Other U.S. State	30	0%	48	3%
Outside of the U.S.	1	0%	2	0%
Total	9,293	100%	1,794	100%
Item Missing	2,704		102	

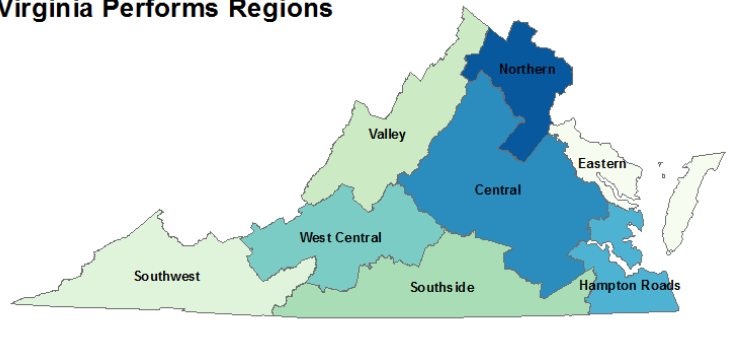
Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Number of Work Locations				
Locations	Work Locations in Past Year		Work Locations Now*	
	#	%	#	%
0	190	2%	355	4%
1	7,473	78%	7,687	81%
2	1,228	13%	1,005	11%
3	525	6%	429	5%
4	41	0%	25	0%
5	18	0%	11	0%
6 or More	56	1%	21	0%
Total	9,532	100%	9,532	100%

*At the time of survey completion, December 2023.

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Virginia Performs Regions



Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Among all pharmacy technicians, 16% currently have multiple work locations, while 20% have had multiple work locations over the past year.

A Closer Look:

Sector	Location Sector			
	Primary Location		Secondary Location	
	#	%	#	%
For-Profit	6,391	72%	1,119	73%
Non-Profit	1,514	17%	256	17%
State/Local Government	588	7%	101	7%
Veterans Administration	81	1%	9	1%
U.S. Military	147	2%	31	2%
Other Federal Gov't	108	1%	23	1%
Total	8,829	100%	1,539	100%
Did Not Have Location	538		10,639	
Item Missing	3,168		358	

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance: (Primary Locations)

Sector

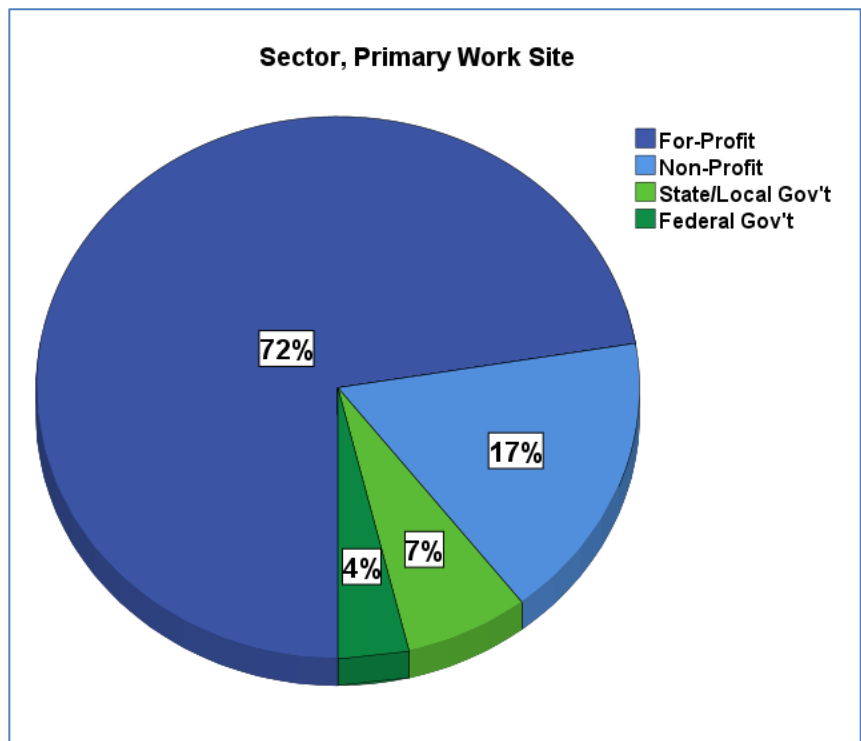
For-Profit:	72%
Federal:	4%

Top Establishments

Large Chain Pharmacy: (11+ Stores)	29%
Hospital/Health System: (Inpatient)	16%
Independent Community Pharmacy (1-4 Stores):	10%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Nine out of every ten pharmacy technicians work in the private sector, including 72% who work in the for-profit sector. Another 7% of pharmacy technicians work for a state or local government.



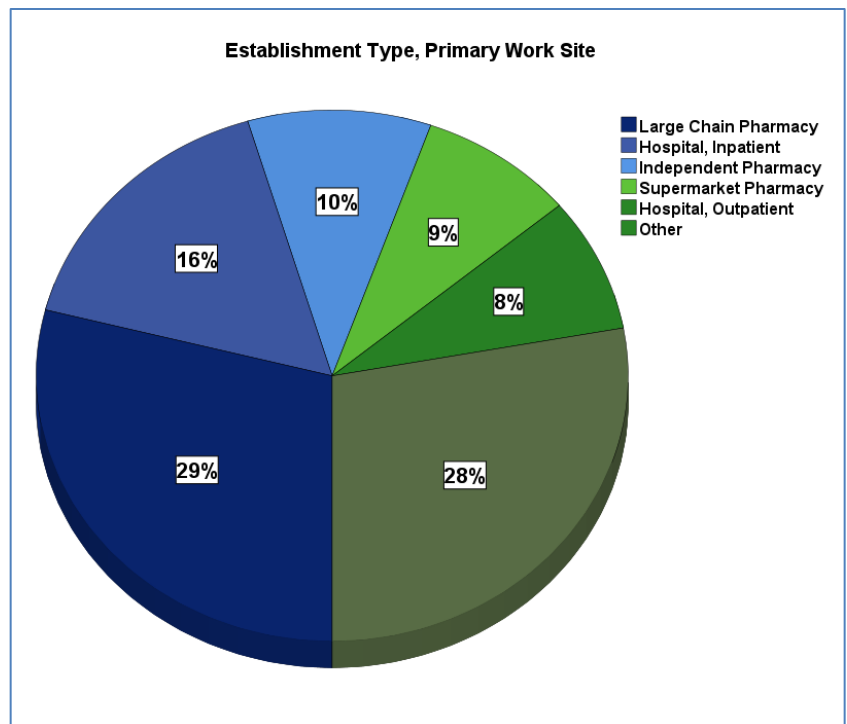
Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Location Type				
Establishment Type	Primary Location		Secondary Location	
	#	%	#	%
Large Chain Community Pharmacy (11+ Stores)	2,537	29%	504	34%
Hospital/Health System, Inpatient Department	1,435	16%	200	14%
Independent Community Pharmacy (1-4 Stores)	877	10%	130	9%
Supermarket Pharmacy	745	9%	131	9%
Hospital/Health System, Outpatient Department	717	8%	74	5%
Mass Merchandiser (i.e., Big Box Store)	320	4%	54	4%
Nursing Home/Long-Term Care	316	4%	45	3%
Pharmacy Benefit Administration (e.g., PBM, Managed Care)	280	3%	17	1%
Clinic-Based Pharmacy	263	3%	37	2%
Mail Service Pharmacy	168	2%	29	2%
Home Health/Infusion	133	2%	17	1%
Small Chain Community Pharmacy (5-10 Stores)	102	1%	21	1%
Academic Institution	72	1%	27	2%
Other	786	9%	195	13%
Total	8,751	100%	1,481	100%
Did Not Have Location	538		10,639	

Nearly three out of every ten pharmacy technicians in Virginia work in a large chain community pharmacy, while another 16% work in the inpatient department of a hospital.

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

For pharmacy technicians who also have a secondary work location, 34% work in a large chain community pharmacy, while 14% work in the inpatient department of a hospital.



Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance: (Primary Locations)

Languages Offered

Spanish:	17%
Arabic:	8%
Vietnamese:	7%

Means of Communication

Virtual Translation:	38%
Other Staff Member:	32%
Respondent:	32%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

Languages Offered		
Language	#	% of Workforce
Spanish	2,093	17%
Arabic	954	8%
Vietnamese	905	7%
Hindi	849	7%
Chinese	848	7%
Korean	838	7%
French	826	7%
Tagalog/Filipino	813	6%
Persian	648	5%
Urdu	645	5%
Amharic, Somali, or Other Afro-Asiatic Languages	534	4%
Pashto	532	4%
Others	413	3%
At Least One Language	2,867	23%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Nearly one out of every five pharmacy technicians are employed at a primary work location that offers Spanish language services for patients.

Means of Language Communication

Provision	#	% of Workforce with Language Services
Virtual Translation Service	1,078	38%
Other Staff Member is Proficient	915	32%
Respondent is Proficient	906	32%
Onsite Translation Service	617	22%
Other	201	7%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Nearly two out of every five pharmacy technicians who are employed at a primary work location that offers language services for patients provide it by means of a virtual translation service.

At a Glance: (Primary Locations)

Typical Time Allocation

Medication Disp.: 60%-69%
Administration: 10%-19%
Teaching: 1%-9%

Roles

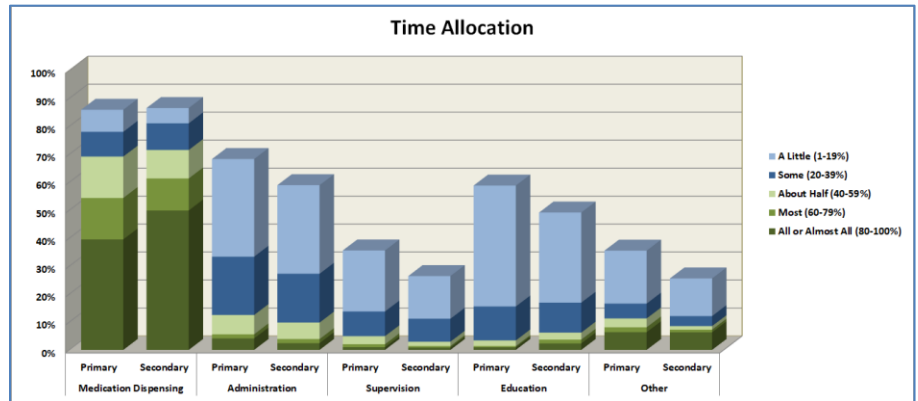
Medication Disp.: 54%
Administration: 6%
Supervision: 2%
Education: 1%

Patient Care Pharm. Tech.

Median Admin. Time: 1%-9%
Avg. Admin. Time: 1%-9%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:



Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

More than half of all pharmacy technicians fill a medication dispensing and customer service role, defined as spending 60% or more of their time in that activity.

Time Allocation										
Time Spent	Medication Disp.		Admin.		Supervision		Education		Other	
	Pri. Site	Sec. Site	Pri. Site	Sec. Site	Pri. Site	Sec. Site	Pri. Site	Sec. Site	Pri. Site	Sec. Site
All or Almost All (80-100%)	40%	50%	4%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	6%	6%
Most (60-79%)	15%	11%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	2%	1%
About Half (40-59%)	15%	10%	7%	6%	3%	2%	2%	3%	3%	1%
Some (20-39%)	9%	10%	21%	17%	9%	8%	12%	11%	5%	4%
A Little (1-19%)	8%	5%	35%	32%	22%	15%	43%	32%	19%	13%
None (0%)	14%	14%	32%	41%	64%	74%	41%	51%	64%	74%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

Retirement Expectations				
Expected Retirement Age	All		50 and Over	
	#	%	#	%
Under Age 50	1,685	22%	-	-
50 to 54	404	5%	23	1%
55 to 59	448	6%	104	6%
60 to 64	1,234	16%	395	23%
65 to 69	1,973	26%	695	41%
70 to 74	536	7%	234	14%
75 to 79	145	2%	52	3%
80 and Over	105	1%	28	2%
I Do Not Intend to Retire	999	13%	150	9%
Total	7,529	100%	1,681	100%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

At a Glance:

Retirement Expectations

All Pharmacy Technicians

Under 65: 50%

Under 60: 34%

Pharm. Tech. 50 and Over

Under 65: 31%

Under 60: 8%

Time Until Retirement

Within 2 Years: 5%

Within 10 Years: 15%

Half the Workforce: By 2048

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

One half of all pharmacy technicians expect to retire by the age of 65. Among pharmacy technicians who are age 50 and over, 31% expect to retire by the age of 65.

Within the next two years, 19% of all pharmacy technicians expect to pursue additional educational opportunities, and 6% expect to increase their patient care hours.

Future Plans

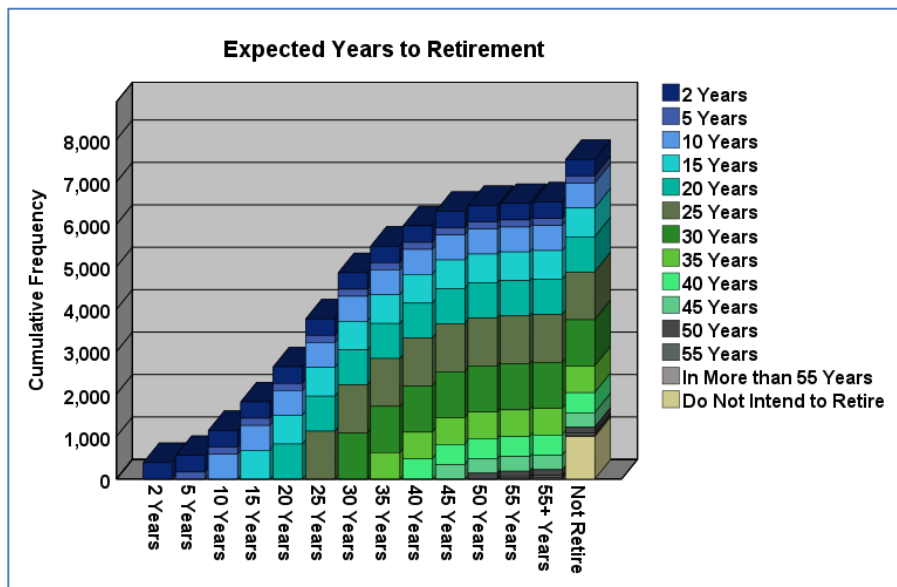
Two-Year Plans:	#	%
Decrease Participation		
Leave Profession	991	8%
Leave Virginia	462	4%
Decrease Patient Care Hours	224	2%
Decrease Teaching Hours	134	1%
Increase Participation		
Increase Patient Care Hours	803	6%
Increase Teaching Hours	699	6%
Pursue Additional Education	2,410	19%
Return to the Workforce	103	1%

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

By comparing retirement expectation to age, we can estimate the maximum years to retirement for pharmacy technicians. While 5% of pharmacy technicians expect to retire in the next two years, 15% expect to retire within the next ten years. Half of the current workforce expect to retire by 2048.

Time to Retirement			
Expect to Retire Within . . .	#	%	Cumulative %
2 Years	388	5%	5%
5 Years	167	2%	7%
10 Years	587	8%	15%
15 Years	679	9%	24%
20 Years	825	11%	35%
25 Years	1,129	15%	50%
30 Years	1,089	14%	65%
35 Years	626	8%	73%
40 Years	478	6%	79%
45 Years	340	5%	84%
50 Years	138	2%	86%
55 Years	49	1%	86%
In More than 55 Years	34	0%	87%
Do Not Intend to Retire	999	13%	100%
Total	7,529	100%	

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center



Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Using these estimates, retirement will begin to reach 10% of the current workforce every five years by 2043. Retirement will peak at 15% of the current workforce around 2048 before declining to below 10% of the current workforce again around 2058.

At a Glance:

FTEs

Total: 9,754
 FTEs/1,000 Residents²: 1.123
 Average: 0.81

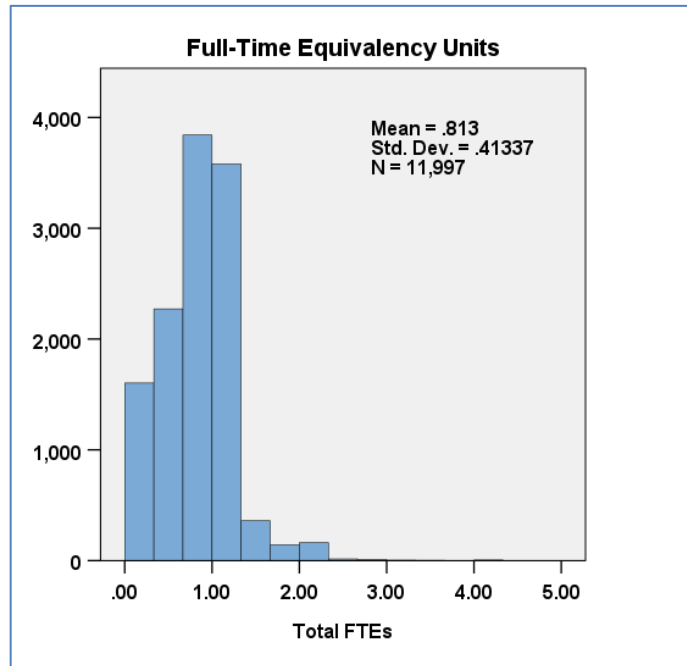
Age & Gender Effect

Age, *Partial Eta*²: Small
 Gender, *Partial Eta*²: Negligible

*Partial Eta*² Explained:
*Partial Eta*² is a statistical
 measure of effect size.

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

A Closer Look:

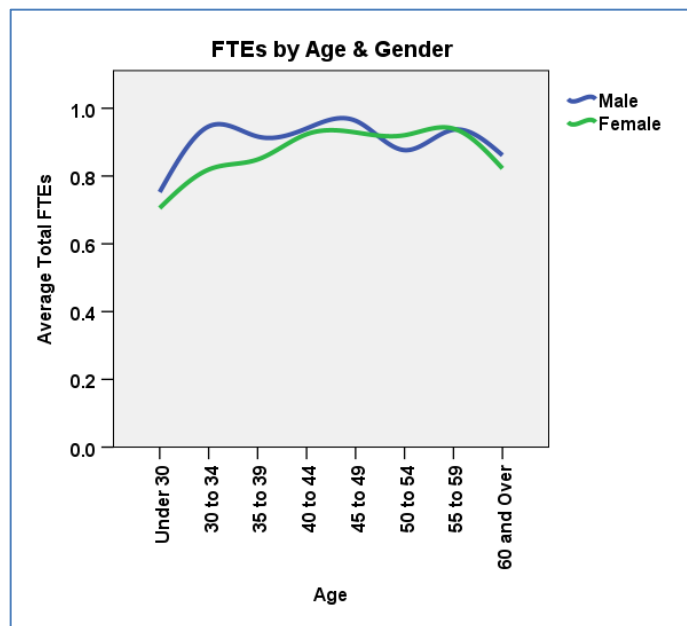


Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

The typical pharmacy technician provided 0.83 FTEs in 2023, or approximately 33 hours per week for 50 weeks. Although FTEs appear to vary by age and gender, statistical tests did not verify that a difference exists.³

Full-Time Equivalency Units		
	Average	Median
Age		
Under 30	0.70	0.63
30 to 34	0.82	0.77
35 to 39	0.83	0.78
40 to 44	0.94	1.01
45 to 49	0.86	0.91
50 to 54	0.87	0.90
55 to 59	0.92	0.93
60 and Over	0.80	0.74
Gender		
Male	0.86	0.93
Female	0.83	0.91

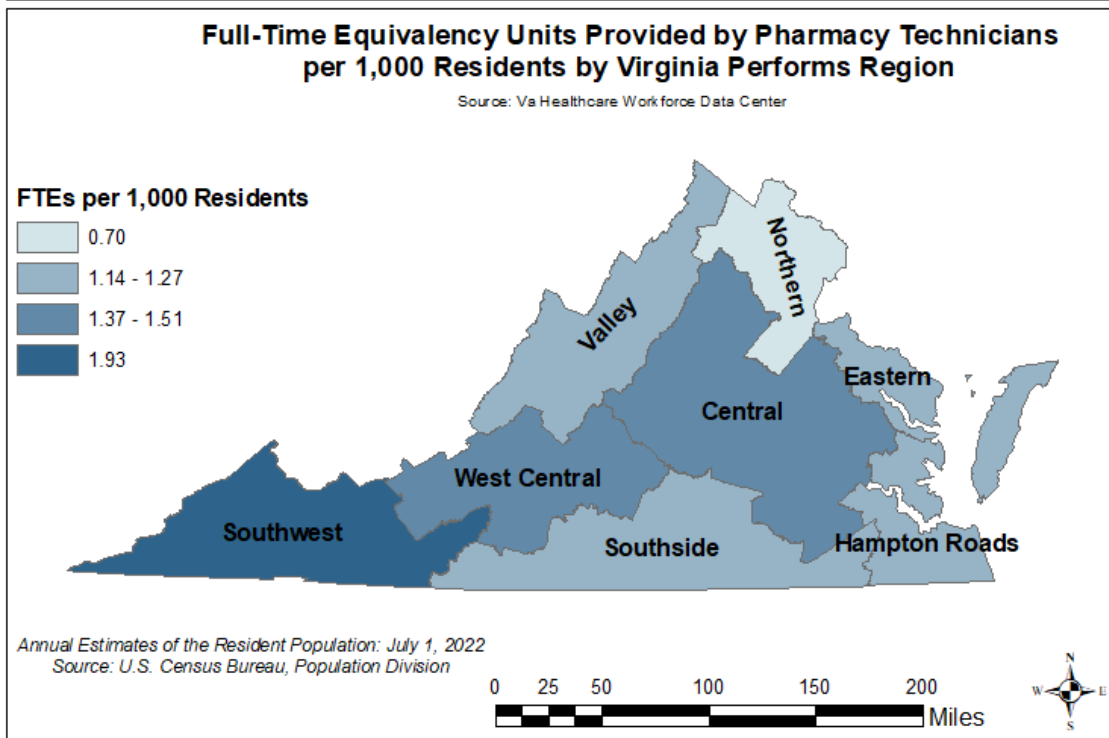
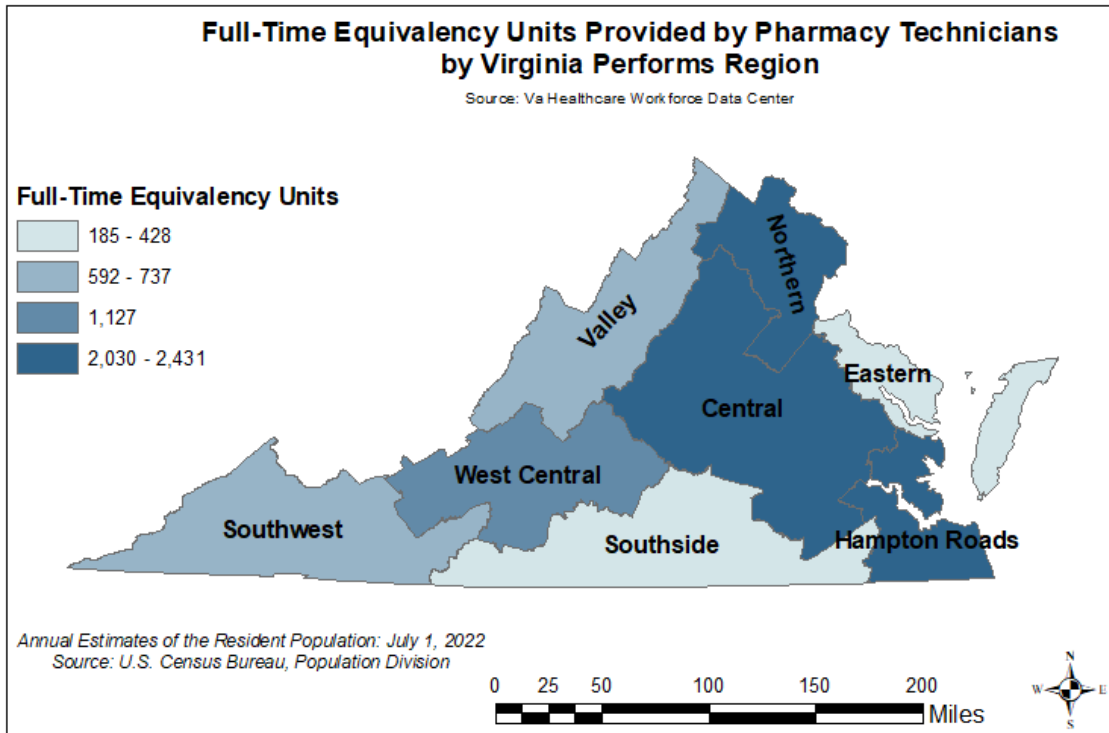
Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

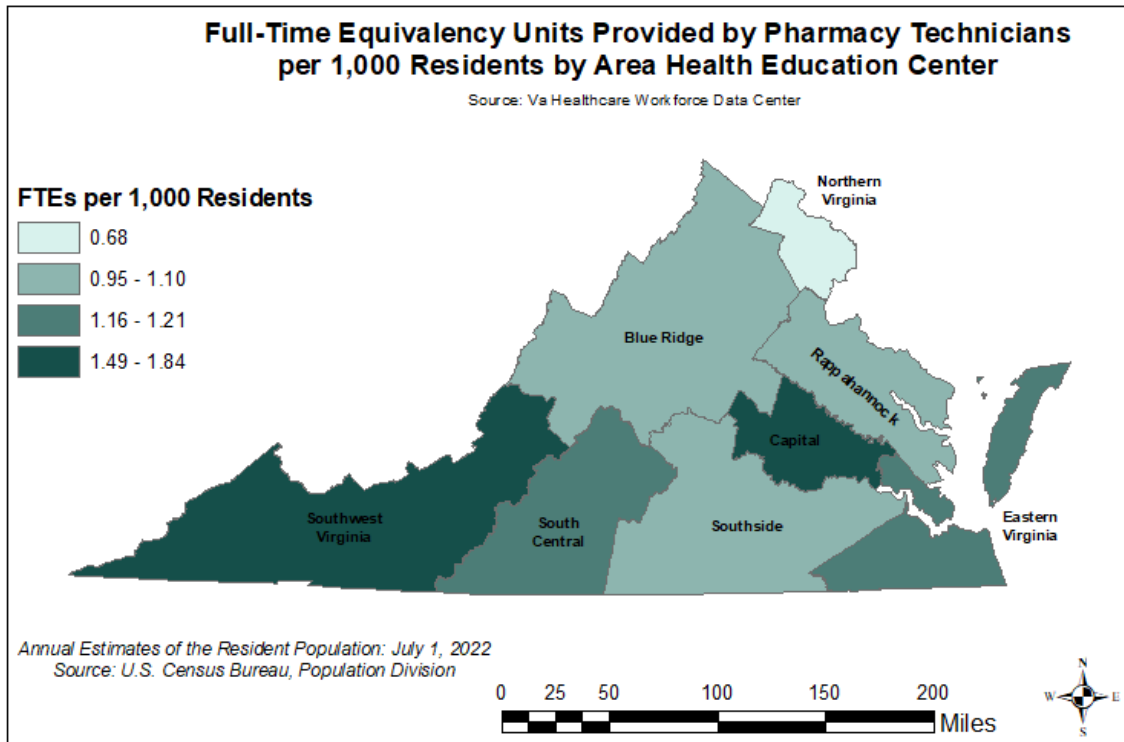
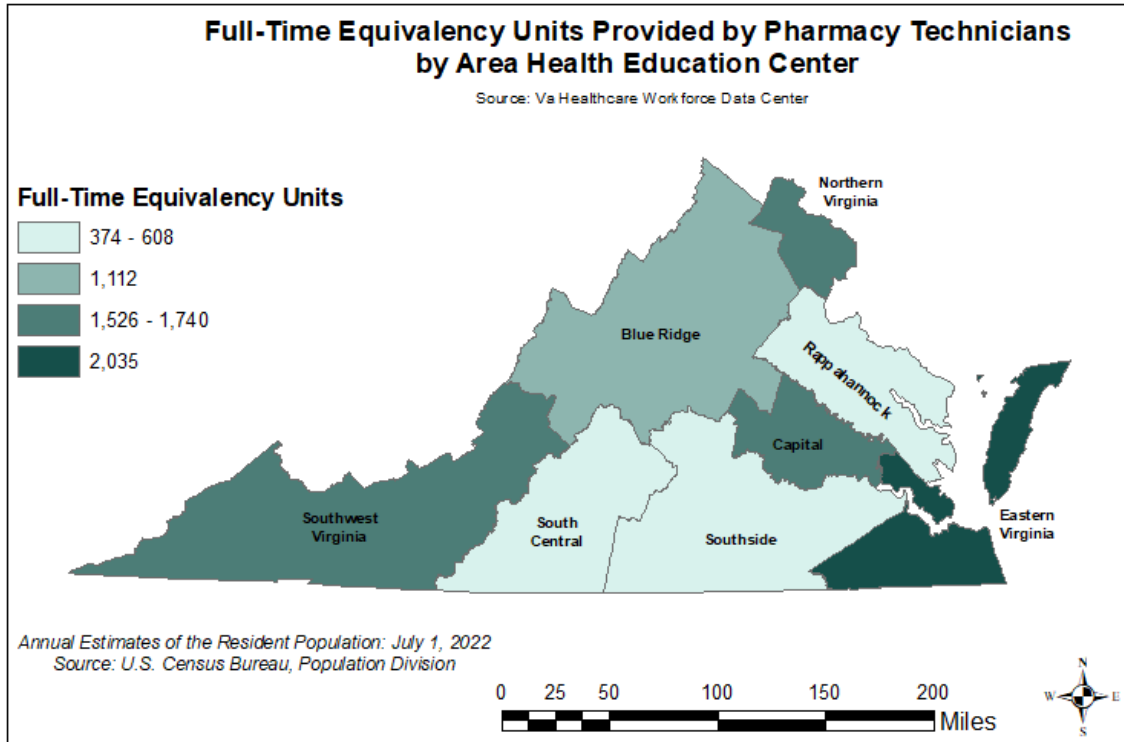


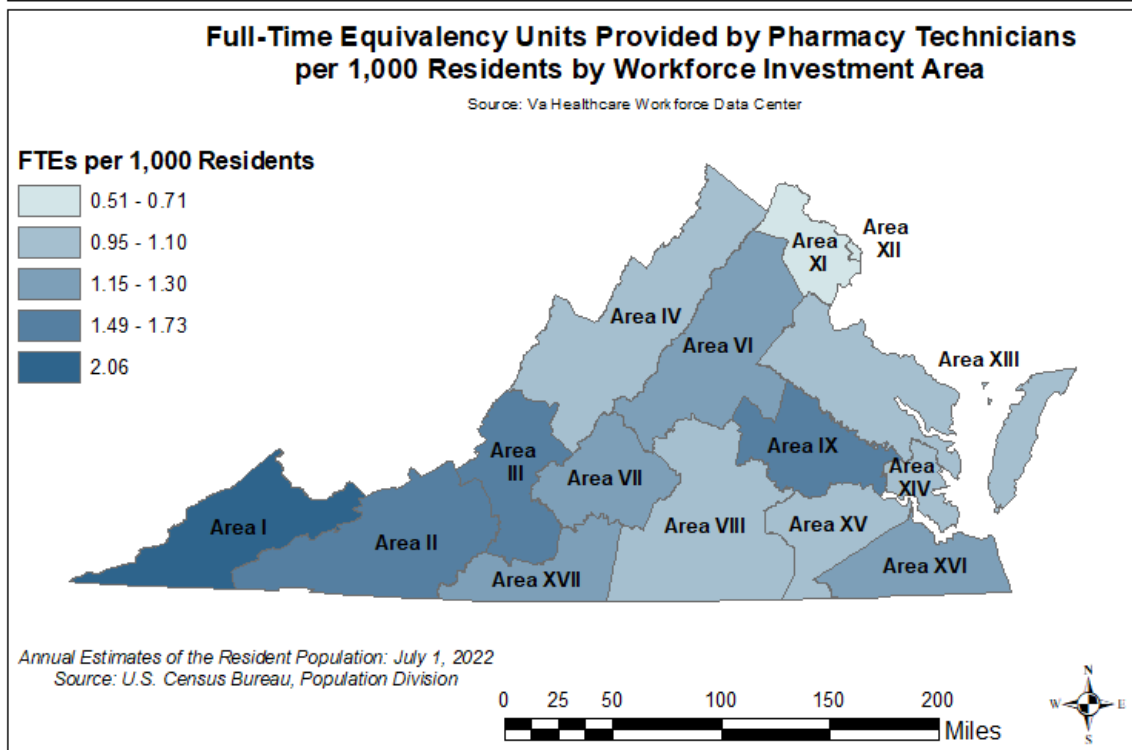
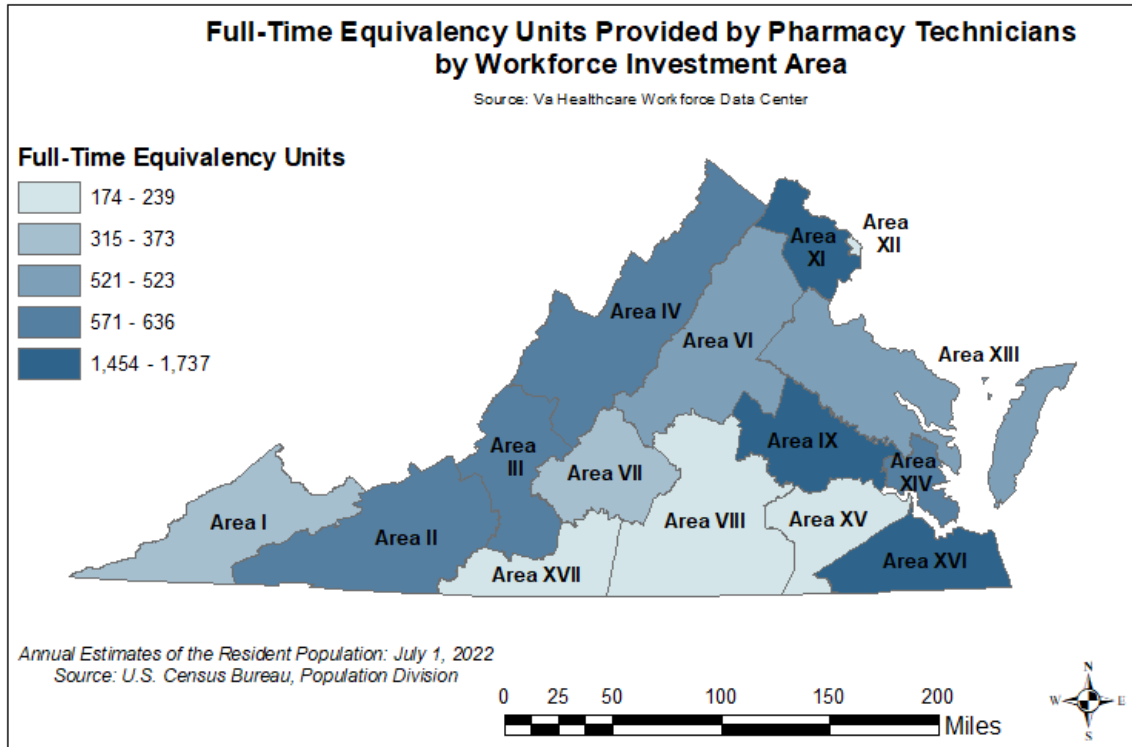
Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

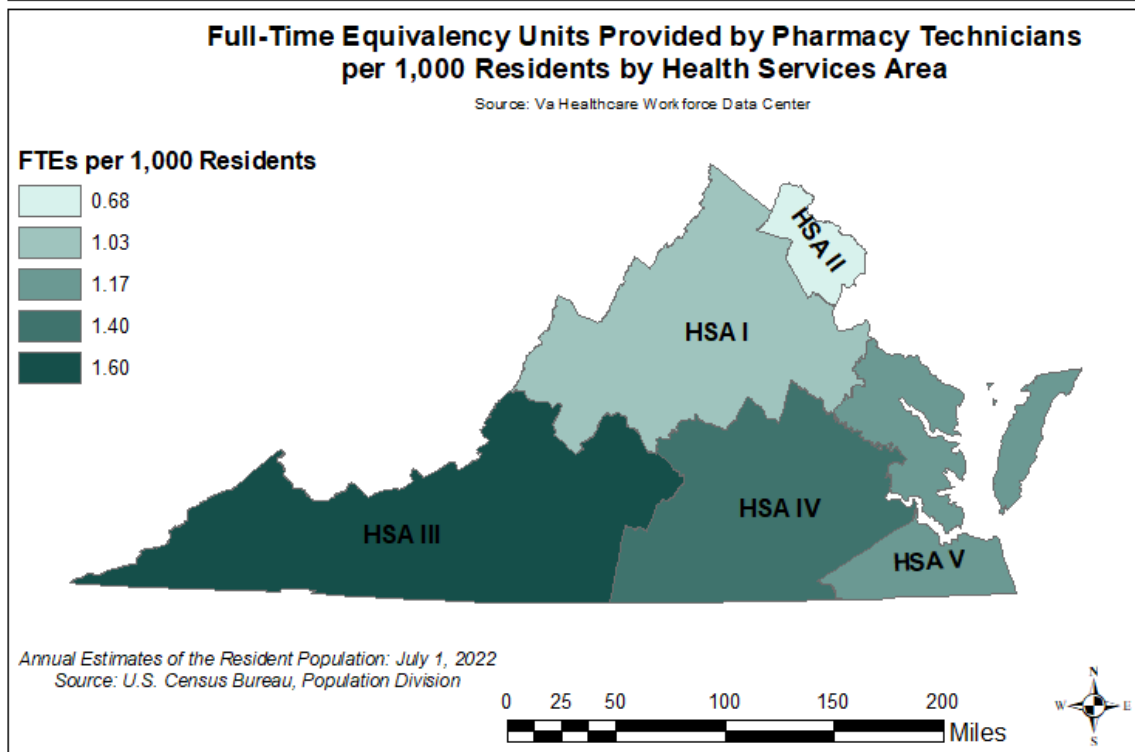
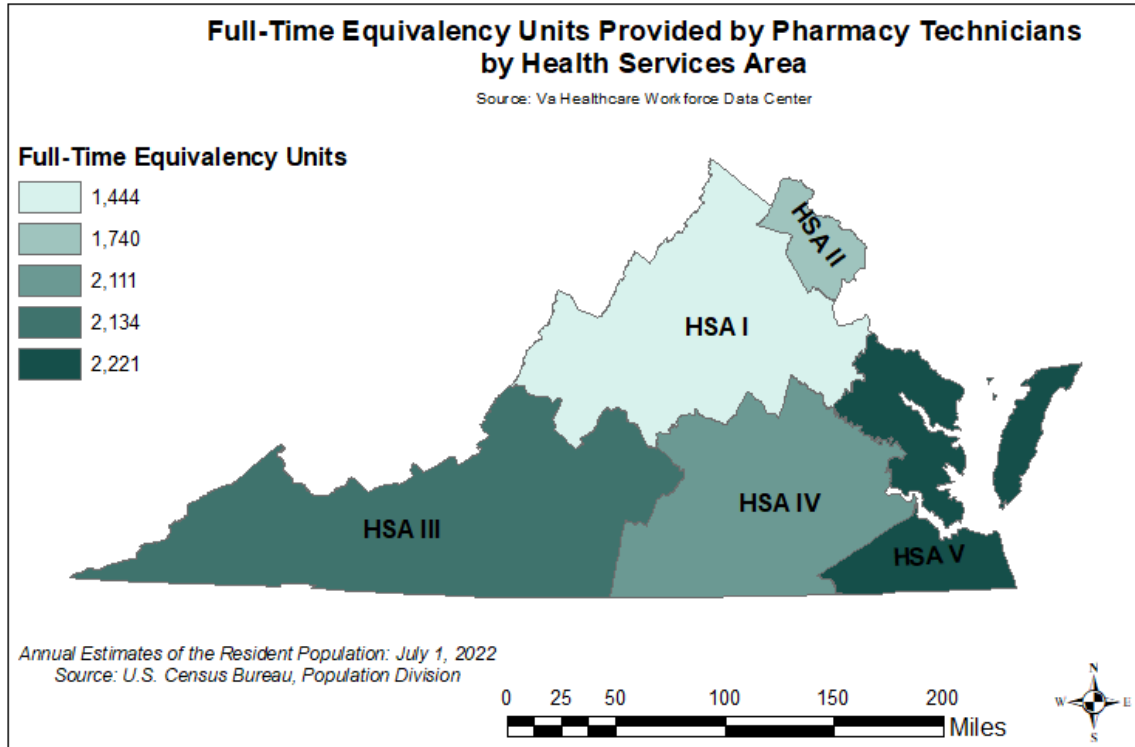
² Number of residents in 2022 was used as the denominator.

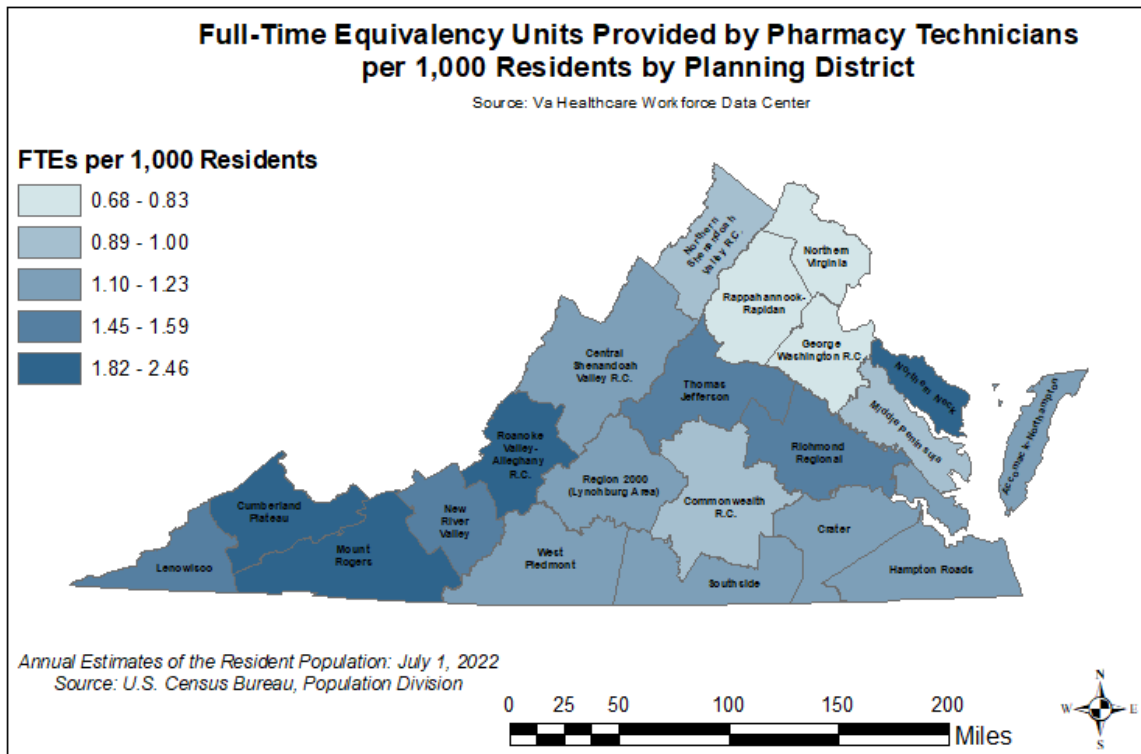
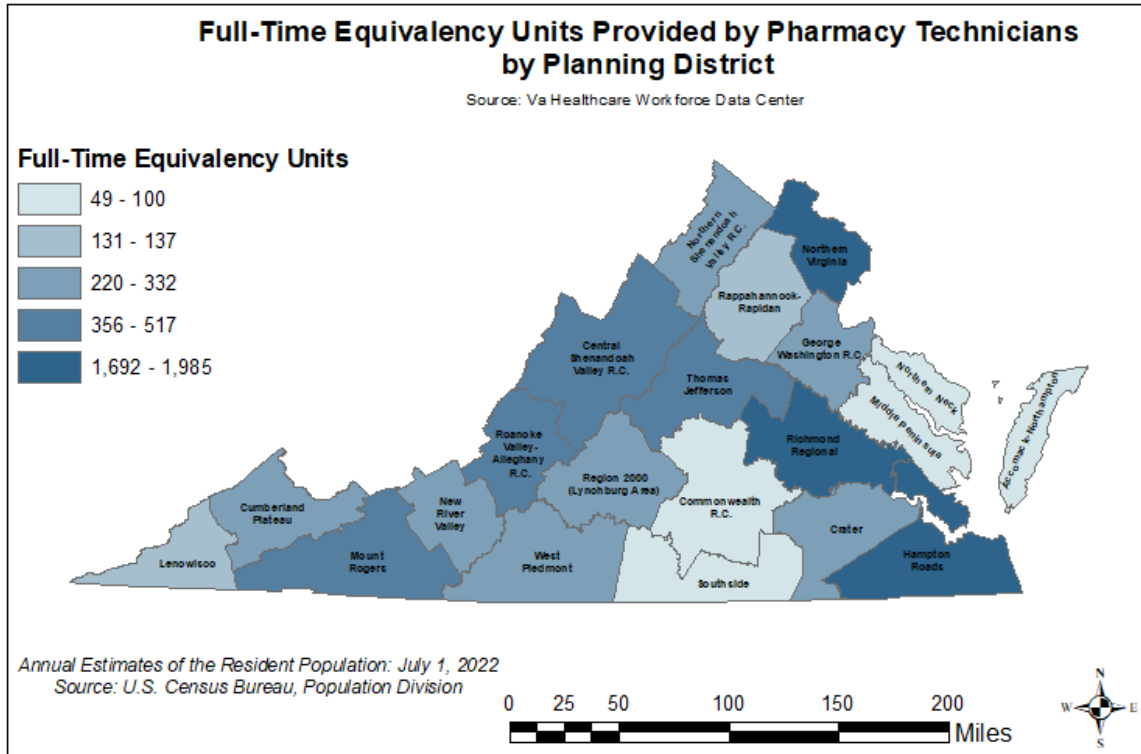
³ Due to assumption violations in Mixed between-within ANOVA (Levene's Test was significant).











Appendix

Weights

Rural Status	Location Weight			Total Weight	
	#	Rate	Weight	Min.	Max.
Metro, 1 Million+	8,055	80.10%	1.248	1.123	1.430
Metro, 250,000 to 1 Million	1,222	82.82%	1.208	1.086	1.383
Metro, 250,000 or Less	1,232	81.74%	1.223	1.100	1.402
Urban, Pop. 20,000+, Metro Adj.	295	84.07%	1.190	1.070	1.363
Urban, Pop. 20,000+, Non-Adj.	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Urban, Pop. 2,500-19,999, Metro Adj.	661	84.72%	1.180	1.062	1.352
Urban, Pop. 2,500-19,999, Non-Adj.	499	80.76%	1.238	1.114	1.419
Rural, Metro Adj.	297	81.14%	1.232	1.108	1.412
Rural, Non-Adj.	188	82.98%	1.205	1.084	1.381
Virginia Border State/D.C.	791	67.64%	1.479	1.330	1.694
Other U.S. State	419	57.28%	1.746	1.570	2.000

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

Age	Age Weight			Total Weight	
	#	Rate	Weight	Min.	Max.
Under 30	3,770	69.36%	1.442	1.352	2.000
30 to 34	2,118	78.80%	1.269	1.190	1.761
35 to 39	1,906	81.11%	1.233	1.156	1.710
40 to 44	1,534	84.16%	1.188	1.115	1.648
45 to 49	1,185	85.99%	1.163	1.091	1.613
50 to 54	1,157	87.21%	1.147	1.076	1.591
55 to 59	858	88.34%	1.132	1.062	1.570
60 and Over	1,131	83.73%	1.194	1.120	1.657

Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center

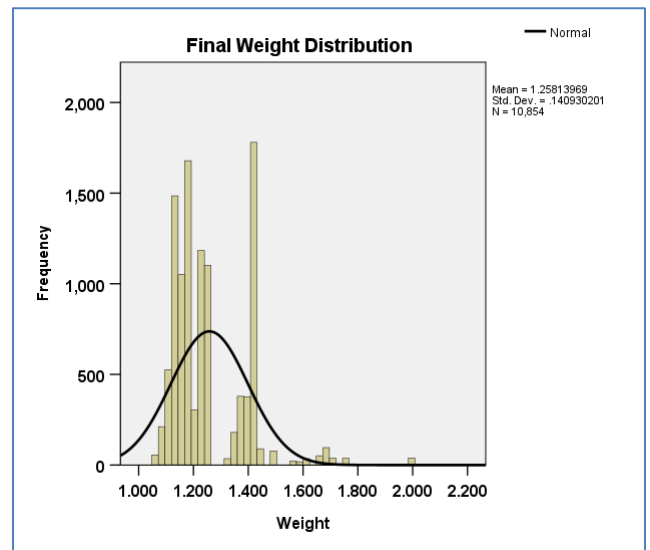
See the Methods section on the HWDC website for details on HWDC methods:

<https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/PublicResources/HealthcareWorkforceDataCenter/>

Final weights are calculated by multiplying the two weights and the overall response rate:

$$\text{Age Weight} \times \text{Rural Weight} \times \text{Response Rate} = \text{Final Weight.}$$

Overall Response Rate: 0.794641



Source: Va. Healthcare Workforce Data Center



Agency Department of Health Professions

Board Board of Pharmacy

Chapter Regulations Governing the Practice of Pharmacy [[18 VAC 110 - 20](#)]

Action: [Exemption of automated dispensing devices stocked solely with emergency or ...](#)

Proposed Stage Action 5966 / Stage 9953

Documents		
Proposed Text	6/5/2024 1:32 pm	
Agency Background Document	3/27/2023 (modified 6/13/2023)	
ORM Economic Review Form	7/20/2023	
Attorney General Certification	11/16/2023	
DPB Economic Impact Analysis	12/29/2023	
Agency Response to EIA	1/11/2024	
Governor's Review Memo	5/14/2024	

Status	
Attorney General Review	Submitted to OAG: 6/21/2023 Review Completed: 11/16/2023 Result: Certified
DPB Review	Submitted on 11/16/2023 Review Completed: 12/29/2023
Secretary Review	Secretary of Health and Human Resources Review Completed: 5/9/2024
Governor's Review	ORM Review Completed: 5/14/2024 Governor Review Completed: 5/14/2024 Result: Approved
Virginia Registrar	Submitted on 5/16/2024 The Virginia Register of Regulations Publication Date: 6/17/2024 Volume: 40 Issue: 22
Public Hearings	06/25/2024 9:06 AM
Comment Period	In Progress! Ends 8/16/2024 Currently 0 comments

Contact Information



Proposed Text

[highlight](#)

Action: Exemption of automated dispensing devices stocked solely with ...

Stage: Proposed

6/5/24 1:32 PM [latest] ▼

18VAC110-20-555 Use of automated dispensing devices

Nursing homes licensed pursuant to Chapter 5 (§ 32.1-123 et seq.) of Title 32.1 of the Code of Virginia may use automated drug dispensing systems, as defined in § 54.1-3401 of the Code of Virginia, upon meeting the following conditions:

1. Drugs placed in an automated drug dispensing system in a nursing home shall be under the control of the pharmacy providing services to the nursing home, the pharmacy shall have online communication with and control of the automated drug dispensing system, and access to any drug for a patient shall be controlled by the pharmacy.
2. A nursing home without an in-house pharmacy shall obtain a controlled substances registration prior to using an automated dispensing system, unless the system is exclusively stocked with drugs that would be kept in a stat-drug box pursuant to 18VAC110-20-550 or an emergency drug kit pursuant to 18VAC110-20-540 and are solely administered for stat or emergency administration.
3. For facilities not required to obtain a controlled substance registration, access to the automated dispensing device shall be restricted to a licensed nurse, pharmacist, or prescriber, or a registered pharmacy technician for the purpose of stocking or reloading.
4. Removal of drugs from any automated drug dispensing system for administration to patients can only be made pursuant to a valid prescription or lawful order of a prescriber under the following conditions:
 - a. ~~A No drug, including a drug that would be stocked in a stat-drug box pursuant to subsection B of 18VAC110-20-550, may not be administered to a patient from an automated dispensing device until a pharmacist has reviewed the prescription order and electronically authorized the access of that drug for that particular patient in accordance with the order.~~
 - b. The PIC of the provider pharmacy shall ensure that a pharmacist who has online access to the system is available at all times to review a prescription order as needed and authorize administering pursuant to the order reviewed.
 - c. ~~Drugs that would be stocked in an emergency drug kit pursuant to 18VAC110-20-540 or a stat drug box pursuant to subsection B of 18VAC110-20-550 may be accessed prior to receiving electronic authorization from the pharmacist, provided that the absence of the drugs would threaten the survival of the patients patient or that a delay in administration of the drug could result in harm to the patient.~~
 - d. Automated dispensing devices shall be capable of producing a hard-copy record of distribution that shall show patient name, drug name and strength, dose

withdrawn, dose to be administered, date and time of withdrawal from the device, and identity of person withdrawing the drug.

5. Drugs placed in automated dispensing devices shall be in the manufacturer's sealed original unit dose or unit-of-use packaging or in repackaged unit-dose containers in compliance with the requirements of 18VAC110-20-355 relating to repackaging, labeling, and records.

6. Prior to the removal of drugs from the pharmacy, a delivery record shall be generated for all drugs to be placed in an automated dispensing device, which shall include the date; drug name, dosage form, and strength; quantity; nursing home; a unique identifier for the specific device receiving drugs; and initials of the pharmacist checking the order of drugs to be removed from the pharmacy and the records of distribution for accuracy.

7. At the direction of the PIC, drugs may be loaded in the device by a pharmacist or a pharmacy technician adequately trained in the proper loading of the system.

8. At the time of loading, the delivery record for all Schedules II through VI drugs shall be signed by a nurse or other person authorized to administer drugs from that specific device, and the record returned to the pharmacy.

9. At the time of loading any Schedules II through V drug, the person loading will verify that the count of that drug in the automated dispensing device is correct. Any discrepancy noted shall be recorded on the delivery record and immediately reported to the PIC, who shall be responsible for reconciliation of the discrepancy or the proper reporting of a loss.

10. The PIC of the provider pharmacy or ~~his~~ the PIC's designee shall conduct at least a monthly audit to review distribution and administration of Schedules II through V drugs from each automated dispensing device as follows:

a. The audit shall reconcile records of all quantities of Schedules II through V drugs dispensed from the pharmacy with records of all quantities loaded into each device to detect whether any drugs recorded as removed from the pharmacy were diverted rather than being placed in the proper device.

b. A discrepancy report shall be generated for each discrepancy in the count of a drug on hand in the device. Each such report shall be resolved by the PIC or ~~his~~ the PIC's designee within 72 hours of the time the discrepancy was discovered or, if determined to be a theft or an unusual loss of drugs, shall be immediately reported to the board in accordance with § 54.1-3404 E of the Drug Control Act.

c. The audit shall include a review of a sample of administration records from each device per month for possible diversion by fraudulent charting. A sample shall include all Schedules II through V drugs administered for a time period of not less than 24 consecutive hours during the audit period.

d. The audit shall include a check of medical records to ensure that a valid order exists for a random sample of doses recorded as administered.

e. The audit shall also check for compliance with written procedures for security and use of the automated dispensing devices, accuracy of distribution from the device, and proper recordkeeping.

f. The hard copy distribution and administration records printed out and reviewed in the audit shall be initialed and dated by the person conducting the audit. If nonpharmacist personnel conduct the audit, a pharmacist shall review the record and shall initial and date the record.

11. Automated dispensing devices shall be inspected monthly by pharmacy personnel to verify proper storage, proper location of drugs within the device, expiration dates, the security of drugs and validity of access codes.
12. Personnel allowed access to an automated dispensing device shall have a specific access code ~~which~~ that records the identity of the person accessing the device.
13. The PIC of the pharmacy providing services to the nursing home shall establish, maintain, and ~~assure~~ ensure compliance with written policy and procedure for the accurate stocking and proper storage of drugs in the automated drug dispensing system, accountability for and security of all drugs maintained in the automated drug dispensing system, preventing unauthorized access to the system, tracking access to the system, complying with federal and state regulations related to the storage and dispensing of controlled substances, maintaining patient confidentiality, maintaining required records, and ~~assuring~~ ensuring compliance with the requirements of this chapter. The manual shall be ~~capable of being accessed~~ accessible at both the pharmacy and the nursing home.
14. All records required by this section shall be filed in chronological order from date of issue and maintained for a period of not less than two years. Records shall be maintained at the address of the pharmacy providing services to the nursing home, except:
- a. Manual Schedule VI distribution records may be maintained in offsite storage or electronically as an electronic image that provides an exact image of the document that is clearly legible, provided such offsite or electronic storage is retrievable and made available for inspection or audit within 48 hours of a request by the board or an authorized agent.
 - b. Distribution and delivery records and required signatures may be generated or maintained electronically, provided:
 - (1) The system being used has the capability of recording an electronic signature that is a unique identifier and restricted to the individual required to initial or sign the record.
 - (2) The records are maintained in a read-only format that cannot be altered after the information is recorded.
 - (3) The system used is capable of producing a hard-copy printout of the records upon request.
 - c. Schedules II through V distribution and delivery records may only be stored offsite or electronically as described in subdivisions 14 a and 14 b of this section if authorized by DEA or in federal law or regulation.
 - d. Hard-copy distribution and administration records that are printed and reviewed in conducting required audits may be maintained offsite or electronically, provided that (i) they can be readily retrieved upon request; ~~provided~~ (ii) they are maintained in a read-only format that does not allow alteration of the records; and ~~provided~~ (iii) a separate log is maintained for a period of two years showing dates of audit and review, the identity of the automated dispensing device being audited, the time period covered by the audit and review, and the initials of all reviewers.

Name / Title:	Caroline Juran, RPh / <i>Executive Director</i>
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This person is the primary contact for this chapter.

Agenda Topic: Discussion regarding 2024 map of pharmacy permit locations

Included in agenda packet:

- Maps with data from May 2024
- Maps previously provided to Board using data from June 2023
- Excerpt of current count of licenses as of Q3 2024

Additional data:

- Pharmacy permit count decreased by 4.83% between Q4 FY2018 (1822) and 6/14/2024 (1736)
- Nonresident pharmacy registration count increased by 21.66% between Q4 FY2018 (770) and 6/14/2024 (957)

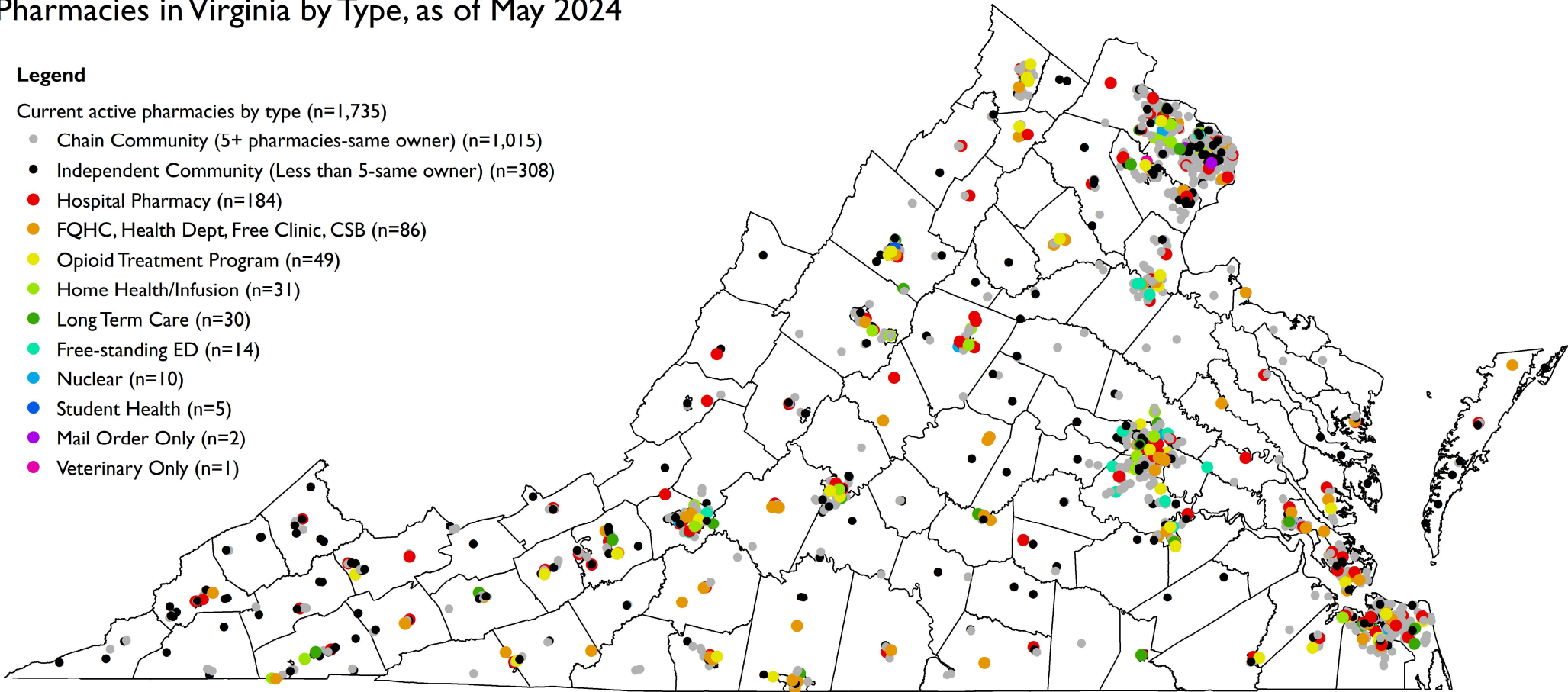
All

Pharmacies in Virginia by Type, as of May 2024

Legend

Current active pharmacies by type (n=1,735)

- Chain Community (5+ pharmacies-same owner) (n=1,015)
- Independent Community (Less than 5-same owner) (n=308)
- Hospital Pharmacy (n=184)
- FQHC, Health Dept, Free Clinic, CSB (n=86)
- Opioid Treatment Program (n=49)
- Home Health/Infusion (n=31)
- Long Term Care (n=30)
- Free-standing ED (n=14)
- Nuclear (n=10)
- Student Health (n=5)
- Mail Order Only (n=2)
- Veterinary Only (n=1)



9 licenses excluded due to invalid address

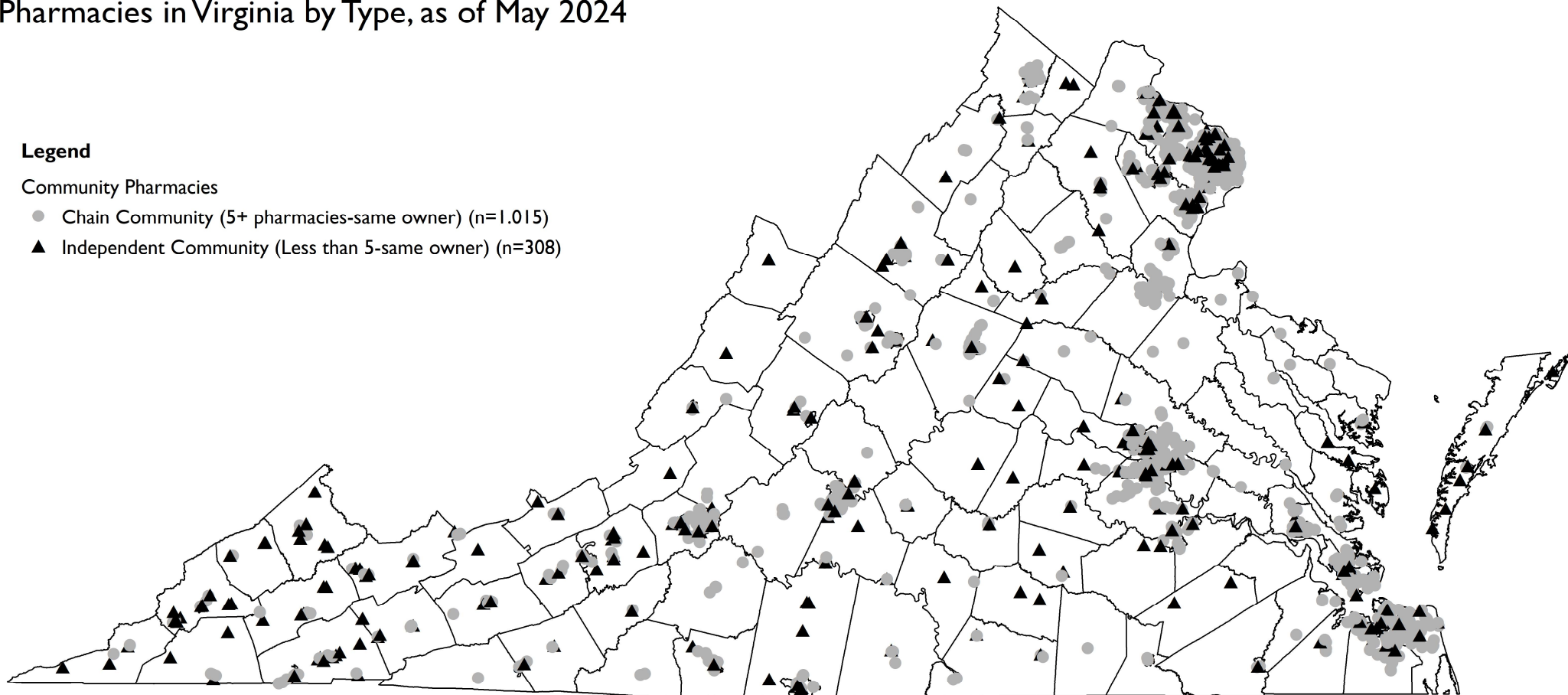
Community Pharmacies

Pharmacies in Virginia by Type, as of May 2024

Legend

Community Pharmacies

- Chain Community (5+ pharmacies-same owner) (n=1,015)
- ▲ Independent Community (Less than 5-same owner) (n=308)



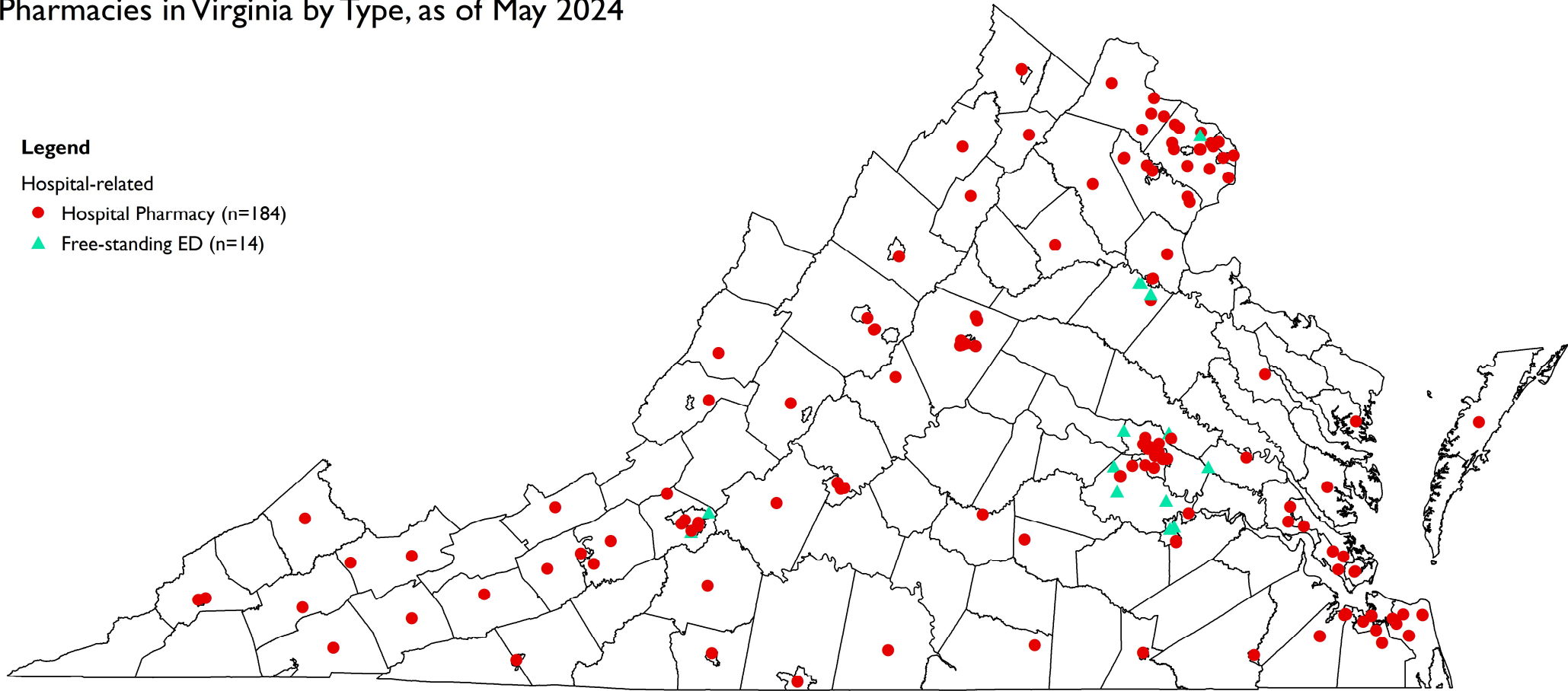
Hospital-related

Pharmacies in Virginia by Type, as of May 2024

Legend

Hospital-related

- Hospital Pharmacy (n=184)
- ▲ Free-standing ED (n=14)



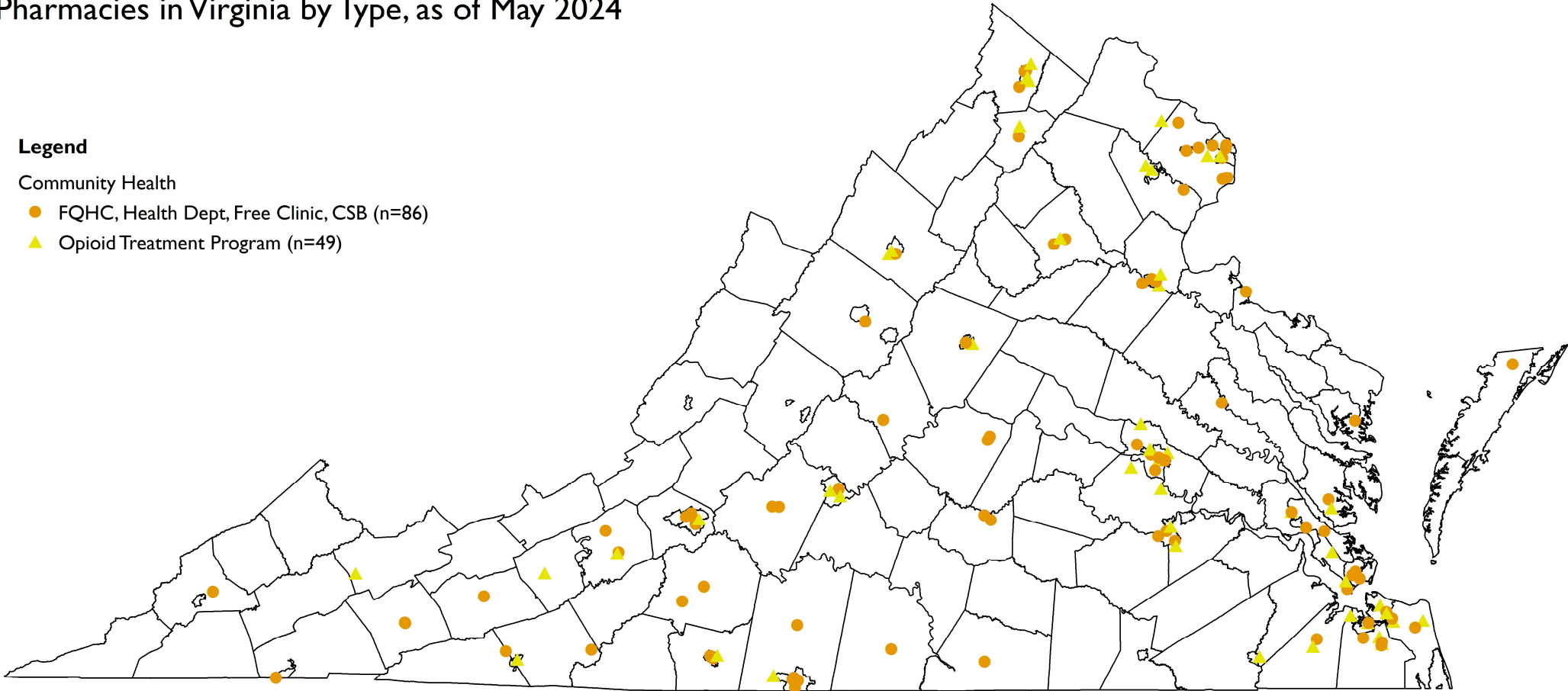
Community Health

Pharmacies in Virginia by Type, as of May 2024

Legend

Community Health

- FQHC, Health Dept, Free Clinic, CSB (n=86)
- ▲ Opioid Treatment Program (n=49)



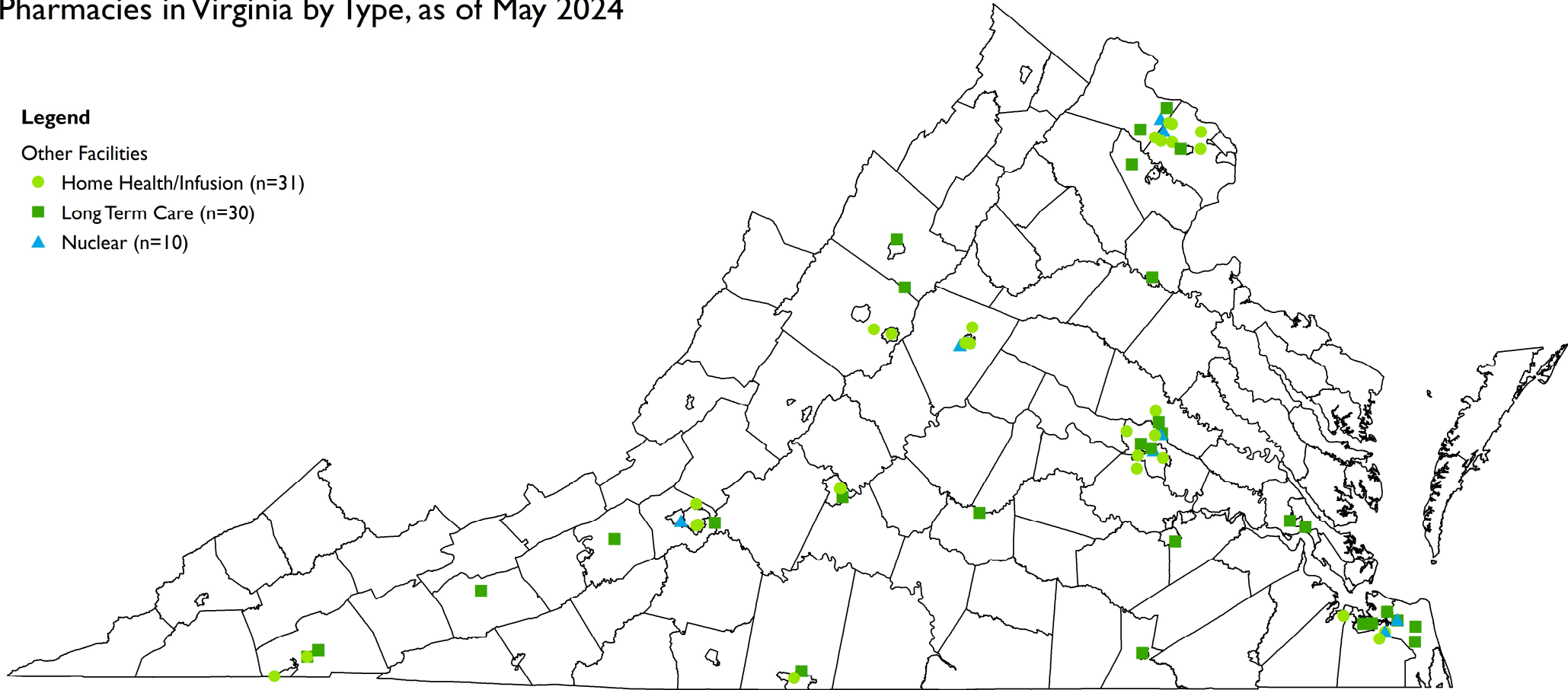
Other Facilities

Pharmacies in Virginia by Type, as of May 2024

Legend

Other Facilities

- Home Health/Infusion (n=31)
- Long Term Care (n=30)
- ▲ Nuclear (n=10)



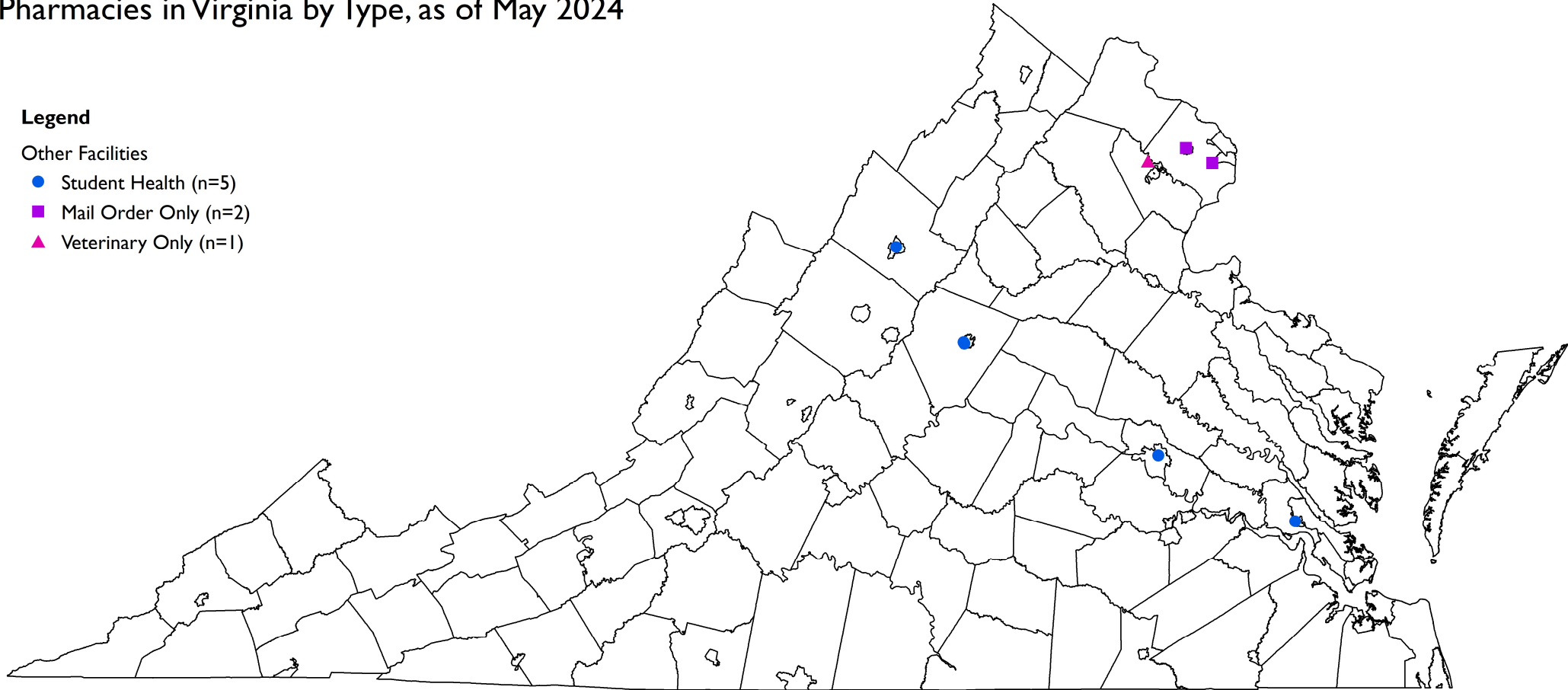
Other Facilities

Pharmacies in Virginia by Type, as of May 2024

Legend

Other Facilities

- Student Health (n=5)
- Mail Order Only (n=2)
- ▲ Veterinary Only (n=1)



Student Health: there are 2 licenses in Charlottesville (UVA bookstore and UVA student health) that are overlapping

All

13 licensees excluded because invalid address

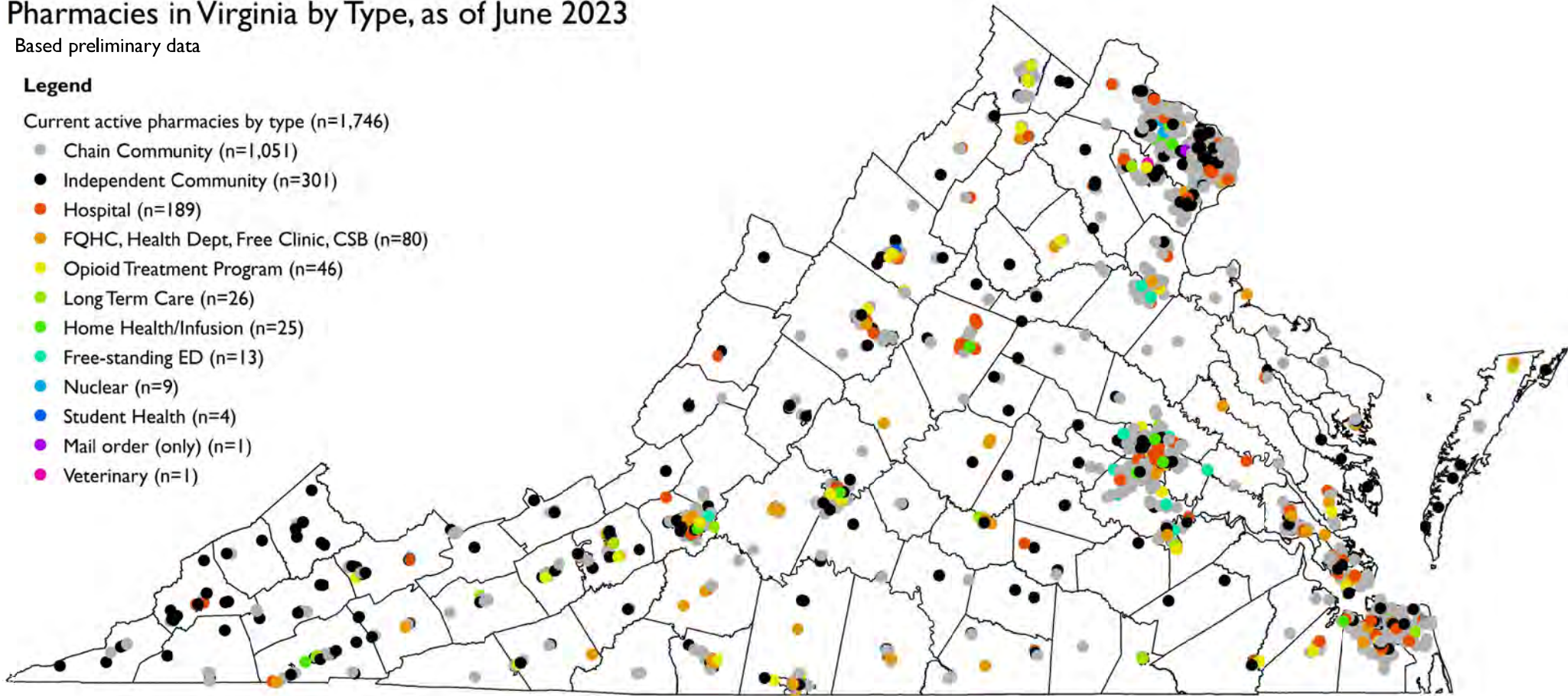
Pharmacies in Virginia by Type, as of June 2023

Based preliminary data

Legend

Current active pharmacies by type (n=1,746)

- Chain Community (n=1,051)
- Independent Community (n=301)
- Hospital (n=189)
- FQHC, Health Dept, Free Clinic, CSB (n=80)
- Opioid Treatment Program (n=46)
- Long Term Care (n=26)
- Home Health/Infusion (n=25)
- Free-standing ED (n=13)
- Nuclear (n=9)
- Student Health (n=4)
- Mail order (only) (n=1)
- Veterinary (n=1)



Community Pharmacies

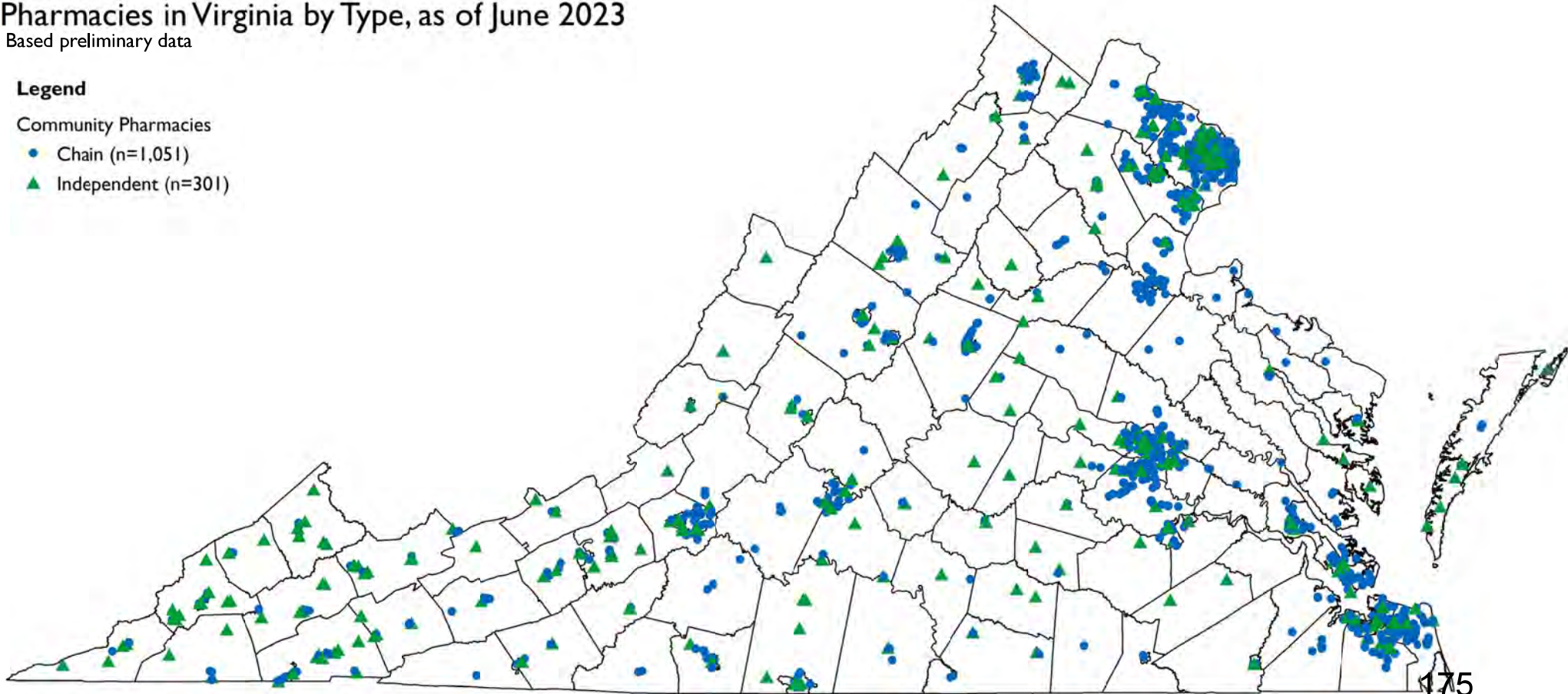
Pharmacies in Virginia by Type, as of June 2023

Based preliminary data

Legend

Community Pharmacies

- Chain (n=1,051)
- ▲ Independent (n=301)



Hospital-related

Pharmacies in Virginia by Type, as of June 2023

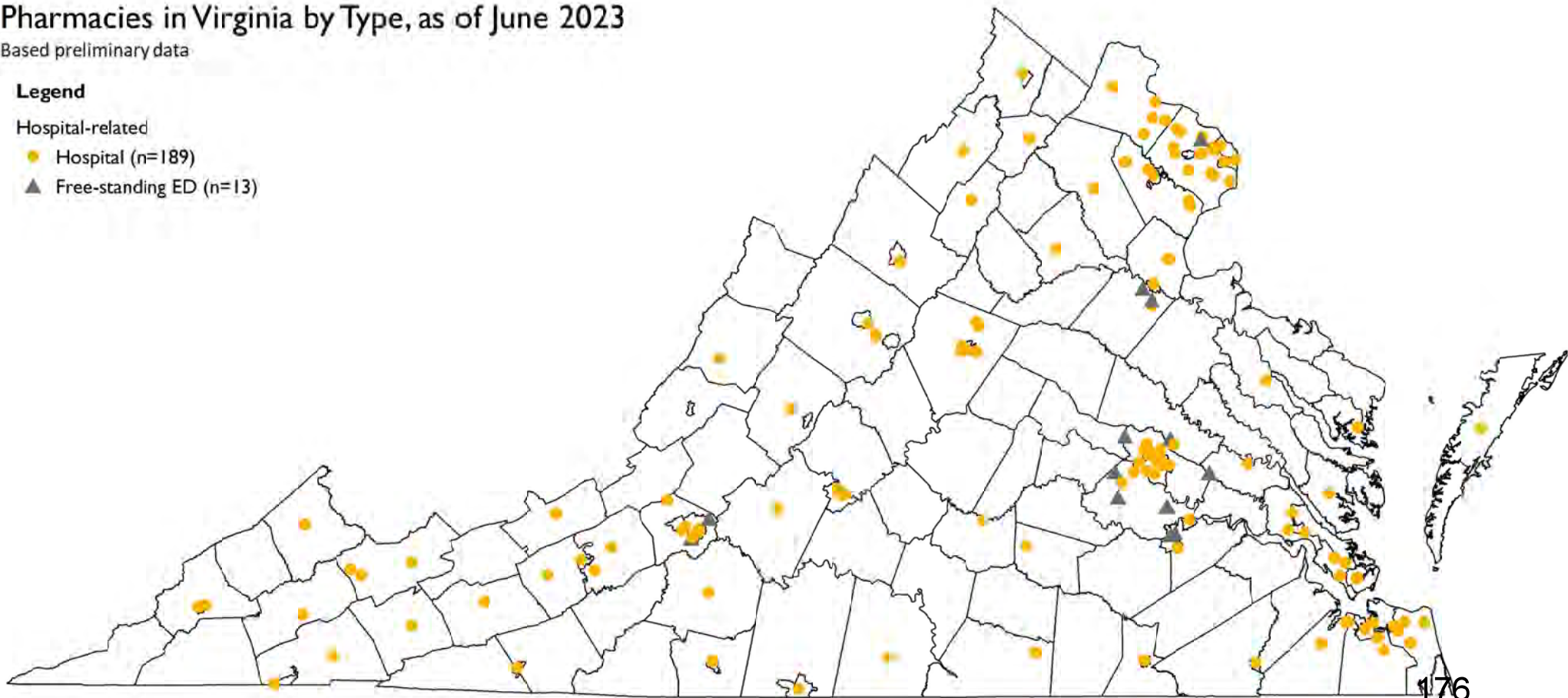
Based preliminary data

Legend

Hospital-related

● Hospital (n=189)

▲ Free-standing ED (n=13)





Virginia Department of Health Professions

Current Count of Licenses

Quarterly Summary

Quarter 3 - Fiscal Year 2024

Current licenses by board and occupation as of the last day of the quarter.

** New Occupation

*** Veterinary Establishments are now grouped together, as the board works on designating existing establishments as "Ambulatory" or "Stationary", instead of "Full Service" or "Restricted Service".

Quarter Date Ranges	
Quarter 1	July 1 - September 30
Quarter 2	October 1- December 31
Quarter 3	January 1 - March 31
Quarter 4	April 1 - June 30

BOARD	Occupation	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	CURRENT Q3 2024
Optometry	Optometrist	88	77	77	77	78	65	65	65	65	49	50	51	51
	Optometrist-Volunteer Registration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	Professional Designation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	TPA Certified Optometrist	1,720	1,680	1,716	1,736	1,749	1,708	1,758	1,784	1,808	1,777	1,820	1,852	1,879
	Total	1,808	1,757	1,793	1,813	1,827	1,773	1,823	1,849	1,873	1,826	1,871	1,903	1,930
Pharmacy	Business CSR	1,378	1,461	1,478	1,510	1,399	1,463	1,507	1,529	1,423	1,465	1,508	1,533	1,417
	CE Courses	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
	Humane Society	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Limited Use Facility Dispensing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	3	3	4
	Limited Use Pharmacy Technician	8	8	8	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	6
	Limited Use Practitioner Dispensing	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	3	3	3	4	6	8
	Medical Equipment Supplier	224	223	230	229	209	217	223	226	213	220	226	224	205
	Non-Resident Manufacturer	194	202	209	215	206	213	218	224	217	226	231	236	229
	Non-Resident Medical Equipment Supplier	322	349	363	373	331	354	361	369	346	355	367	379	345
	Non Resident Outsourcing facility	33	33	34	33	30	29	32	33	35	33	32	31	31
	Non Resident Pharmacy	866	874	876	885	882	898	910	911	924	923	923	934	943
	Non-Resident Wholesale Distributor	604	635	644	660	624	634	643	641	610	624	635	641	612
	Non Restricted Manufacturer	28	28	29	30	31	32	34	34	35	35	35	35	32
	Non-Resident Third Party Logistics Prov.	169	182	186	191	181	181	194	206	207	219	229	238	234
	Non Resident Warehouse	79	91	96	101	98	99	105	115	109	114	123	130	127
	Outsourcing Facility	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1
	Permitted Physician	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Pharmacist	15,668	15,865	16,210	16,445	15,858	16,079	16,414	16,619	16,064	16,273	16,606	16,796	16,147
	Pharmacist-Volunteer Registration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Pharmacy	1,772	1,771	1,770	1,767	1,773	1,768	1,765	1,765	1,762	1,755	1,751	1,738	1,744	
Pharmacy Intern	1,464	1,489	1,499	1,457	1,247	1,312	1,267	1,352	1,166	1,235	1,213	1,274	1,074	
Pharmacy Technician	12,751	13,248	13,689	14,042	12,421	12,924	13,522	13,875	12,312	12,871	13,310	13,640	12,275	
Pharmacy Technician Trainee	831	2,406	3,309	4,628	5,930	6,258	6,977	8,041	8,581	8,178	8,190	8,063	8,095	



2025 Potential Meeting Schedule

March

- Tuesday, March 25th – Full Board Meeting and Formal Hearing
- Thursday, March 27th – Pilot Program Committee Meeting

Alternate Dates: March 11th

June

- Thursday, June 5th – Pilot Program Committee Meeting
- Tuesday, June 17th – Full Board Meeting and Formal Hearing

Alternate dates: June 3rd or June 19th

September

- Tuesday, September 9th – Pilot Program Committee Meeting
- Tuesday, September 30th – Full Board Meeting and Formal Hearing

Alternate Dates: September 24th

December

- Tuesday, December 9th – Pilot Program Committee Meeting
- Wednesday, December 10th – Full Board Meeting and Formal Hearing

Alternate Dates: December 16th

Virginia Board of Pharmacy
June 25, 2024
Licenses Issued

	11/1/22 - 1/31/23	2/1/23 - 4/30/23	5/1/23 - 7/31/23	8/1/23 - 10/31/23	11/1/23 - 1/31/24	2/1/24 - 4/30/24	License Count 6/5/2024
Business CSR	25	26	38	29	20	47	1,479
CE Courses	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Limited Use Pharmacy Technician	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Medical Equipment Supplier	3	6	12	2	4	3	210
Non-restricted Manufacturer	1	1	0	0	0	0	34
Outsourcing Facility	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Permitted Physician	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pharmacist	164	144	237	273	131	164	16,308
Pharmacist Volunteer Registration	1	0	4	1	0	0	0
Pharmacy	11	11	11	11	13	18	1,738
Pharmacy Intern	179	91	71	133	74	79	1,118
Pharmacy Technician	311	339	469	327	327	407	12,650
Pharmacy Technician Trainee	1,185	789	1,074	1,069	1,085	864	7,753
Physician Selling Controlled Substances	43	16	15	37	23	15	558
Limited Use Practitioner Dispensing	0	0	0	1	2	2	8
Nonresident Manufacturer	6	9	2	7	8	5	231
Nonresident Medical Equipment Supplier	4	11	6	10	15	9	359
Nonresident Outsourcing Facility	1	1	0	0	0	3	33
Nonresident Pharmacy	21	23	21	27	23	26	950
Nonresident Third Party Logistics Provider	10	15	11	12	6	6	239
Nonresident Warehouser	7	7	3	10	4	9	137
Nonresident Wholesale Distributor	2	11	12	12	8	9	618
Physician Selling Drugs Location	3	3	5	3	5	1	128
Pilot Programs	0	0	2	1	1	4	18
Repackaging Training Program	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Restricted Manufacturer	0	0	0	0	0	0	32
Third Party Logistics Provider	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Warehouser	2	3	1	2	2	1	127
Limited Use Facility Dispensing	2	1	0	0	1	0	4
Wholesale Distributor	0	0	0	2	1	1	62
Total	1,982	1,507	1,994	1,969	1,753	1,673	44,816



Virginia Department of Health Professions

Current Count of Licenses

Quarterly Summary

Quarter 3 - Fiscal Year 2024

Current licenses by board and occupation as of the last day of the quarter.

** New Occupation

*** Veterinary Establishments are now grouped together, as the board works on designating existing establishments as "Ambulatory" or "Stationary", instead of "Full Service" or "Restricted Service".

Quarter Date Ranges	
Quarter 1	July 1 - September 30
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Quarter 3	January 1 - March 31
Quarter 4	April 1 - June 30

BOARD	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	CURRENT Q3 2024
Audiology/Speech Pathology	5,662	5,114	5,432	5,605	5,756	5,894	5,671	5,809	5,975	6,117	5,963	6,108	6,281
Counseling	34,246	31,769	33,693	35,020	36,141	37,436	36,097	37,512	38,791	40,118	39,278	40,239	40,872
Dentistry	15,286	14,768	15,171	15,290	15,284	15,238	15,421	15,275	15,037	15,186	15,190	15,126	15,137
Funeral Directing	3,190	3,114	3,187	3,247	3,295	3,182	3,254	3,308	3,379	3,287	3,351	3,390	3,097
Long-Term Care Administrators	2,274	2,152	2,226	2,293	2,352	2,146	2,232	2,288	2,345	2,159	2,225	2,278	2,317
Medicine	75,929	76,642	78,312	79,452	80,957	82,857	83,193	83,804	85,497	87,470	88,629	89,957	91,077
Nurse Aide	51,820	49,909	50,322	49,967	49,911	50,189	50,085	50,216	50,278	50,817	51,449	51,594	51,361
Nursing	172,380	172,263	174,791	174,984	176,169	177,138	179,221	179,997	181,279	181,581	183,596	184,003	185,352
Optometry	1,808	1,757	1,793	1,813	1,827	1,773	1,823	1,849	1,873	1,826	1,871	1,903	1,930
Pharmacy	37,502	40,005	41,813	43,772	42,303	43,589	45,203	47,019	44,933	45,486	46,374	46,935	44,451
Pharmaceutical Processing¹	18,363	27,595	35,049	41,708	49,806	55,787	48,837	41,839	33,217	20,625	12,238	10,362	-
Physical Therapy	13,577	13,960	14,353	14,481	14,679	15,009	15,387	15,542	13,930	14,270	14,411	14,571	14,743
Psychology	5,875	5,486	5,773	5,925	6,045	6,167	5,835	5,993	6,105	6,246	6,168	6,282	6,377
Social Work	11,805	11,302	11,868	12,405	12,799	13,138	12,952	13,598	14,241	14,913	15,089	15,535	16,012
Veterinary Medicine	8,181	8,442	8,615	8,723	8,429	8,648	8,826	8,947	8,711	9,016	9,192	9,297	9,009
Agency Total	457,898	464,278	482,398	494,685	505,753	518,191	514,037	512,996	505,591	499,117	495,024	497,580	488,016

1. The Pharmaceutical Processors Program has moved from DHP's Board of Pharmacy to Virginia Cannabis Control Authority since Q3 2024. DHP is no longer licensing Pharmaceutical Processors.



Virginia Department of Health Professions

Current Count of Licenses

Quarterly Summary

Quarter 3 - Fiscal Year 2024

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	Professional Designation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	TPA Certified Optometrist	1,720	1,680	1,716	1,736	1,749	1,708	1,758	1,784	1,808	1,777	1,820	1,852	1,879
Total		1,808	1,757	1,793	1,813	1,827	1,773	1,823	1,849	1,873	1,826	1,871	1,903	1,930
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	CE Courses	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
	Humane Society	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Limited Use Facility Dispensing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	3	3	4
	Limited Use Pharmacy Technician	8	8	8	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	6
	Limited Use Practitioner Dispensing	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	3	3	3	4	6	8
	Medical Equipment Supplier	224	223	230	229	209	217	223	226	213	220	226	224	205
	Non-Resident Manufacturer	194	202	209	215	206	213	218	224	217	226	231	236	229
	Non-Resident Medical Equipment Supplier	322	349	363	373	331	354	361	369	346	355	367	379	345
	Non Resident Outsourcing facility	33	33	34	33	30	29	32	33	35	33	32	31	31
	Non Resident Pharmacy	866	874	876	885	882	898	910	911	924	923	923	934	943
	Non-Resident Wholesale Distributor	604	635	644	660	624	634	643	641	610	624	635	641	612
	Non Restricted Manufacturer	28	28	29	30	31	32	34	34	35	35	35	35	32
	Non-Resident Third Party Logistics Prov.	169	182	186	191	181	181	194	206	207	219	229	238	234
	Non Resident Warehouse	79	91	96	101	98	99	105	115	109	114	123	130	127
	Outsourcing Facility	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
	Permitted Physician	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Pharmacist	15,668	15,865	16,210	16,445	15,858	16,079	16,414	16,619	16,064	16,273	16,606	16,796	16,147
	Pharmacist-Volunteer Registration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	Pharmacy	1,772	1,771	1,770	1,767	1,773	1,768	1,765	1,765	1,762	1,755	1,751	1,738	1,744
Pharmacy Intern	1,464	1,489	1,499	1,457	1,247	1,312	1,267	1,352	1,166	1,235	1,213	1,274	1,074	
Pharmacy Technician	12,751	13,248	13,689	14,042	12,421	12,924	13,522	13,875	12,312	12,871	13,310	13,640	12,275	
Pharmacy Technician Trainee	831	2,406	3,309	4,628	5,930	6,258	6,977	8,041	8,581	8,178	8,190	8,063	8,095	



Virginia Department of Health Professions

Current Count of Licenses

Quarterly Summary

Quarter 3 - Fiscal Year 2024

Current licenses by board and occupation as of the last day of the quarter.

** New Occupation

*** Veterinary Establishments are now grouped together, as the board works on designating existing establishments as "Ambulatory" or "Stationary", instead of "Full Service" or "Restricted Service".

Quarter Date Ranges	
Quarter 1	July 1 - September 30
Quarter 2	October 1- December 31
Quarter 3	January 1 - March 31
Quarter 4	April 1 - June 30

BOARD	Occupation	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	CURRENT Q3 2024	
Pharmacy	Pharmacy Technician Training Program	126	136	138	133	128	126	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Physician Selling Controlled Substances	558	571	614	631	537	571	600	645	543	565	596	632	547	
	Physician Selling Drugs Location	163	165	168	167	160	160	160	164	125	131	135	139	127	
	Pilot Programs	24	24	17	20	18	25	23	20	15	15	13	14	15	
	Registered Physician for CBD/THC-A Oil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Repackaging Training Program	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
	Restricted Manufacturer	39	41	41	41	36	36	36	36	33	32	32	32	32	
	Third Party Logistics Provider	7	7	7	7	8	7	7	7	6	6	6	6	5	
	Warehouser	119	120	121	122	117	121	121	122	123	123	125	127	129	126
	Wholesale Distributor	64	65	66	66	60	62	64	63	60	60	60	63	63	59
Total		37,502	40,005	41,813	43,772	42,303	43,589	45,203	47,019	44,933	45,486	46,374	46,935	44,451	
Pharmaceutical ¹ Processing	Pharmaceutical Processor Permit	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	-	
	Registered Agent For Medical Cannabis	65	103	141	162	180	179	181	166	158	137	109	79	-	
	Registered Practitioner for CBD/THC-A Oil	685	797	920	997	720	873	1,059	1,164	938	1,051	1,051	1,051	-	
	Registered Par/Guard For Medical Cannab	136	183	212	235	258	262	210	163	133	74	38	28	-	
	Registered Patient For Medical Cannabis	17,257	26,136	33,204	39,468	47,466	52,903	45,434	38,071	29,214	16,201	7,547	5,282	-	
Registered Product	216	372	568	842	1,178	1,566	1,949	2,271	2,770	3,158	3,489	3,918	-		
Total		18,363	27,595	35,049	41,708	49,806	55,787	48,837	41,839	33,217	20,625	12,238	10,362	-	
Physical Therapy	Direct Access Certification	1,333	1,345	1,376	1,384	1,396	1,406	1,420	1,427	1,437	1,448	1,250	1,257	1,268	
	Physical Therapist	8,603	8,901	9,161	9,245	9,382	9,634	9,906	10,022	8,878	9,146	9,403	9,523	9,640	
	Physical Therapist Assistant	3,641	3,714	3,816	3,852	3,901	3,969	4,061	4,093	3,615	3,676	3,758	3,791	3,835	
Total		13,577	13,960	14,353	14,481	14,679	15,009	15,387	15,542	13,930	14,270	14,411	14,571	14,743	
Psychology	Applied Psychologist	29	24	26	27	27	28	25	25	25	25	23	24	24	
	Clinical Psychologist	4,130	3,888	4,082	4,224	4,325	4,418	4,230	4,360	4,461	4,573	4,517	4,607	4,692	
	Resident in School Psychology	11	11	12	13	13	13	21	24	26	27	29	33	35	
	Resident In Training	373	368	376	376	380	380	397	395	392	392	404	397	392	
	School Psychologist	102	90	97	98	99	100	96	96	100	103	98	99	100	
	School Psychologist-Limited	648	560	622	640	658	673	550	569	583	598	577	592	601	
	Sex Offender Treatment Provider	447	414	433	437	444	455	421	427	439	450	441	450	452	
SOTP Trainee	135	131	125	110	99	100	95	97	79	78	79	80	81		
Total		5,875	5,486	5,773	5,925	6,045	6,167	5,835	5,993	6,105	6,246	6,168	6,282	6,377	

1. The Pharmaceutical Processors Program has moved from DHP's Board of Pharmacy to Virginia Cannabis Control Authority since Q3 2024. DHP is no longer licensing Pharmaceutical Processors.

Enforcement Division Inspections Report:

Prepared for the June 25, 2024 - Board of Pharmacy Meeting

Quarterly Inspection Completed Review – Date Range: 01/01/2024 - 03/31/2024

Numbers of Inspections Completed by License Type:

Insp Status	License Type	Change of Location	Compliance	New	Reinspection	Remodel	Routine	Grand Total
Completed	Business CSR	5		19		7	90	121
	Limited Use Facility Dispensing			1				1
	Medical Equipment Supplier	2		4			4	10
	Pharmacy	8	5	17	11	34	176	251
	Physician Selling Drugs Location			2		1	15	18
	Warehouser			1		1	6	8
	Wholesale Distributor			1	1		1	3
Completed Total		15	5	45	12	43	292	412
Completed Virtual	Business CSR			12	1		6	19
	Medical Equipment Supplier	1		1			1	3
	Pharmacy	1			3	1	1	6
	Warehouser	1						1
	Wholesale Distributor	1						1
Completed Virtual Total		4		13	4	1	8	30
Grand Total		19	5	58	16	44	300	442

Enforcement Division Inspections Report:

Prepared for the June 25, 2024 - Board of Pharmacy Meeting

Quarterly Routine Deficiency Review Date Range: 01/01/2024 – 03/31/2024

Routine Inspections - Deficiencies by License Type:

License Type	Attempted- No Inspection Required	Deficiency	Deficiency & IPHCO	No Deficiency	Grand Total
Business CSR		40		56	96
Medical Equipment Supplier	1	1		3	5
Pharmacy		63	61	53	177
Physician Selling Drugs Location	1	13		1	15
Warehouser				6	6
Wholesale Distributor		1			1
Grand Total	2	118	61	119	300

** New, Change of Location, Remodel, Reinspection, Pilot, and Compliance Inspections Removed*

Categories of Deficiencies for Occurrences Date Range: 01/01/2024 - 3/31/2024

Routine Inspections - Recorded >20 Times with Examples:

Description **Number of times for occurrence**

| 110-20-180 | 32 |

Deficiency 9a: Alarm is operational but does not fully protect the prescription department.

Unable to determine if the alarm system is capable of sending an alarm signal to the monitoring entity

Waiver Requested- Access to the alarm system for the prescription department area of the pharmacy shall be restricted to the pharmacists working at the pharmacy, except for access by other persons in accordance with 18VAC110-20-190 B 2. The site wants to allow nurses. Request appears reasonable due to the scope of services.

Security. The device does not fully protect the prescription department

| 110-20-190 | 21 |

Deficiency 10: Unauthorized access to locking device to the prescription department.

Deficiency 12: Storage of prescription drugs not in the prescription department.

Enforcement Division Inspections Report:

Prepared for the June 25, 2024 - Board of Pharmacy Meeting

Description **Number of times for occurrence**

Deficiency 108: Emergency access alarm code/key not maintained in compliance.

| 110-20-240 | 25 |

Deficiency 13: Biennial inventory over 30 days late.

Deficiency 14: No incoming change of Pharmacist-in-Charge inventory and the Pharmacist-in-Charge inventory taken.

Deficiency 15: Perpetual inventory not being maintained as required.

Deficiency 113: Inventories taken on time, but not in compliance, i.e., no opening or close.

| 54.1-3404 | 53 |

Deficiency 13: No biennial inventory, or over 30 days late

Deficiency 16: Theft/unusual loss of drugs not reported to the Board as required.

Deficiency 16: Theft/unusual loss of drugs not reported to the Board as required.

Deficiency 112: Biennial taken late but within 30 days.

Deficiency 148: Theft/unusual loss of drugs reported to board, but report not maintained by pharmacy.

Records of receipt of CII-V drugs does not include the date of receipt.

| 54.1-3410.2 | 55 |

Cleanroom does not meet USP requirements

Deficiency 33: Category 1 or Category 2 CSPs assigned inappropriate beyond use date (BUD).

Deficiency 130: Required compounding records not complete and properly maintained.

Deficiency 130a. Compounded products not properly labeled.

Deficiency 133. Compounding facilities and equipment used in performing non-sterile compounds not in compliance with §54.1-3410.2.

Deficiency 147: Particle counts, environmental sampling, and smoke pattern testing not performed under dynamic conditions.

Enforcement Division Inspections Report:

Prepared for the June 25, 2024 - Board of Pharmacy Meeting

Two Year Inspection Completed Review Date Range: 01/01/2022 - 01/01/2024

Number of Inspections Completed by License Type:

License Type	Audit	Change of Location	Change of Owner	Compliance	Focus	New	Pilot	Reinspection	Remodel	Routine	Grand Total
Business CSR		50			1	236	2	14	50	897	1250
Cannabis Dispensing Facility						15		3		12	30
Limited Use Facility Dispensing						3		1			4
Medical Equipment Supplier		18				31			1	135	185
Non-resident Medical Equipment Supplier						2					2
Non-restricted Manufacturer		1				6		5	1	2	15
Outsourcing Facility						1		1			2
Pharmaceutical Processor Permit		2						1	9	11	23
Pharmacy	1	33	1	8	3	94		93	393	1326	1952
Physician Selling Drugs Location		5		3	1	33		5	2	113	162
Pilot Programs							7				7
Third Party Logistics Provider		1				1				5	7
Warehouser		4				12		4	3	85	108
Wholesale Distributor		5				4		2	4	33	48
Grand Total	1	119	1	11	5	438	9	129	463	2619	3795

NOTE: 181 of these inspections were completed virtually.

Reports Extracted: 05/30/2024 from My License Office (MLO) database

- Data extrapolated from MLO / Inspection Completed Detail Reports / Inspection Result Detail Reports.

Recruitment completed, hiring underway and is being completed by HR.

- Very competitive applications during these advertisements.

Report prepared by: Melody J. Morton, Inspections Manager Enforcement Division

Discipline Program Report

Open Cases as of 6/5/24:

	PC	APD	Investigation	FH	IFC	Other	Pending Closure	Entry	TOTALS
Patient Care Cases	75	14	82	3	3	1	0	7	185
Non-Patient Care Cases	66	8	19	4	12	1	7	5	123
						TOTAL:			308

Staffing Update:

- First Agency Subordinate proceedings were held this month.
- New Discipline Specialist employee Nicole Copeland
- Rose DeMatteo, Compliance Case Manager, retiring 7/24/24
- New Pharmacy Compliance Program Manager position

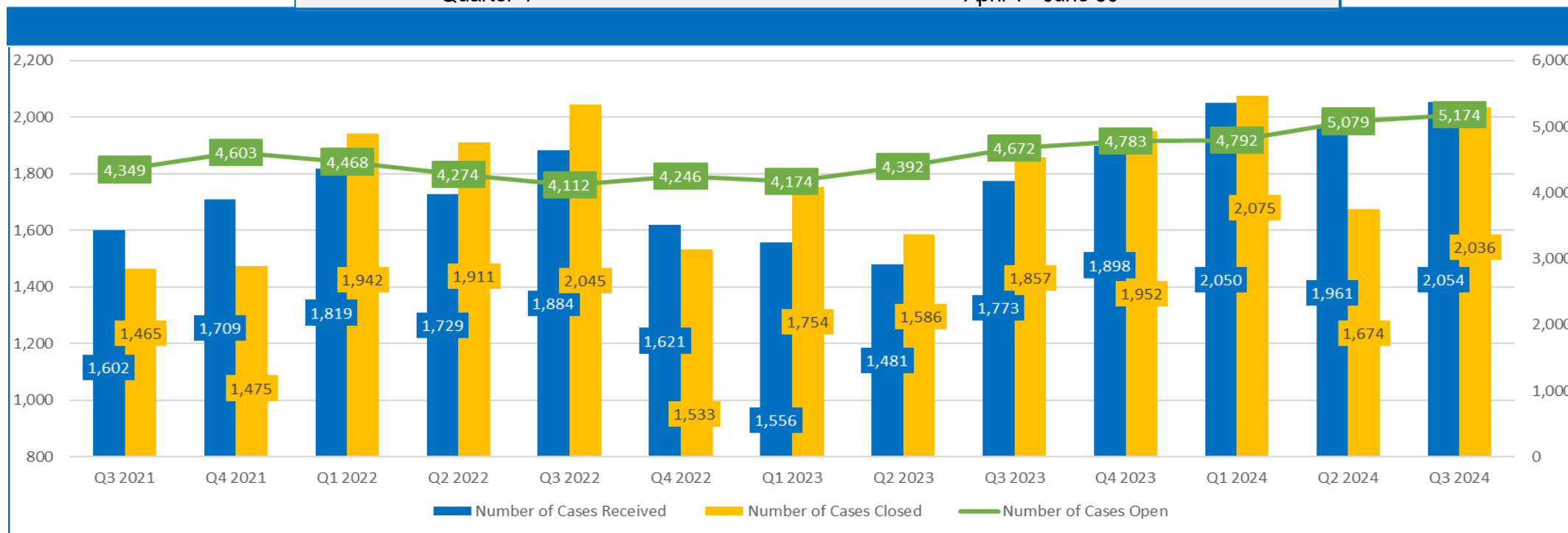
Upcoming Disciplinary Proceedings:

June 26, 2024	Ratliff/Dowdy	Informal Conferences
July 10, 2024	Yuan/Richards-Spruill	Informal Conferences
July 11, 2024	All members	Formal Hearings
July 24, 2024	Ratliff/Dowdy	Informal Conferences
August 7, 2024	TBD	Informal Conferences
August 21, 2024	TBD	Informal Conferences
August 29, 2024	All members	Formal Hearings
September 10, 2024	TBD	Informal Conferences
September 18, 2024	TBD	Innovative Pilot Committee
September 24, 2024	All members	Full Board Mtg & Formal Hearings

Cases Received, Open & Closed Agency Summary Quarter 3 – Fiscal Year 2024

The “Received, Open, Closed” table below shows the number of received and closed cases during the quarters specified and a “snapshot” of the cases still open at the end of the quarter.

Quarter Date Ranges	
Quarter 1	July 1 - September 30
Quarter 2	October 1- December 31
Quarter 3	January 1 - March 31
Quarter 4	April 1 - June 30



Cases Received, Open & Closed
Agency Summary
Quarter 3 – Fiscal Year 2024

The “Received, Open, Closed” table below shows the number of received and closed cases during the quarters specified and a “snapshot” of the cases still open at the end of the quarter.

Quarter Date Ranges	
Quarter 1	July 1 - September 30
Quarter 2	October 1- December 31
Quarter 3	January 1 - March 31
Quarter 4	April 1 - June 30

														CURRENT
		Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024
Pharmacy	Number of Cases Received	145	160	212	208	220	185	215	210	204	249	206	179	204
	Number of Cases Open	300	332	350	329	399	409	416	437	384	442	390	372	383
	Number of Cases Closed	115	131	193	228	154	181	228	214	288	220	257	199	195
Physical Therapy	Number of Cases Received	12	20	11	9	15	3	15	13	10	4	10	27	10
	Number of Cases Open	33	47	46	47	46	39	35	34	36	35	31	55	52
	Number of Cases Closed	8	7	12	8	18	10	21	18	8	5	14	4	15
Psychology	Number of Cases Received	36	31	37	32	24	34	20	18	22	31	39	35	32
	Number of Cases Open	130	132	140	159	144	162	163	169	174	172	167	157	154
	Number of Cases Closed	13	32	29	13	39	22	26	16	24	49	44	43	37

Virginia Department of Health Professions

Arne W. Owens

Patient Care Disciplinary Case Processing Times (with Continuance Days): Quarterly Performance Measurement, Q3 2020 - Q3 2024

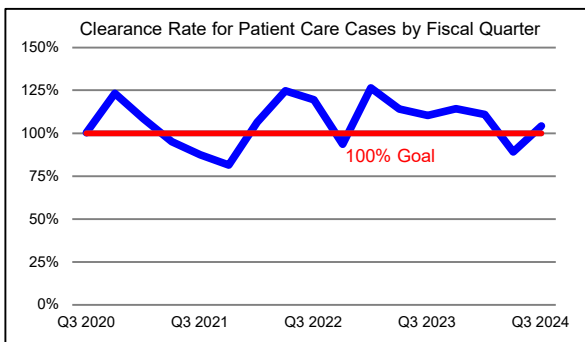
Director

"To ensure safe and competent patient care by licensing health professionals, enforcing standards of practice, and providing information to health care practitioners and the public."
DHP Mission Statement

In order to uphold its mission relating to discipline, DHP continually assesses and reports on its disciplinary case processing performance. Extensive trend information is provided on the DHP website, in biennial reports, and, most recently, on Virginia Performs through Key Performance Measures (KPMs). KPMs offer a concise, balanced, and data-based way to measure disciplinary case processing. Clearance Rate, Age of Pending Caseload and Time to Disposition uphold the objectives of the DHP mission statement; these three measures, taken together, enable staff to identify and focus on areas of greatest importance in managing the disciplinary caseload. The following pages show the KPMs by board, listed in order by caseload volume; volume is defined as the number of cases received during the previous 4 quarters. In addition, readers should be aware that vertical scales on the line charts change, both across boards and measures, in order to accommodate varying degrees of data fluctuation. This report includes the number of days the case was in the continuance activity.

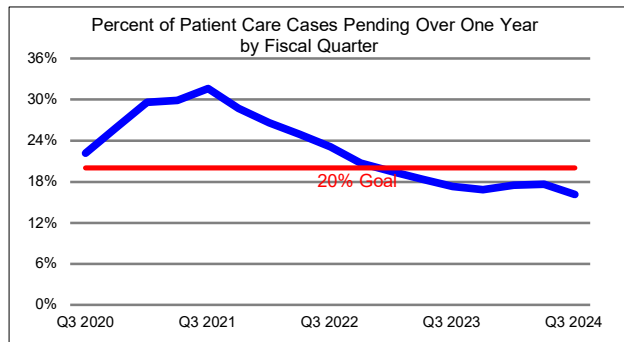
Clearance Rate - the number of closed cases as a percentage of the number of received cases. A 100% clearance rate means that the agency is closing the same number of cases as it receives each quarter. DHP's goal is to maintain a 100% clearance rate of allegations of misconduct.

The current quarter's clearance rate is 104%, with 1,302 patient care cases received and 1,358 closed.



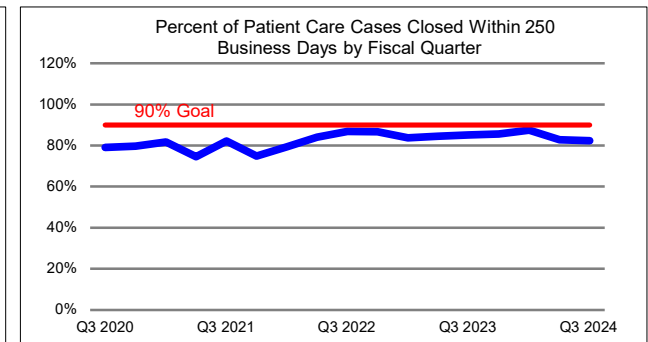
Age of Pending Caseload - the percent of open patient care cases over 250 business days old. This measure tracks the backlog of patient care cases older than 250 business days to aid management in providing specific closure targets. The goal is to maintain the percentage of open patient care cases older than 250 business days at no more than 20%.

The current quarter shows 16% patient care cases pending over 250 business days with 3,572 patient care cases pending and 577 pending over 250 business days.



Time to Disposition - the percent of patient care cases closed within 250 business days for cases received within the preceding eight quarters. This moving eight-quarter window approach captures the vast majority of cases closed in a given quarter and effectively removes any undue influence of the oldest cases on the measure. The goal is to resolve 90% of patient care cases within 250 business days.

The current quarter shows 82% of patient care cases being resolved within 250 business days with 1,307 cases closed and 1,075 closed within 250 business days.



Virginia Department of Health Professions - Patient Care Disciplinary Case Processing Times (with Continuance Days), by Board

Medicine

Clearance Rate: 119%

400 Cases Received
475 Cases Closed

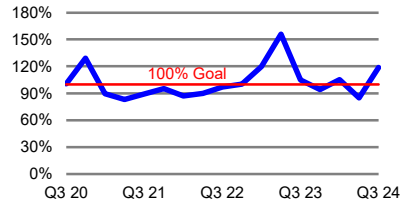
Pending Caseload: 11%

84 cases out of 793 are pending over 250 Days

Time to Disposition: 95%

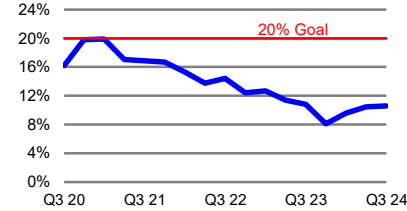
448 cases out of 471 were closed within 250 Days

Clearance Rate

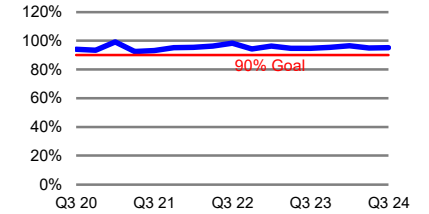


Age of Pending Caseload

(percent of cases pending over one year)



Time to Disposition



Dentistry

Clearance Rate: 145%

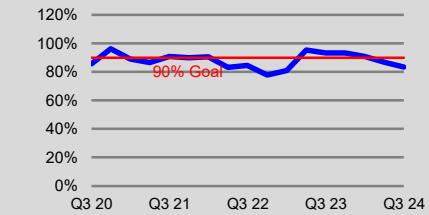
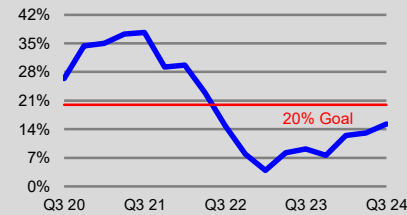
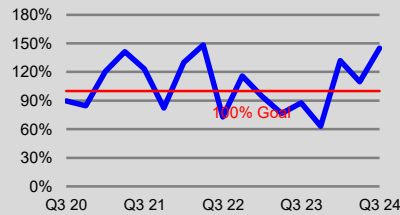
89 Cases Received
129 Cases Closed

Pending Caseload: 15%

41 cases out of 269 are pending over 250 Days

Time to Disposition: 83%

106 cases out of 127 were closed within 250 Days



Pharmacy

Clearance Rate: 109%

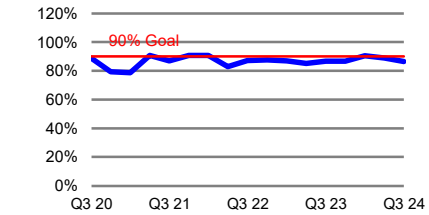
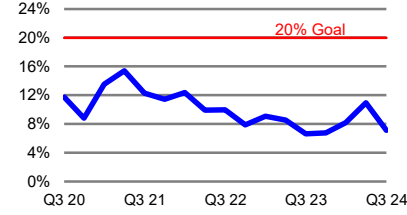
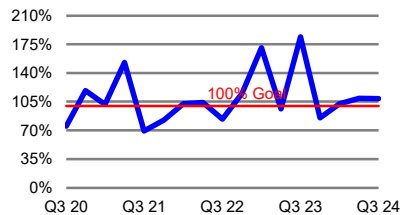
91 Cases Received
99 Cases Closed

Pending Caseload: 7%

14 cases out of 197 are pending over 250 Days

Time to Disposition: 86%

83 cases out of 96 were closed within 250 Days



Note: Vertical scales on line charts change, both across boards and measures, in order to accommodate varying degrees of data fluctuation.
Note: If no cases are received and some cases are closed, we assign 100% as clearance rate

Virginia Department of Health Professions

Patient Care Disciplinary Case Processing Times (with Continuance Days): Quarterly Performance Measurement, Q3 2020 - Q3 2024

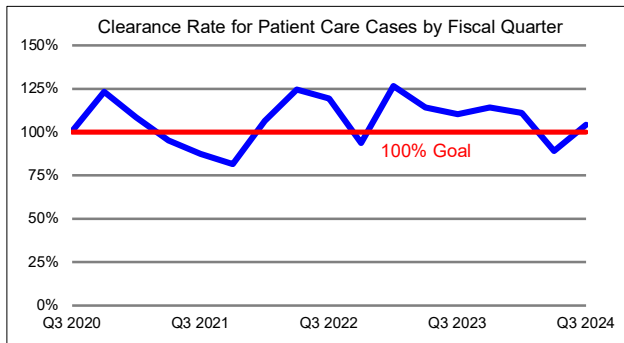
Arne W. Owens
Director

"To ensure safe and competent patient care by licensing health professionals, enforcing standards of practice, and providing information to health care practitioners and the public."
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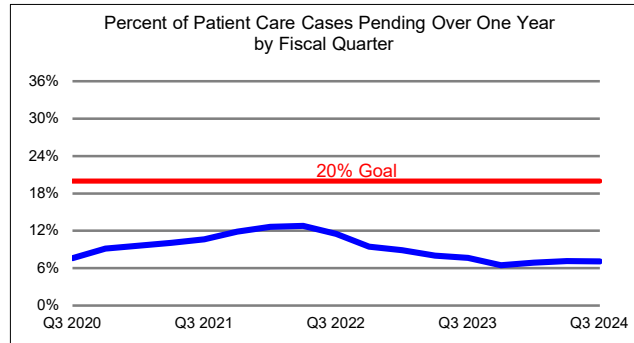
Clearance Rate - the number of closed cases as a percentage of the number of received cases. A 100% clearance rate means that the agency is closing the same number of cases as it receives each quarter. DHP's goal is to maintain a 100% clearance rate of allegations of misconduct.

The current quarter's clearance rate is 104%, with 1,302 patient care cases received and 1,358 closed.



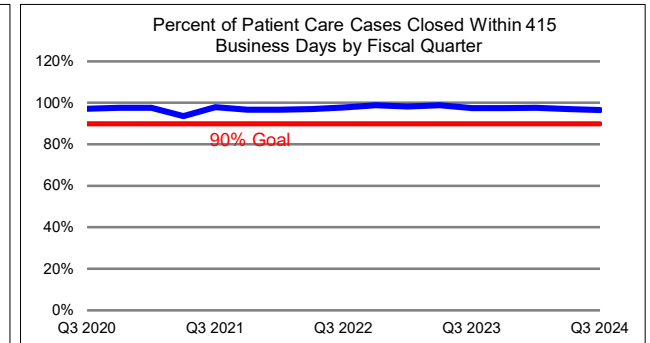
Age of Pending Caseload - the percent of open patient care cases over 415 business days old. This measure tracks the backlog of patient care cases older than 415 business days to aid management in providing specific closure targets. The goal is to maintain the percentage of open patient care cases older than 415 business days at no more than 20%.

The current quarter shows 7% patient care cases pending over 415 business days with 252 of the 3,572 patient care cases pending over 415 business days.



Time to Disposition - the percent of patient care cases closed within 415 business days for cases received within the preceding eight quarters. This moving eight-quarter window approach captures the vast majority of cases closed in a given quarter and effectively removes any undue influence of the oldest cases on the measure. The goal is to resolve 90% of patient care cases within 415 business days.

The current quarter shows 97% of patient care cases being resolved within 415 business days with 1,262 of the 1,307 cases closed within 415 business days.



Virginia Department of Health Professions - Patient Care Disciplinary Case Processing Times (with Continuance Days), by Board

Medicine

Clearance Rate: 119%

400 Cases Received

475 Cases Closed

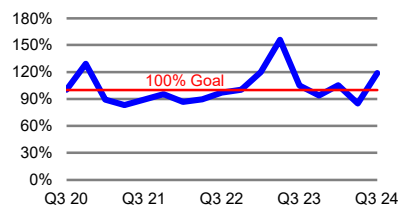
Pending Caseload Over 415 Days: 5%

40 cases out of 793 are pending over 415 Days

Time to Disposition Within 415 Days: 99%

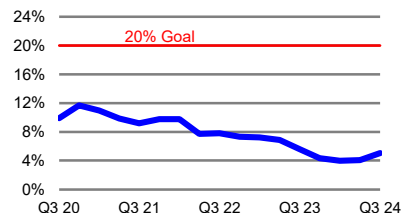
465 cases out of 471 were closed within 415 Days

Clearance Rate

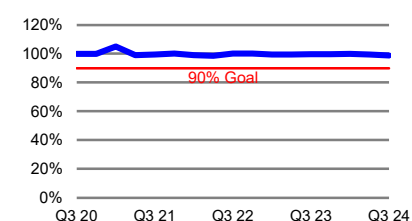


Age of Pending Caseload

(percent of cases pending over one year)



Time to Disposition



Dentistry

Clearance Rate: 145%

89 Cases Received

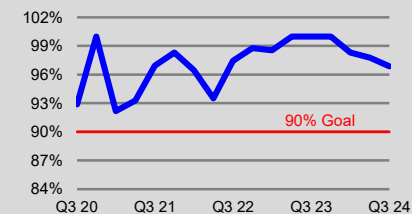
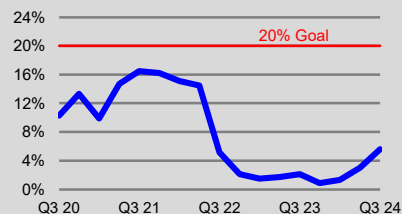
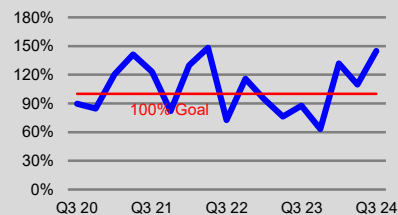
129 Cases Closed

Pending Caseload Over 415 Days: 6%

15 cases out of 269 are pending over 415 Days

Time to Disposition Within 415 Days: 97%

123 cases out of 127 were closed within 415 Days



Pharmacy

Clearance Rate: 109%

91 Cases Received

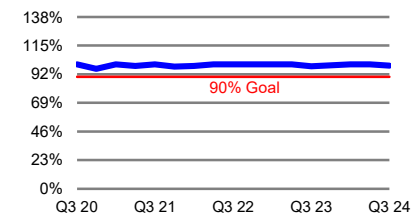
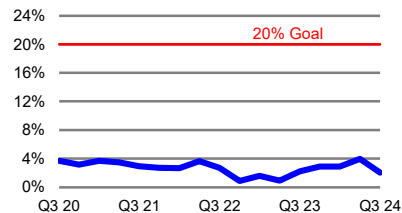
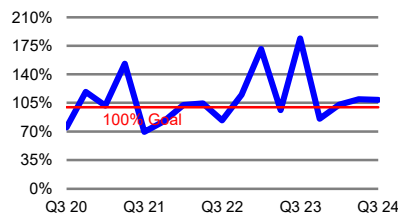
99 Cases Closed

Pending Caseload Over 415 Days: 2%

4 cases out of 197 are pending over 415 Days

Time to Disposition Within 415 Days: 99%

95 cases out of 96 were closed within 415 Days



Note: Vertical scales on line charts change, both across boards and measures, in order to accommodate varying degrees of data fluctuation.

Note: If no cases are received and some cases are closed, we assign 100% as clearance rate

Agenda Item: Consideration of petition for rulemaking to add Kratom to Schedule I

Included in your agenda package:

- Petition for rulemaking received requesting to amend 18VAC110-20-322 to add mitragynine and 7-hydroxymytragynine (kratom) to Schedule I;
- Comments received in response to the petition on Town Hall and sent to Board staff.

Staff Note: Almost 3,000 comments received on Town Hall and by Board staff. In a rough tally, there were 509 comments in support of the petition, 2,383 in opposition, and 67 comments that did not add a discernible position. Due to the volume of the comments, this tally should not be taken as exact. Please review the comments provided by the public in conjunction with this petition.

Action needed:

- Motion to either:
 - Accept petition and institute rulemaking; OR
 - Take no action, providing explanation of why.



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Board of Pharmacy

9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300
Henrico, Virginia 23233-1463

(804) 367-4456 (Tel)
(804) 527-4472 (Fax)

Petition for Rule-making

The Code of Virginia (§ 2.2-4007) and the Public Participation Guidelines of this board require a person who wishes to petition the board to develop a new regulation or amend an existing regulation to provide certain information. Within 14 days of receiving a valid petition, the board will notify the petitioner and send a notice to the Register of Regulations identifying the petitioner, the nature of the request and the plan for responding to the petition. Following publication of the petition in the Register, a 21-day comment period will begin to allow written comment on the petition. Within 90 days after the comment period, the board will issue a written decision on the petition. If the board has not met within that 90-day period, the decision will be issued no later than 14 days after it next meets.

Please provide the information requested below. (Print or Type)

Petitioner's full name (Last, First, Middle initial, Suffix,)

Brandt, Jennifer Nicole, PharmD

Street Address

4609 Victoria Blvd

Area Code and Telephone Number

(757)751-2769

City

Hampton

State

VA

Zip Code

23669

Email Address (optional)

jennifer_brandt@bshsi.org

Fax (optional)

Respond to the following questions:

1. What regulation are you petitioning the board to amend? Please state the title of the regulation and the section/sections you want the board to consider amending.

18VAC110-20-322. Placement of chemicals in Schedule I

2. Please summarize the substance of the change you are requesting and state the rationale or purpose for the new or amended rule.

Pursuant to subsection A of § 54.1-3443, please consider including mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine to 18VAC110-20-322. Placement of chemicals in Schedule I (see attached)

3. State the legal authority of the board to take the action requested. In general, the legal authority for the adoption of regulations by the board is found in § 54.1-2400 of the Code of Virginia. If there is other legal authority for promulgation of a regulation, please provide that Code reference.

subsection A of § 54.1-3443

Signature:

Date:

4/9/24

Pursuant to subsection A of § 54.1-3443, please consider placement of mitragynine and 7-hydroxymytragynine, the active alkaloids found in Kratom, in Schedule I of the Drug Control Act.

The potential for abuse of the alkaloids mitragynine and 7-hydroxymytragynine, is well documented due to the opioid and stimulant effects when ingested orally or smoked. Hallucinogenic and sedative effects are also documented at an increased dose. The National Institute for Drug Abuse reports mitragynine and 7-hydroxymytragynine are increasingly being used by the public to self-treat drug withdrawal symptoms and cravings and manage mental health problems, despite the FDA continuously ruling that these compounds have no therapeutic use. The potential for misuse and harm to the public has been so alarming, several states have banned the sale and distribution of Kratom.

Pharmacological studies show that the active compounds contained in Kratom, mitragynine and 7-hydroxymytragynine, are opioid agonists producing analgesic, sedative and stimulant effects. The FDA recently studied Kratom using Public Health Assessment via Structural Evaluation (PHASE) methodology, a tool designed to evaluate pharmacologic data via a 3D computer model using chemical structure. Results confirmed that mitragynine and 7-hydroxymytragynine bind strongly and activate the mu-opioid receptors. In a statement released by the FDA February 6, 2018, FDA Commissioner Dr Scott Gottlieb, MD. reported “Based on the scientific information in the literature and further supported by our computational modeling and the reports of its adverse effects in humans, we feel confident in calling compounds found in kratom, opioids.”

While research has expanded in recent years, current scientific knowledge is limited due to few human mitragynine pharmacologic studies. Gaps exist in long term use safety, efficacy and impact on public health.

Kratom has a history of traditional use in Southeast Asia for medicinal and recreational purposes prior to gaining popularity in the United States. A DEA Scheduling Action published in 2016 documented the use Kratom rising among heroin users for self-treatment of withdrawal symptoms and in patients with chronic pain. This scheduling action also stated that the recreational drug market is driving increased quantities of Kratom, of uncertain purity and quality, through various points of entry into the US.

The duration and scope of Kratom abuse is increasing. Between 2014 and 2016, 55000 kg of Kratom were encountered by law enforcement. On April 28, 2023, the FDA reported US Marshals seized 250000 units of dietary supplements containing Kratom. Poison control center calls have also increased from 26 in 2010 to 2312 in 2019 and the DEA has noted an increase in requests for mitragynine and 7-hydroxymytragynine analysis in human toxicology panels. Concerns for abuse and an increase in adverse effects have driven other states to issue a complete ban on Kratom and the active compounds mitragynine and 7-hydroxymytragynine, including Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Rhode Island, Vermont and Wisconsin.

Common adverse effects associated with mitragynine and 7-hydroxymytragynine include irritability, tachycardia, nausea, drowsiness and hypertension and serious adverse effects include seizure, coma, hallucinations, liver failure and respiratory depression. A 2019 CDC report detected 152 deaths associated with Kratom in 27 states from July 2017 to December 2017, with 91 deaths listing Kratom as the only cause. Further review of the deaths showed that 80% of the decedents had a positive history of substance abuse and 90% had no evidence they were receiving medically supervised pain management. Lack of purity and quality of Kratom products continue to be a threat to public safety, as a 2018 CDC report linked Kratom to a Salmonella outbreak that sickened 199 across 41 states. The FDA also found that laboratory testing on Kratom products yielded the heavy metals, nickel and lead, at levels unsafe for human consumption prompting a published warning that long term use could be associated with heavy metal poisoning, including anemia, kidney damage and increased risk for certain cancers.

Mitragynine and 7-hydroxymytragynine are associated with dependence. A 2014 study on Kratom use, conducted by surveying 293 long term, regular users, resulted in greater than 50% developing severe dependence with physical withdrawal symptoms of muscle spasms, pain, insomnia, fever and psychological withdrawal symptoms of restlessness, anger, sadness and nervousness. Various studies have also shown the presence of neonatal abstinence syndrome in infants born to mothers who used Kratom during pregnancy. While methadone and buprenorphine, the opioid in Suboxone, are available to treat some of the withdrawal effects associated with Kratom, there are no known medications to alleviate the non-opioid withdrawal symptoms.

Kratom's alkaloids, mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine, are not immediate precursors of a substance already controlled under existing regulations. While the chemical composition of mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine differs from opioids, the effects need to be considered in the scheduling process.

1. Huestis MA, Brett MA, Bothmer J, Atallah R. Human Mitragynine and 7-Hydroxymitragynine Pharmacokinetics after Single and Multiple Daily Doses of Oral Encapsulated Dried Kratom Leaf Powder. *Molecules*. 2024; 29(5):984. <https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules29050984>
2. Swogger M.T., Walsh Z. Kratom use and mental health: A systematic review. *Drug Alcohol Depend*. 2018;183:134–140. doi: 10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2017.10.012
3. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. FDA orders mandatory recall for kratom products due to risk of Salmonella (2018) Available at <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-orders-mandatory-recall-kratom-products-due-risk-Salmonella>
4. Olsen E.O., O'Donnell J., Mattson C.L., Schier J.G., Wilson N. Notes from the Field: Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths with Kratom Detected—27 States, July 2016–December 2017. *MMWR Morb. Mortal. Wkly. Rep*. 2019;68:326–327. doi: 10.15585/mmwr.mm6814a2
5. Anwar M., Law R., Schier J. Notes from the Field: Kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*) Exposures Reported to Poison Centers—United States, 2010–2015. *MMWR Morb. Mortal. Wkly. Rep*. 2016;65:748–749. doi: 10.15585/mmwr.mm6529a4.
6. DEA Schedules of Controlled Substances: Temporary Placement of Mitragynine and 7-Hydroxymitragynine Into Schedule I. [(accessed on 05 April 2024)]; Notes: Document number: 2016-20803. Available online: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/08/31/2016-20803/schedules-of-controlled-substances-temporary-placement-of-mitragynine-and-7-hydroxymitragynine-into>
7. FDA Statement by FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, M.D., on Risk of Heavy Metals, including Nickel and Lead, Found in Some Kratom Products. [(accessed on 05 April 2024)]; Available online: <https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm626738.htm>
8. Eastlack SC, Cornett EM, Kaye AD. Kratom-Pharmacology, Clinical Implications, and Outlook: A Comprehensive Review. *Pain Ther*. 2020 Jun;9(1):55-69. doi: 10.1007/s40122-020-00151-x. Epub 2020 Jan 28. PMID: 31994019; PMCID: PMC7203303.
9. Warner M.L., Kaufman N.C., Grundmann O. The pharmacology and toxicology of kratom: From traditional herb to drug of abuse. *Int. J. Legal Med*. 2016;130:127–138. doi: 10.1007/s00414-015-1279-y. - DOI - PubMed
10. US FDA FDA and Kratom. [(accessed on 5 April 2024)]; Available online: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/public-health-focus/fda-and-kratom>.
11. Post S, Spiller HA, Chounthirath T, Smith GA. Kratom exposures reported to United States poison control centers: 2011-2017. *Clin Toxicol (Phila)*. 2019 Oct;57(10):847-854. doi: 10.1080/15563650.2019.1569236. Epub 2019 Feb 20. PMID: 30786220.
12. Ellis CR, Racz R, Kruhlak NL, Kim MT, Zakharov AV, Southall N, Hawkins EG, Burkhart K, Strauss DG, Stavitskaya L. Evaluating kratom alkaloids using PHASE. *PLoS One*. 2020 Mar 3;15(3):e0229646. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0229646. PMID: 32126112; PMCID: PMC7053747.
13. FDA Statement by FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, M.D on the agency's scientific evidence on the presence of opioid compounds in kratom, underscoring its potential for abuse [(accessed on 05 April 2024)]; Available online: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/statement-fda-commissioner-scott-gottlieb-md-agencys-scientific-evidence-presence-opioid-compounds>
14. Darshan Singh, Christian P. Müller, Balasingam K. Vicknasingam,
15. Kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*) dependence, withdrawal symptoms and craving in regular users, *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, Volume 139, 2014, Pages 132-137, ISSN 0376-8716, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2014.03.017>.



Agency Department of Health Professions

Board Board of Pharmacy

Chapter Regulations Governing the Practice of Pharmacy [18 VAC 110 - 20]

2920 comments

All comments for this forum [Show Only Good](#)

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Commenter: Bobby Ison, MBA, RPH , Retired Director of Pharmacy, Passed BOP member 5/6/24 3:41 pm

I am in support of this Petition

As someone deeply committed to the well-being of our communities and families, I am in support of this petition because I believe in taking a firm stance against substances that have the potential to cause harm and endanger lives. The push to classify kratom as a Schedule 1 controlled substance is not just about legislation; it is about prioritizing public health and safety over the interests of those who profit from its sale. The evidence pointing to the risks and negative implications of kratom use especially among the most vulnerable populations, including children and those in socioeconomic distress cannot be ignored.

Promoting kratom as a harmless herbal supplement is both misleading and dangerous. The addiction potential, coupled with the lack of comprehensive studies on its long-term effects, demands our immediate attention and action. By supporting this classification, I am advocating for necessary research, regulation, and oversight to prevent abuse and protect future generations of Virginians from harm.

It's crucial that we listen to the voices of those who have witnessed the darker side of kratom firsthand--families torn apart by addiction, deaths and communities facing the consequences of widespread kratom availability. Their experiences underline the urgent need for this petition and for increased awareness and stricter regulations.

This is about more than just one substance; it's about setting a precedent for how we deal with emerging threats to public health. By supporting this petition, I stand with all who value safety and health over unregulated, potentially dangerous supplements. Let us unite in this cause for the greater good of the citizens of Virginia.

CommentID: 222597

Commenter: Lori Palagyi, Bon Secours Mercy Health Maryview Medical Center Hospital 5/9/24 8:57 am

I am in support of classifying Kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance.



Advocating for Kratom's Schedule I classification emphasizes public health protection. Key concerns include its potential for abuse, similarity to controlled substances, and the lack of FDA-approved research confirming safety and effectiveness. Scheduling kratom would enhance regulatory control, ensuring any therapeutic claims are scientifically validated. This approach aims to safeguard consumers from unproven treatments and align with efforts to maintain public health standards.

CommentID: 222636

Commenter: KA, BSMH MMC Lead Pharmacist 5/15/24 11:50 am

Kratom Restriction

I am in support of this petition. Similar substances have been deemed appropriate for class 1 or 2 status. This petition will help assist community health safety measures.

CommentID: 222643

Commenter: Linda St. George Rappahannock General Hospital 5/15/24 3:20 pm

Kratom class 1

I am in support of this petition. Similar substances have been deemed appropriate for class 1 or 2 status. This petition will help assist community health safety measures.

CommentID: 222644

Commenter: WW3 5/16/24 8:56 pm

Addition of Kratom to Schedule I

I support the initiative to classify Kratom as a Schedule 1 substance.

CommentID: 222645

Commenter: Lan Dhillon 5/18/24 2:13 pm

I support this petition

I support the classification of kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance. This is to protect public health due to its abuse potential, unregulated usage leading to potential adverse effects and lack of approved benefits. Scheduling kratom would prevent unverified therapeutic claims, promote research and enhance tighter regulatory control.

CommentID: 222646

Commenter: Shane Knisley, Maryview Medical Center 5/20/24 12:23 pm

Community Health Advocacy

The endorsement of this measure reflects our role as advocates for the health and safety of our community. We stand with the decision to regulate substances that pose significant health risks.

CommentID: 222649

Commenter: Anonymous

i support this Petition

I support the classification of kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance. This is to protect public health due to its abuse potential, unregulated usage leading to potential adverse effects and lack of approved benefits. Scheduling kratom would prevent unverified therapeutic claims, promote research and enhance tighter regulatory control.

CommentID: 222651

5/22/24 6:24 am

Commenter: Aditya Veldurthy

Support Kratom as Schedule I

I support the classification of kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance. This is to protect public health due to its abuse potential, unregulated usage leading to potential adverse effects and lack of approved benefits. Scheduling kratom would prevent unverified therapeutic claims, promote research and enhance tighter regulatory control.

CommentID: 222652

5/22/24 6:26 am

Commenter: John Austin, BSMH

Support for Kratom to be classified as a Schedule I

Based on the definition of a Schedule I drug, "high abuse potential with no accepted medical use; medications within this schedule may not be prescribed, dispensed, or administered", the active alkaloids of Kratom, mitragynine (MG) and 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-HMG), meet qualifications to be categorized as such. MG is the main lipophilic alkaloid present in Kratom. Its psychoactive metabolite, 7-HMG, has been assessed in preclinical models for its analgesic properties, while few studies have been conducted on the other alkaloids present in this product derived from a plant. Information related to the safety profile of MG is limited and health hazards from case reports associated with the use of Kratom have been linked to deleterious effects. In February 2024, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warned the public about the abuse potential of the active ingredients contained within Kratom and in unregulated Kratom-related products. In the FDA's public health focus post, it has been stated that Kratom is "not appropriate for use as a dietary supplement" due to the fact that there is "inadequate information to provide reasonable assurance that such ingredient does not present a significant or unreasonable risk of illness or injury..." Similar concerns have been issued in European countries like Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Ireland, Latvia, Poland, Lithuania, and Romania which have categorized Kratom as an illegal drug/substance. Rigorous high quality studies with meaningful outcome measures on the clinical efficacy aspects of Kratom and MG along with an assessment of any safety signals are necessary to be carried out in order to justify any potential therapeutic use and awarding a designation for this product outside of Schedule I drug status. Please let this comment represent support for the measure to make Kratom a Schedule I drug.

CommentID: 222654

Commenter: Lisa Wilson

I support this petition



5/24/24 1:30 pm

Advocating for kratom's Schedule I classification emphasizes public health protection. Key concerns include its potential for abuse, similarity to controlled substances, and the lack of FDA-approved research confirming safety and effectiveness. Scheduling kratom would enhance regulatory control, ensuring any therapeutic claims are scientifically validated. This approach aims to safeguard consumers from unproven treatments and aligns with efforts to maintain public health standards.

CommentID: 222659

Commenter: Sheneka Ramdon, Bon Secours Mercy Health

Classify Kratom as Schedule 1

The FDA has issued multiple warnings about the safety of kratom, including reports of deaths associated with its use. Let's support this petition to classify kratom as a schedule I controlled substance to prevent further tragedies

CommentID: 222662

5/31/24 7:39 am

Commenter: S. Brown

I support classifying Kratom as Schedule 1 controlled substance

I am in support of the petition to classify Kratom as a Schedule 1 controlled substance. Kratom has been linked to numerous overdose deaths. We must classify it as a Schedule 1 controlled substance to protect our communities from its harmful effects.

CommentID: 222663

5/31/24 9:27 am

Commenter: Joshua Crawford - Virginia Society of Health-System Pharmacists

Classifying Kratom as Schedule I Controlled Substance

Virginia Society of Health-System Pharmacists (VSHSP) Letter of Support to Classify Kratom as Schedule I Controlled Substance

Pharmacological studies show that the active compounds contained in Kratom, mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine, are opioid agonists producing analgesic, sedative and stimulant effects. The potential for abuse of the alkaloids mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine, is well documented due to the opioid and stimulant effects when ingested orally or smoked. Hallucinogenic and sedative effects are also documented at an increased dose. The National Institute for Drug Abuse reports mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine are increasingly being used by the public to self-treat drug withdrawal symptoms and cravings and to manage mental health problems, despite the FDA continuously ruling that these compounds have no therapeutic use. The potential for misuse and harm to the public has been so alarming, several states have banned the sale and distribution of Kratom.

The FDA recently studied Kratom using Public Health Assessment via Structural Evaluation (PHASE) methodology, a tool designed to evaluate pharmacologic data via a 3D computer model using chemical structure. Results confirmed that mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine bind strongly and activate the mu-opioid receptors. In a statement released by the FDA February 6, 2018, FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb, MD reported "Based on the scientific information in the literature and further supported by our computational modeling and the reports of its adverse effects in humans, we feel confident in calling compounds found in Kratom, opioids."

While research has expanded in recent years, current scientific knowledge is limited due to few human mitragynine pharmacologic studies. Gaps exist in long term use safety, efficacy, and impact on public health.

Kratom has a history of traditional use in Southeast Asia for medicinal and recreational purposes prior to gaining popularity in the United States. In 2021, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and

Health found that an estimated 1.7 million Americans, 12 years and older, used Kratom in a 12-month time frame. A DEA Scheduling Action published in 2016 documented the use of Kratom rising among heroin users for self-treatment of withdrawal symptoms and in patients with chronic pain. This scheduling action also stated that the recreational drug market is driving increased quantities of Kratom, of uncertain purity and quality, through various points of entry into the US.

The duration and scope of Kratom abuse is increasing. Between 2014 and 2016, 55,000 kg of Kratom were encountered by law enforcement. On April 28, 2023, the FDA reported US Marshals seized 250,000 units of dietary supplements containing Kratom. Poison control center calls have also increased from 26 in 2010 to 2,312 in 2019 and the DEA has noted an increase in adverse mitragyline and 7-hydroxymitragyline analysis in human toxicology panels. Concerns for abuse and an increase in adverse effects have driven other states to issue a complete ban on Kratom and the active compounds mitragyline and 7-hydroxymitragyline, including Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Rhode Island, Vermont and Wisconsin. Currently, Virginia restricts the sale of Kratom to those aged 21 years and older and requires a warning label on all packages containing Kratom. In Virginia, Kratom is conveniently sold at smoke shops, gas stations, and online. Within a five-mile radius of the Virginia Board of Pharmacy, there are at least 15 smoke shops selling Kratom that were able to be easily identified.

Common adverse effects associated with mitragyline and 7-hydroxymitragyline include irritability, tachycardia, nausea, drowsiness and hypertension and serious adverse effects include seizure, coma, hallucinations, liver failure and respiratory depression. A 2019 CDC report detected 152 deaths associated with Kratom in 27 states from July 2016 to December 2017, with 91 deaths listing Kratom as the only cause. Further review of the deaths showed that 80% of the decedents had a positive history of substance abuse and 90% had no evidence they were receiving medically supervised pain management. Lack of purity and quality of Kratom products continue to be a threat to public safety, as a 2018 CDC report linked Kratom to a Salmonella outbreak that sickened 199 across 41 states. The FDA also found that laboratory testing on Kratom products yielded the heavy metals, nickel, and lead, at levels unsafe for human consumption prompting a published warning that long term use could be associated with heavy metal poisoning, including anemia, kidney damage, and increased risk for certain cancers.

Mitragyline and 7-hydroxymitragyline are associated with dependence. A 2014 study on Kratom use, conducted by surveying 293 long term, regular users, resulted in greater than 50% developing severe dependence with physical withdrawal symptoms of muscle spasms, pain, insomnia, fever, and psychological withdrawal symptoms of restlessness, anger, sadness, and nervousness. Similarly, a 2024 study found that 66.7% of patients met the DSM-5 criteria for Kratom use disorder (≥2 symptoms), with withdrawal symptoms, tolerance, using more Kratom than intended, and cravings being the most common symptoms. Various studies have also shown the presence of neonatal abstinence syndrome in infants born to mothers who used Kratom during pregnancy. While methadone and buprenorphine, the opioid in Suboxone, are available to treat some of the withdrawal effects associated with Kratom, there are no known medications to alleviate the non-opioid withdrawal symptoms.

Due to the similarities in opioid-like side effects, Kratom has been questioned as being a "gateway" drug. There is currently limited literature demonstrating this. However, a case report describes a patient with Kratom tolerance who started consuming opioids to obtain Kratom-like effects, leading to opioid dependence.

Kratom's alkaloids, mitragyline and 7-hydroxymitragyline, are not immediate precursors of a substance already controlled under existing regulations. While the chemical composition of mitragyline and 7-hydroxymitragyline differs from opioids, the effects need to be considered in the scheduling process. Our communities are besieged by an ongoing opioid epidemic and a lot of resources and effort are being utilized to help combat this plague. The ease of Kratom's availability in our communities help fuel the opioid-epidemic. The Virginia Society of Health System Pharmacists support the petition to make mitragyline and 7-hydroxymitragyline Schedule I substances.

- Huestis MA, Brett MA, Bothmer J, Anallah R, Human Mitragyline and 7-Hydroxymitragyline Pharmacokinetics after Single and Multiple Daily Doses of Oral Encapsulated Dried Kratom Leaf Powder. *Molecules*. 2024; 29(5):984. <https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules29050984>
- Swogger M.T., Walsh Z. Kratom use and mental health: A systematic review. *Drug Alcohol Depend*. 2018;183:134–140. doi: 10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2017.10.012
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2022). *Key substance use and mental health indicators in the United States: Results from the 2021 National Survey on Drug Use and Health* (HHS Publication No. PEP22-07-01-005, NSDUH Series H-57). Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/reports/2021-nsduh-annual-national-report>
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration: FDA orders mandatory recall for kratom products due to risk of Salmonella products-due-risk-Salmonella (<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-orders-mandatory-recall-kratom-products-due-risk-Salmonella>)
- Olsen E.O., O'Donnell J., Mattson C.L., Schier J.G., Wilson N. Notes from the Field: Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths with Kratom Detected—27 States, July 2016–December 2017. *MMWR Morb. Mortal. Wkly. Rep*. 2019;68:326–327. doi: 10.15585/mmwr.mm6814a2

- Anwar M., Law R., Schier J., Notes from the Field: Kratom (Mitragyna speciosa) Exposures Reported to Poison Centers—United States, 2010–2015. *MMWR Morb. Mortal. Wkly. Rep*. 2016;65:748–749. doi: 10.15585/mmwr.mm6529a4.
- DEA Schedules of Controlled Substances: Temporary Placement of Mitragyline and 7-Hydroxymitragyline Into Schedule I. [(accessed on 05 April 2024)]; Notes: Document number: 2016-20803. Available online: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/08/31/2016-20803/schedules-of-controlled-substances-temporary-placement-of-mitragyline-and-7-hydroxymitragyline-into>
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CommentID: 222664

Commenter: Kristy Ryman, Mary Immaculate Hospital

Support Kratom Petition

Please consider making kratom a schedule I substance due to it's addiction potential and unregulated production.

CommentID: 222665

Commenter: Pat Canady

Support for Kratom to be classified as a Schedule I drug

5/31/24 12:27 pm

By signing this petition, I support the need for Kratom to be classified as a Schedule I drug. A Schedule I drug has high abuse potential with no accepted medical use. Currently Kratom has no use approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) nor is Kratom regulated by other governing agencies. The use of Kratom has proven to have negative impact with regards to public health including psychiatric, cardiovascular, gastrointestinal and respiratory problems including a small number of deaths. We need to classify Kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance to ensure consumer protection.

CommentID: 222666

Commenter: Stephanie Davis

5/31/24 1:39 pm

Kratom

I support to classify Kratom as a schedule 1.

CommentID: 222667

Commenter: Anonymous

5/31/24 3:48 pm

Kratom

Kratom acts like an opioid and has been linked to numerous overdose deaths. We must classify it as a Schedule I substance to protect our communities from its harmful effects.

CommentID: 222668

Commenter: Anonymous

5/31/24 10:05 pm

Danger to public

Kratom is a danger to the public.

CommentID: 222669

Commenter: Karen Winslow

6/3/24 11:48 am

Protect the public and make Kratom a Schedule 1 Substance

Please protect the public and make Kratom a Schedule 1 substance. It has been linked to overdose deaths and should NOT be easily accessible like it is currently. Every gas station and vape shop around sells it and it is targeting our young population. The FDA is looking at the abuse potential and has determined it is NOT appropriate for use as a dietary supplement. Other countries have already classified it as an illegal drug/substance. Please protect the public and make Kratom a Schedule 1 substance.

CommentID: 222670

Commenter: David Derian

6/3/24 5:50 pm

Kratom is a valuable harm reduction tool which has sensible state legislation already.



Virginia has a passed and governor has signed into law kratom consumer protection act. Making a harmless herb schedule 1 which means no medicinal value is not the right decision. Virginia is one of 11 states in the United States to enact legislation on the sale of Kratom

Gov. Glenn Youngkin signed SB 1108, the Kratom Consumer Protection Act (KCPA) into law after it passed Virginia's House and Senate.

Kratom comes from the leaves of the Mitragyna speciosa tree in Indonesia, Thailand and other parts of Asia and is usually consumed by boiling the leaves to make tea or grinding them up to put in food. An herbal supplement, Kratom has been used for centuries safely. The Virginia Kratom Consumer Protection Act regulates the manufacture and distribution of kratom, ensures and enforces proper labeling and instills age limits on its use. This is sensible legislation that has gone through rigorous legislative process and its sponsors have looked at the whole picture.

CommentID: 222671

Commenter: Zander Moehlings

6/3/24 6:12 pm

Keep Kratom available

I've seen Kratom help many people since I've seen it hit the market. I think it should remain available to the public

CommentID: 222672

Commenter: Zachary Jones

6/3/24 6:14 pm

Keep Kratom legal!

Keep kratom available in virginial. There's already sensible legislation for kratom in Virginia. Schedule 1 is a bad idea...

CommentID: 222673

Commenter: Scott M

6/3/24 6:25 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

I've seen Kratom help a lot of people. I believe with proper education and legislation in place (which there already is) Kratom can hopefully continue to help people around the world and in Virginia.

CommentID: 222674

Commenter: Mac Haddow, American Kratom Association

6/3/24 6:42 pm

The FDA's Own Dose Finding Study directly contradicts scheduling of kratom

The FDA has failed 3 times to schedule kratom: 2016, rejected by the DEA for insufficient evidence; 2018, rejected by HHS Asst. Sec. for Health for "embarrassingly poor evidence and data"; and in 2021 by the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence at the WHO for insufficient evidence.

In 2023, the FDA admitted to a Federal Judge they had not "determined if kratom is dangerous". In 2024 the FDA conducted a dose finding study that proved kratom could be safely consumed, and found kratom appeared to be tolerated at all dose levels.

There is no scientific justification for scheduling of kratom.

CommentID: 222675

Commenter: Michael

6/3/24 6:54 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

Kratom should NOT be banned. It is helped me and my family out for many years. And being in the industry I've seen it helps so many other people with their personal problems and issues.

CommentID: 222676

Commenter: April Hale

6/3/24 7:17 pm

Do not approve scheduling.

I do not approve scheduling of this herbal supplement. Plain leaf is a safe alternative. As adults we should be able to chose what supplements that we wish to consume. Banning a substance is the wrong way to go about any regulation. Science does not lie. Research shows how safe this is.

CommentID: 222677

Commenter: Rachel P

6/3/24 7:19 pm

Do not support Kratom ban

I do not support making kratom a schedule 1.

CommentID: 222678

Commenter: Misty Brown

6/3/24 7:19 pm

??? I DO NOT SUPPORT ???

In 2008, I was diagnosed with degenerative disc disease(L4-L5) and epilepsy. That began a whole slew of different kinds of pain pills, injections, doctors' appointments and pharmacies. I noticed I started becoming addicted to pain pills after I lost my house and my job in 2009 due to my health issues. That and issues going on in my home life slammed me into a deep depression.

From then on I couldn't function without a pill. I'd be so out of it for 2 weeks out of the month because my 30 day supply would only last me a couple of weeks. When I wasn't pill'd up, I stayed in bed and only did the bare minimum in life until my next doctor's appointment. My pill cocktail was Oxycodone, MS Contin, Soma, Klonopin and fioricet.

I was fired from my pain management clinic in April 2019 because I didn't show up for a per contract pill count. I knew I was 11 pills short so I just didn't show up! From May to June my kid's father came out here for my second daughter's graduation. I had already gone through detox and I think he helped occupy my mind. My plan was once we dropped him off at the airport, I was going to start looking for another doctor.

Instead, I watched Leaf of Faith on June 25th 2019. I learned that Kr@tom is a Southeast Asian herb that many are using for pain relief and to treat addiction.

The very next day I went to the local smoke shop and bought some Kr@tom. And here I am today, sober-ish and staying sober-ish because of Kr@tom and w33d! Kr@tom not only brings my pain level from a 10 to a 3, it also stops the opioid cravings and elevates my mood along with the w33d.

I am a brand-new version of the old me. I am a thriving and functioning mother and member of society again. Plain leaf unadulterated Kr@tom and w33d are the tools I need for recovery . In all honesty, I am still amazed that I'm alive today.

If you think plain leaf unadulterated Kr@tom doesn't work, then by all means ask me how I am a recovered addict today.

I and millions of others are living, breathing proof that Kr@tom works! Kr@tom is FREEDOM,

Kr@tom is LIFE!

CommentID: 222679

Commenter: Stephanie Taylor

6/3/24 7:22 pm

Keep Kratom Regulated, Not Banned

Kratom does not meet the criteria of the 8 factor analysis that determines whether a substance should be scheduled. Additionally, banning Kratom hurts the many Virginians who consume Kratom to manage their chronic pain. Many consumers have successfully withdrawn from harmful substances with the aid of Kratom. Kratom needs to be regulated. We have a Kratom Consumer Protection Act in Virginia that sets an age requirement in order to purchase Kratom. It includes provisions for labeling and manufacturing.

CommentID: 222680

Commenter: Ali D

6/3/24 7:24 pm

Kratom should NOT be added to Schedule 1!

Kratom has helped me tremendously with energy, motivation, and sleep issues due to stress. I'm lucky that I have not needed it for physical discomfort, but I'm thankful to have it on hand in case I ever need it. We as adults should have access to botanicals that improve our lives, and this 100% natural powder boosts my mood so that I can have meaningful, successful days when needed. I've been addicted to sugar, caffeine, and alcohol...but not Kratom. I benefit from it responsibly as with all things in life, and Kratom users know that "less is more" ...it's expensive and no one wants to use more than they need!

CommentID: 222681

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 7:27 pm

Keep Kratom safe and legal

Kratom is a plant native to South East Asia that has been used for centuries. It is a safe plant and banning it will do more harm than good.

CommentID: 222682

Commenter: Jennifer Clifforc

6/3/24 7:30 pm

DO NOT SUPPORT TO MAKE SCHEDULE 1

I was an opiate addict for 20 plus years, no matter how hard badly I tried to quit I couldn't. In 2018 when my father passed I decided I was sick of that life and started taking kratom. I've been off opiates for almost 6 years thanks to the help of kratom, you have zero cravings, not even for alcohol. It has literally saved my life. Please do not make me a criminal just for a plant! It is in no

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

way a comparison to any opiate!

Thank you ????
Jennifer Clifford

CommentID: 222683

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 7:33 pm

I do not support

I do not support this petition. Kratom should be regulated, not banned. People using kratom should not be seen as a criminal because they are not. Kratom has helped me get my life back together. I was a heroin addict for a long time. With the help of kratom, I am 5 years clean, I finished college, I have a decent job, and most of all - I am finally happy.

CommentID: 222684

Commenter: Stephen McIntosh

6/3/24 7:37 pm

Oppose measure to Schedule Mitragynine (Kratom)

I am a retired disabled person with chronic pain. Kratom makes it possible for me to do regular activities, including housework and the PT suggested by my doctors.

While I do not live in Virginia, I have friends and family members who live in Virginia. Criminalizing the possession of the legal medications I use would make it impossible for me to visit these people, or otherwise spend money in Virginia

No medication or dietary supplement is suitable for all patients, nor is every food to be found in supermarkets. There are several OTC medications I've been advised to avoid—including some that make an alternative approach to pain management necessary. Consumers have never had more access to neutral information about products that they may choose to take, or decide to forego even if they may help.

Individuals across the US should have the personal freedom to try this valuable resource if they choose to.

The decision to ban kratom is going to severely harm some of the states' most desperate and vulnerable individuals who cannot get adequate pain management or are trying to stop the use of deadly street drugs, causing far more death and misery than its continued legality risks.

Placing it in C-I completely contradicts the available science on this medication, and is the reason the FDA has not met its legal burden to include it, and the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence determined it is not warrant critical review.

I find this action ableist and extremely offensive.

CommentID: 222685

Commenter: Daniel Wurz

6/3/24 7:38 pm

Do not add to schedule 1

Definitely a bad move. I have seen it help so many people

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

11/750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

CommentID: 222686

Commenter: Chauncey Beaston, The Where You're At Foundation
Scheduling Kratom will cause MORE FENTANYL DEATHS!!

6/3/24 7:39 pm

I am the Executive Director of The Where You're At Foundation in Henrico, VA. We work directly to save the lives of people who use drugs and people with Substance Use Disorder. People use Kratom for a multitude of reasons ie depression, anxiety, pain management, & harm reduction. Scheduling Kratom will cause all of the people using it to search for relief from Illicit Substances. Even people who misuse Kratom are alive today because it is keeping them off of Heroin and Fentanyl. And as somebody who does not want to see MORE PEOPLE DIE, I have to implore you to NOT schedule Kratom. This would be a grave mistake and exacerbate the overdose crisis, not just for people with Substance Use Disorder, but people who use Kratom to find relief from legitimate health issues. The majority of people who use Kratom do NOT misuse it. It is not a dangerous Substance. And scheduling it will not keep off of it. It will just force them to turn to more deadly substances. Please help keep our loved ones safe by NOT scheduling Kratom, or you will literally have blood on your hands!

CommentID: 222687

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 7:41 pm

Kratom

I do not support this petition to add kratom. Please leave kratom alone!!

CommentID: 222688

Commenter: Lauren Barbour, Origin Wellness

6/3/24 7:41 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

Kratom has great potential for assisting with chronic pain. Kratom used safely and responsibly has the potential to save lives without a doubt.

CommentID: 222689

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 7:43 pm

I do not support kratom ban!!

I do not support the kratom ban!!

CommentID: 222690

Commenter: Daniel

6/3/24 7:49 pm

Potential kratom ban

Plain and simple, kratom saved my life and the lives of plenty of friends and loved ones. Access to it is a basic human right.

CommentID: 222691

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

12/750

Commenter: Anonymous
Keep Kratom Legal

6/3/24 7:50 pm

There are multiple comments citing non-existent studies about the dangers of Kratom. Please reference the WHO committee who ruled last year that there is no evidence to support Kratom being harmful to society. Kratom has saved countless lives while also changing them for the better. Unless advocates for this legislation can show concrete proof of Kratom's negative effects (they can't, many have tried and justice has prevailed across the country), there is no grounds for a ban.

CommentID: 222692

Commenter: Mitra Mike

6/3/24 7:51 pm

Don't do this to kratom!

Kratom has saved my life and continues to do so daily to keep me off using harder more dangerous substances like heroine etc keep up it plant legal and available here in the state of Virginia! ?? ??

CommentID: 222693

Commenter: Jennifer Gillis

6/3/24 7:52 pm

Please do NOT schedule kratom

After waking up one day in 2005, paralyzed from my neck down, I was eventually diagnosed with transverse myelitis in 2006, becoming a chronic pain patient. For 13 years, I endured living in pain every day until I discovered kratom in May of 2019. I've been consuming it responsibly for nearly five years has granted me a second chance at life! Unlike any prescription pain medication I've been prescribed over the years, kratom has provided unparalleled relief. I no longer suffer every day; I can get out of bed and be a mom! I can go to school functions run errands, go to the store, and just live life without suffering. Though I regained mobility I still face many physical limitations, however I'm no longer confined by constant pain. Thanks to this amazing plant. Please don't schedule kratom in your state let the people have the freedom to choose how to manage their chronic pain. There are so many people suffering at it is this will only make it worse for the Virginia citizens who are relying on this plant to live a normal life.

CommentID: 222694

Commenter: Steven S

6/3/24 7:53 pm

Kratom

Protect Kratom. It's saving lives.

CommentID: 222695

Commenter: Angela Gilbert

6/3/24 7:54 pm

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1
Leave Kratom Alone!!!Its helping a ton of people!!!

I have been a Kratom Consumer for 5 years, and it has helped my arthritis and mental health issues tremendously!!!! I do believe it need's regulated though...I do support the fact that people should have a choice to do a natural product versus prescription drugs and they have a right to do so...I Am a supporter of the Kratom Consumer Protection Act, and I believe it should be considered before Criminalizing People for trying to help themselves.... Thank You

CommentID: 222696

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 7:55 pm

Ezekiel 46:12

Ezekiel 47:12 in the Bible says, "All kinds of fruit trees will grow on both banks of the river, and their leaves will not dry and die. The trees will have fruit every month, because the water for them comes from the Temple. The fruit from the trees will be used for food, and their leaves for medicine".

Kratom is medicine! Please don't take away a plant that God provided. Thank you.

CommentID: 222697

Commenter: Steven S

6/3/24 7:55 pm

Protect Kratom. It's saving lives.

Protect Kratom. It's saving lives.

CommentID: 222698

Commenter: Angie Dunbar

6/3/24 7:56 pm

I do not support the ban

Kratom is necessary for individuals that suffer from crippling conditions. The only reason for the push from pharmacies is due to the fact it takes away their business. Kratom is a natural supplement.

CommentID: 222699

Commenter: Colin M

6/3/24 7:58 pm

Please do not restrict this item that many people find useful

I was a drinking-to-die alcoholic and Kratom helped me get my life back. I know for others it has helped with pain management, and for others it helps with a myriad of other issues. Please do not needlessly restrict this supplement that so many rely on. Doing so risks putting many people in recovery and in pain in danger of losing a strong support item in their arsenal to stay healthy.

CommentID: 222700

Commenter: RK

6/3/24 8:00 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

The potential for Kratom to cause physical, psychological, and social harm, is minimal, especially when compared to other legal substances. There are robust scientific findings to confirm my statement above. In fact, recent research has helped shed light on the multitude of potential benefits of Kratom use in certain scenarios. To those of you wish to outlaw this substance I strongly suggest you consult the scientific literature instead of relying on anecdotes and appeals to emotion.

CommentID: 222701

Commenter: Charles Yahnis

6/3/24 8:06 pm

I do not support the ban of kratom. I do not support this petition.

I do not support the ban of kratom and its alkaloids. Kratom has saved my life from chronic back pain and it literally causes zero mental obsession aka phenomenon of craving like most substances do. I have zero side effects from taking it and live a happy life. I can't say the same thing about the medicines my pain doctor tried to prescribe. I do not support this petition. Keep kratom legal; it's the final standing pillar of harm reduction for both addiction and chronic pain.

CommentID: 222702

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 8:06 pm

Keep Kratom Legal!

All efforts to schedule Kratom should be redirected to regulation instead of scheduling! Kratom is a powerful Alcohol and Opioid ALTERNATIVE, the former of which is never talked about scheduling.

ALL adverse effects of this ingredient are from product misuse and overly powerful products, none can be linked to a normal safe dosage for an individual without comorbidities.

Regulation to curb misuse and underage use MUST be enacted by state and/or federal congress instead of senseless scheduling of a proven medicinal ingredient!

CommentID: 222703

Commenter: Michael

6/3/24 8:08 pm

Kratom and Death

My father died in 2013 due to an overdose of doctor prescribed pharmaceuticals. According to the tox screen it was a mix of oxycodone, hydrocodone, alprazolam, and cacarisoprodo. He died 1 year before I found kratom. The same kratom that has saved myself, and my 2 brothers from falling victim to opiate drug abuse. All 3 of us are sober now, and it is ONLY because we had kratom available as a tool. If you remove access to this drug kratom, you will cause more deaths. My father would still be here today, if he had known about kratom. Please, do not remove people's ability to make their own decisions.

CommentID: 222704

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 8:08 pm

Kratom helps

Please do not make Kratom illegal. It is simply not the devil these uneducated pharmacists are. If you make it illegal the so called epidemic would become an epidemic. This is all political we have been over this and over this.

CommentID: 222705

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 8:09 pm

Kratom is helpful, not harmful. Please research the real science.

Due to a traumatic injury, sustained in 1998, which started the degeneration of my spine, I became a pain management patient for nearly two and a half decades. After many years of pain, suffering and disability, I heard about a documentary named "A Leaf of Faith". This informative documentary introduced me to the life changing plant named Kratom. As a medical professional, I'm very familiar with the human body and how it functions. The thought that a plant from nature could provide better benefits, without the harm of manufactured drugs, was ideal in my opinion.

Along with the known benefits of pharmaceutical medications, come quite a bit of negative side effects. I was intrigued to learn more about this natural option (Kratom), which was vastly different from the pharmaceuticals that I was prescribed for decades. I researched and read up on all the information available. I discontinued all my prescribed medications and decided to give this leaf a try. Very cautiously, I tried an extremely small amount of the powder. It provided relief from my chronic pain, along with a sense of well being... which was something I hadn't felt in a long time. I was surprised that my pain decreased significantly and the relief was better than the prescription meds that I was accustomed to taking daily. I take this plant as needed and my body doesn't produce any ill effects when I don't. This is a sense of freedom that I haven't had in decades. No longer am I tied to monthly doctor visits, tests and trips to the pharmacy.

We all are trying to navigate this life the best way we can, while being as happy and as healthy as we can. This plant provides this option for me and so many others. The KCPA exists to assure that safe products are available to many responsible consumers. We look to our leaders to support the matters that are important to us. Please support us by not scheduling this plant which is so beneficial to so many lives. If you with research the true science behind this plant and not get caught up in the targeted propaganda against it you will learn a lot. Pharmaceutical manufacturers do not want natural options taking away from their earnings. Thank you for your time and attention.

CommentID: 222706

Commenter: Joshua Ryan

6/3/24 8:14 pm

Scheduling Kratom

Kratom leaf tea should never be a scheduled or controlled substance -- not in a free state. I would highly advise against it and urge you to preserve the freedom of the people rather than criminalizing them. Criminalizing kratom would be very dangerous and do more harm than good and we will not allow it. Thank you for your time and your consideration of my comment. Folks who consume kratom are not criminals. God bless you all.

CommentID: 222707

Commenter: Adrian Hawkins

6/3/24 8:15 pm

I do not support this petition to make kratom a Schedule I criminal substance

I do not support this petition to make kratom a Schedule I criminal substance. Kratom has been life saving for so many people, including myself. This would be such a detriment to people who use kratom daily for pain and/or anxiety. I can actually go out of my house and into public because of kratom. I am no longer drinking alcohol to calm my nerves because of kratom.

Please do not make the mistake of scheduling kratom. It would harm so many people who need it.

CommentID: 222708

Commenter: Andrew Burcham

6/3/24 8:19 pm

Kratom ban

I don't think kratom should be banned. I think a kratom consumer protection act is a better choice. Please consider what everyone is trying to say in these comments!

CommentID: 222709

Commenter: Jason Ford

6/3/24 8:21 pm

I do not support this petition.

Kratom, a natural herb from Southeast Asia, offers significant benefits, including pain relief, anxiety reduction, and improved mood. It can also aid in opioid withdrawal, providing a safer alternative for those struggling with addiction. Given these therapeutic benefits, a complete ban on kratom would deny many people a valuable option for managing their health. However, implementing an age restriction is prudent to ensure it is used responsibly and prevent misuse by minors.

CommentID: 222710

Commenter: Eddie Coto

6/3/24 8:27 pm

Kratom is safe

I just wanted to mention my personal experience in that kratom helps me immensely with chronic back pain that I've had for close to a decade. I've been on pain medication for that amount of time as well and am able to take less of it because of my ability to access kratom. I do not find it addictive or harmful and consider it to enhance my life by reducing my pain exponentially. Any ban is detrimental to people who depend on it that would have to go to dangerous or inaccessible, ie street drugs or pain doctors, too get relief.

CommentID: 222711

Commenter: Jennifer Dzikowski

6/3/24 8:28 pm

Please learn the facts!

When I was a breaking news reporter, I refused to cover politics. I couldn't even stand the word. Now, I looked up candidates before elections and researched extensively before casting my vote.

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

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but that's where it ended. When I began covering kratom stories, I had no choice. I had to get into politics, this is a fight I knew had to be won after getting to know so many in the community. I will first share my experience at my own State Capitol in Madison, Wisconsin, and then will give you a glimpse of what it was like to advocate in Washington DC.

It was a hazy and long drive to the Capitol in Madison, where I was set to speak at a Session on legalizing kratom in the State. Wisconsin is just one of four States where the herb remains illegal, and also happens to be the first State to deem it illegal. Specifically the Session was about passing the Kratom Consumer Protection Act (KCPA), a bill enacted by the American Kratom Association (AKA), which numerous States have already signed in. I want to tell you about my personal experience, and hope it will inspire others to also make their voices heard!

It was in 2016 when I was exclusively a breaking news journalist, and came upon a Reddit post about kratom, a tropical evergreen tree from Southeast Asia that is part of the coffee family. I hadn't heard of before. The passion of those in I'm the thread was imminent, as the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) was desperately trying to place an emergency national ban on kratom.

Why An Emergency Ban?

The emergency ban threat was triggered by a 2009 report of deaths supposedly that were apparently linked to kratom. Specifically, the FDA focused on the deaths of nine people in Sweden who lost their lives after consuming Krypton, which was used to adulterate kratom from its natural form. Krypton contained a highly dangerous substance known as O-desmethyltramadol, a synthetic opioid. Even though Krypton was adulterated, they blamed kratom. Why? Big Pharma comes to mind.

The FDA was falsely blaming kratom in many deaths, which prompted the DEA to list kratom as an item of concern. Amongst the cited deaths, many had deadly combinations of such drugs as methamphetamine and fentanyl.

Speaking Out at Madison's Session

Over the years I've met numerous advocates, most online. When I stepped into the official room of the Session, I finally got to see faces I knew, but just hadn't yet met in person. I took a seat at the front, because honestly I was afraid of tripping when I had to stand up and walk to the desk where the microphone was to speak. I was alone until a "Southern Belle," who I later learned was Misti Friedl, kindly sat next to me. We had an instant connection. We made the same faces at each other during parts of the Session that were spot-on, or hilarious. We ended up taking bathroom and water breaks together too, as it was a long 8 hour day, which was predicted to be just 1.5 to three hours long, max. We were starving and absolutely spent by the end, when the public finally had the opportunity to speak. Having researched the herb for so many years and knowing full-well that it isn't dangerous as some make it out to be, there was no choice. We simply had to put our best foot forward and tell our stories. I was excited to tell the legislators about so many advocates who have quite literally turned their lives around, becoming productive citizens, because of kratom.

Officers Blame 'Yellow Foam' Coming Out of Man's Mouth on Kratom

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

We were also fired up. Why? Two Wisconsin police officers spoke out on the supposed "dangers" of kratom use. One described allegedly finding a man in a parked vehicle with yellow foam coming out of his mouth. Because there was kratom in the car, the officer insisted it must've been the kratom that caused the foam. You could hear the sighs from those who know the truth, that this has never ever happened in the history of kratom without the use of other highly potent drugs such as fentanyl or methamphetamine.

A legislator questioned the officer who made the claim. He asked the officer to repeat when the incident happened, which was "about two weeks" prior. When asked if toxicology was back yet, of course the answer was no. The officers also blamed several OUI's and DUI's due to kratom. This was reportedly researched, and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) was contacted. There has apparently been ZERO OUI's or DUI's based on kratom use alone in the State. Why would these officers lie? Were they paid off to state misconceptions in order to try and sway those in power? That's the million dollar question.

Hearing Other Advocates Speak Out

It was so refreshing to hear other kratom advocate's speak out about their own experiences, and that of their communities. Everyone spoke professionally, and with power in their voices. There was a couple who spoke about being censored by such huge entities as Google, where they have tried placing ads for their business. They do everything they need to do, get the ad up, only to have it removed. It was evident that even the politicians were shocked by this. Those advocates have a shop in a legal state, yet are still ostracized in a way that immensely affects their business.

There was a 90-year-old woman, Isla, who spoke about living in Wisconsin, but having to drive to Illinois when she seeks relief from kratom. Isla was accompanied by her two daughters, Dr. Heidi Sykora and Cindy. They share genetic issues that are extremely painful at times. Over the counter medications such as anti-inflammatory medications (think Advil and Aleve) are not an option, as they were wrecking havoc on their organ functions. Isla spoke about being able to get in her 5,000 steps per day with ease when she's in Illinois or another legal State where she can take kratom. When she returns to Wisconsin, she still tries her best to get in her steps, but it is painful.

You could hear a pin drop as Isla and her daughter spoke. Dr. Sykora has an extensive medical background, and has and continues to do lengthy research on kratom before taking it. Both said they can function normally when they take the herb, despite false media reports and the like saying that people take it only to get "high."

Speaking On My Own Journey

I spoke about my own journey which started in 2016 when I came upon a Reddit post about kratom. Never in my life had I heard of it, yet posts were blowing up regarding its legality. As a breaking news journalist, I took it upon myself to write about it. My first article garnered more than a million views, while the second had over two million views. I then came up with the hashtag #AmKratom, and had droves of people from all walks of life sending me their stories. So many that I couldn't possibly share them all.

I was able to find out just what the hype was about after an 8.5 hour surgery at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. I told the legislators how I was able to switch from heavy duty painkillers to only kratom the next day. It was so liberating to be able to function and think normally. Yes, I still had some pain, but it was the same or better than when I took the prescribed painkillers, uet with zero high.

My voice shook, but it was worth it. It was worth the nerves that it took to step up and tell the truth of my story, and to share the knowledge I have learned from fellow advocates. I believe each time speaking out will only make it more comfortable, and encourage all to do so if at all possible.

You can watch the full Session that took place at the Madison State Capitol here.

Onto Washington DC!

It was both exciting and a bit intimidating advocating for kratom in Washington D.C. So exciting because I was able to meet so many faces I know online or from American Kratom Association (AKA) Zoom meetings! Intimidating because this was advocacy on a whole different level, and I honestly didn't know what to expect.

Shortly after stepping off the plane, I was greeted by fellow advocate Misti Friedl, whom I had previously met in Madison. She flew in with Shaina Brown, a kratom consumer who was in legal trouble that advocates, along with the AKA, strongly petitioned to free.

Once we arrived at the hotel, we were greeted by so many other advocates that were also staying there, and it was so refreshing! Everyone was so kind, and most of us a bit nervous not knowing what to expect. After dinner was finished we headed back to our rooms to sleep before a very busy day ahead.

The next morning we all got into our Lyft's and headed to the U.S. Capitol. There we were greeted by the AKA, who was holding a meeting on what to expect over that and the following day. We were given packets with loads of information to drop off to legislators. And that's exactly what we did.

Dr. Heidi Sykora, her mother Isla, and sister Cindy banded together, as we are all from Wisconsin. We met with several different people who worked in our State's official offices, including Kiley Mulligan, Legislative Coordinator for Health Affairs.

Kiley Mulligan was so kind and compassionate as we all went through our stories with her. She listened and asked questions. She seemed a bit as puzzled as we are that it is a crime to consume kratom in Wisconsin. I mean it's even legal in Washington D.C.! Wisconsin was, not surprisingly, the first State to ban the botanical. It is known as being very conservative, and getting laws changed such as legalizing kratom is a long, drawn-out process. We continued on to other offices, and were able to only drop off the packets in some cases, while we were able to speak with a few aides in others. It was humbling to finally feel like we were being listened to.

We then headed to a luncheon put together by the AKA, and listened to scientists, fellow lobbyists and members of the AKA.

Dr. Marilyn Huestis, Chief, Chemistry and Drug Metabolism · National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA IRP), National Institutes of Health (NIH), did a fantastic job of outlining the tremendous amount of research she has personally done on kratom's effects. She had a professional slideshow outlining many of her studies, including one that outlined the main reasons as to why people said they take kratom in the first place. Some of the top self-reported reasons included in this particular slide, titled "Not only harm-reduction any longer," are as follows:

- Just to feel less crappy, improve quality of life
- Boost energy/stamina/endurance for work/exercise
- Kratom is safer than other substances
- Self treat anxiety symptoms
- Self treat depression issues
- Reduce social anxiety
- Relieve short term pain
- Treat long term pain

People also reported relief from conditions such as ADHD, alcohol and other addictions, and because they have little or no access to opiates they were once prescribed.

In another slide, Dr. Huestis stated that the "main risks [of kratom] appear due to contamination and adulteration--product form." This slide was particularly important for kratom's future in the United States, and why the AKA is working so hard to regulate the herb in all States and on a Federal level. Without regulation, people who don't vet their vendors may not realize they are taking adulterated products, or products that haven't been tested by a third-party lab.

It's absolutely crucial that consumers are buying from vendors that not only use third-party labs, but also follow the AKA's GMP Standards Program.

Each speaker, in my opinion, left advocates with a sense of hope for the future of kratom. Truth based on science and extensive studies. Dr. Heidi Skykora said it well

(blockquote) Dr. Heidi Skykora said it well:

Block Quote] I see it as filling the bucket of information and motivation for legislators to act. Some legislative issues require a large bucket of information including scientific facts, personal experiences, financial considerations, etc. The more we as advocates put in that bucket the greater

chance of success to pass a bill. Sometimes it feels like we are wasting our time but each year we fill that bucket more which eventually will lead to success.

In DC we started with an empty bucket but next time we go the bucket won't be empty. The Wisconsin Kratom advocacy bucket is at least 3/4 full. We need to overflow that bucket in 2024-2025. It has to be so full that it can't be used as political leverage.

Despite the traveling distance, it was easier to advocate in DC because I could take Kratom. Wisconsin advocacy is a painful journey.

Madalyn Skylar, Founder of Kratom Stories Podcast, reinforced how beneficial it was to be able to meet with those in power. "I was able to sit down and speak with my House Representative's aide," she said. "She took the time to listen to my story about kratom and how it's impacted me over the last five years. I feel strongly that advocating for our plant is incredibly important. We all have a voice."

CommentID: 222712

Commenter: James hermann

6/3/24 8:29 pm

American dream

America is being ruined by u just laws. Please allow Americans to have their God given right to use this supplement. It has changed lives.

CommentID: 222713

Commenter: Carlos

6/3/24 8:29 pm

Stop scheduling

I wanted to express my concern and this proposed ban. This is detrimental to myself and the Citizens of Virginia. Kratom, when consume responsibly, the benefits outweighs the cons. I ask that you reconsider your position, as kratom has saved many lives all across the US.

Thank you!

CommentID: 222714

Commenter: Avery

6/3/24 8:30 pm

Kratos is safe and it saves lives

Kratom has been proven to be safe. Kratom helps many American's lives every single day. Scheduling it would be doing a huge disservice to many many people.

CommentID: 222715

Commenter: Lenin Reyes

6/3/24 8:30 pm

Do not support the ban

The pharmaceutical industry had a hand in the opioid epidemic and now they are trying to ban the #1 thing that has allowed people to get their lives back. Wanting to keep people dependent on street drugs and pharmaceutical drugs is pure evil and speaks volumes about the Board of Pharmacy's intentions.

CommentID: 222716

Commenter: Haley Stidd

6/3/24 8:30 pm

I do not support the kratom ban.

I do not support the kratom ban.

CommentID: 222717

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 8:31 pm

I do not support this petition. Keep Kratom legal!

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: 222718

Commenter: Brandon Boi

6/3/24 8:31 pm

I do not support this petition

Kratom is a safe alternative to deadly opiates. Please follow the science...it does not lie.

CommentID: 222719

Commenter: Bryson Smith

6/3/24 8:31 pm

I DO NOT support this petition

Please do your research on kratom and see the potential it has to help people. It has helped countless people and will only hurt to consider them a criminal for being a consumer. Please do not fall prey to the misinformation that big pharma and big pharma supporters have created on kratom. It has turned me into a productive member of society and to not allow people access to this would be an actual crime.

CommentID: 222720

Commenter: Kyle

6/3/24 8:31 pm

Keep kratom legal

Stop prohibition!!

CommentID: 222721

Commenter: Andrew H. Lewis

6/3/24 8:31 pm

Kratom is safe

I have been using Kratom for years to help with anxiety and GI issues. If you use an archaic method to schedule kratom it will be sold on a black market and it makes it unsafe for consumers. Empirical evidence shows that a ban on a substance by the government does nothing but create criminals out of normal citizens. Alcohol is far more dangerous than Kratom ever thought to be. Please use logic and read all of the articles. Don't let someone guide you without your proper research.

CommentID: 222722

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 8:32 pm

Please do not ban kratom

Hello, a loved one in my life has used kratom responsibly for years and it has been an enormous benefit to them in helping alleviate symptoms related to PTSD and pain. They are not "high" or intoxicated in any way when they use kratom--they are themselves again, like how they were before the accident they survived. Please do not take this away, it saves lives. I support regulation like age limits and testing to ensure there are no adulterants or contamination but an outright ban will hurt families and make others turn to hard drugs. Please do not do this!

CommentID: 222723

Commenter: Hill Rossin

6/3/24 8:32 pm

Stop Kratom Ban!!!

Kratom helps so many. No to the ban!

CommentID: 222724

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 8:32 pm

Do Not Criminalize Kratom

I ask that you do not outlaw Kratom, it has more benefits than detriments to the populace. There are far more dangerous and serious substances to warrant the attention and efforts of the state government of Virginia.

CommentID: 222725

Commenter: Carter

6/3/24 8:32 pm

In Regards To Kratom Ban:

I do not live in Virginia, however banning Kratom won't be an ideal & safe choice. From personal experience & from a state that provides KC/PA, Kratom has been efficient for me work-wise & is a safer alternative to other opiates. It has helped keep me active with superb pain management, as well as helped me wind down. It's very easy to take a break from (depending on the individual) and banning it will only lead to negative consequences.

Prohibition has never worked. All it does is prevents people from seeking efficient medicines, & throws non-violent people in cages. Ruining the lives of individuals who partake in substance use.

Kind regards.

CommentID: 222726

Commenter: James Eubanks

6/3/24 8:32 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

Please don't make Kratom a schedule 1 drug. It has helped me and countless others beat opioid addiction!

CommentID: 222727

Commenter: Joseph F

6/3/24 8:32 pm

Kratom helped me turn my life around

Was addicted to heroin after service in the US Army with 2 tours in combat. Was suicidal, had nothing to live for. Veteran said to try kratom, I quit heroin and got my life back. Now, 5+ years later, I'm married, bought a house, on way to get my PhD in history, just started my master's at Buff St after finishing my bachelor's.

However, I used it as a replacement therapy. After then 15 straight years of being on opiates or Suboxone, kratom just replaced those and allowed me to function normally without getting high. Eventually, you have to pay the piper. Low doses are best. Using it for long term opiate use can be a life saver but you'll have to take it daily. It saved my life, forever grateful.

CommentID: 222728

Commenter: Natalie Thompson

6/3/24 8:33 pm

The science supports that kratom is safe.

The FDAs own study showed that kratom at 12 grams barely causes adverse reactions and you're trying to say it should be a schedule 1. The science has over and over proven kratom can be safe. Stop trying to control people and plants because you'd rather push dangerous and addictive pharmaceuticals onto the population instead. Maybe worry about the pills you let destroy this nation and leave natural plants alone.

CommentID: 222729

Commenter: RICH SLATTEN

6/3/24 8:33 pm

Do not support this. Dan

way of right mind. Can you support this ban.

CommentID: 222730

Commenter: Matt

6/3/24 8:33 pm

I do not support a ban on kratom

I do not support a ban on kratom. It is harmless and has plenty of benefits.

CommentID: 222731

Commenter: Stephenie

6/3/24 8:34 pm

Kratom saves lives

I started taking kratom after being on pain pills forever due to my chronic pain. The started to slowly consume my life and I felt like I was going to have to be on them for life and I was beyond depressed and wasn't sure what to do. Someone told me about kratom and it has changed my life. It helps with my pain just as much as the pain pills did. And I know it's better for me. I don't have to worry about an accidental overdose or the major issues pain pills were causing my body and my personal life. Please do your research!!

CommentID: 222732

Commenter: Bud the swamp water guy

6/3/24 8:34 pm

Kratom saved my life.

Hi,

My name is Bud Smith. I started taking pills when I was 13. To handle my life and the abuse I endured, I spent 17 years doing all kinds of drugs illegal, legal, alcohol, and perscriptions. Abusing all of them. I have a list of all the perscriptions I have been given by doctors for my ptsd, anxiety, depression, paranoia, adhd, and autism. The list of perscriptions is about 150 perscriptions. Sometimes 4 at a time. None of them helped me ever. I spent a good 5 years waking up everyday wanting to kill myself and I tried. I couldn't keep jobs, I had 0 personal items because I sold them all for drugs. I did countless bad things for drugs. I found kratom 6 years ago and have been clean off of everything for 5 1/2 years includes alcohol. I also quit smoking pot 20 months ago. I wake up every morning happier than I ever been. I keep a job, I have a house and two vehicles. It's not just my life that has been saved. It's my four kids and wife. All my life people have always left me because who I was. Now I have a family that will never leave me. That's not because of them. It's because of me. I changed myself. I work full time and go to the gym 3 to 5 times a week. Taking kratom away would not only take me away from my family, it would take 15 million Americans away from their family. 1/3 of the people using kratom as a tool are taking to stay off pain pills. Making kratom illegal wouldn't do anything positive. Kratom is the key to stopping the opioid epidemic. The reason the FDA is making kratom sound so bad is because kratom is taking away from their pill business. The fda makes 14 billion per year. The pharmaceutical industry has made over 2 trillion dollars in the past 20 years. While alcohol kills 140,000 deaths per year and cigarettes 490,000 deaths per year. Kratom kills 0 per year. Pure unadulterated kratom kills no one. The real reason it's looked at badly and lied about is because people cannot profit off of it.

Thank you for reading this
CommentID: 222733

Commenter: Medea Latham
Kratom

6/3/24 8:34 pm

My name is Medea Latham and my Kratom story started in February of 2017. Let me give you a little background. In January 2015 I was put in the hospital with Pneumonia. I was on continuous oxygen and continued with it after coming home. A few months later, actually Mother's Day of 2015, I was getting ready for church. I told my Mom I had the worst headache I had ever had. I went unresponsive and an ambulance was called. They were told that I had a massive brain bleed. They took me to emergency surgery. I was in a coma for about a week. I woke up to being on 4 kinds of blood pressure medicines. I am a disabled RN with 2 young adult sons. At the time, I was bedridden with Multiple Sclerosis and Fibromyalgia. I have COPD and Heart disease and Diabetes. I found out about Kratom in a Fibromyalgia support group from a couple of friends. I did a lot of research on this due to my medical background. After the first time taking it, my Mom, my caregiver asked me how I was feeling. I started crying and told her that I was pain free for the first time in many years. A little over 5 years later, I am no longer bedridden, I am the healthiest I have ever been. My Diabetes is in remission, I am no longer wearing oxygen 24° a day, my pain is still relieved with my Kratom. I still take the same amount I have always taken. I am now my Mother's caregiver. My sons have a Real Mom for the first time in their lives. I am a productive member of society again. Today June 14,2023, 7 years after my brain bleed and surgery, I was finally taken off my blood pressure medicine by my doctor. KRATOM SAVES LIVES. Please consider supporting the Kratom Consumer Protection Act.

CommentID: 222734

Commenter: Anonymous
Keep Kratom

6/3/24 8:34 pm

Kratom is helpful to so many especially when chronic pain is not being treated by many physicians. There are no adverse side effects and no "high, just relief.

CommentID: 222735

Commenter: Adam Stewart
Kratom saved my life

6/3/24 8:35 pm

Without Kratom I wouldn't be alive. I have a serious and diagnosed form of general anxiety disorder, so bad it's landed me in the hospital countless times. I've been through some of the worst episodes you could ever imagine. Through the really hard times, like divorce, losing my grandpa etc, the anxiety was too much to bear. Suicide was going to be my solution. It was the only solution- pharmaceuticals make me feel WORSE and they don't work. There's chemicals in them and who knows what lasting permanent damage they will do to a person. In fact, it is my belief that pharmaceuticals may have actually caused the problems I have. One is confirmed, which was Accutane. I took it as a teenager. FDA approved but it caused many people to commit suicide. It could very well be the cause of my mental anguish, the only difference is I didn't go through with it. **NATURAL MEDICINE IS GOOD MEDICINE.** One day while I was at the very end of my rope, by some giant miracle, I was recommended to try Kratom. From the first try, it immediately unlocked some problem in my brain that I've never been able to cure. All of a sudden I could live a normal life,

and life has been absolutely beautiful for me ever since. I can finally be a normal person! I've been taking it for over seven years, it hasn't caused any side effects whatsoever, and I'm able to live without suffering. Kratom is a miracle cure for so many people, and so many ailments, and it's 100% natural from Mother Earth. I believe it has been placed on our planet by our creator(s), specifically for our use. If Kratom goes away, I will no doubt commit suicide. I won't be able to cope. I'll be right back to the moment where it was recommended to me, where I was suffering immensely and ready to end my life. I beg of you, please stop what you're doing. Please do what is right. If you don't have mental problems then I get that you won't understand. We are all different, and we all have different needs. Please stop this.
CommentID: 222736

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 8:35 pm

Banning Kratom will hurt more than it would help. Do not support the ban!

I am going to keep the short. I have used kratom for the last six years and it has given me my life back. From being addicted to prescription pills (benzos & opiates). I now use this wonderful natural plant to keep me sober and help with my depression and anxiety, with little to no side effects please consider not banning this miraculous plant. It will do more harm to people than Kratom could ever do. if you need more information, look at all the studies that are coming out, including the one the World Health Organization did that proved Kratom is not as dangerous as people think and banning it would cause a surplus of problems and overdose increases!

CommentID: 222737

Commenter: Cary Walker
Make an informed decision

6/3/24 8:35 pm

Kratom helps me lead a productive life. I am an otherwise completely normal and boring executive at a fortune 200 company. unfortunately, I suffer from debilitating back pain. My doctor in the past has prescribed highly addictive opioids to treat my illness. This was somewhat effective, although addictive, and changes in legislation here have made these drugs more difficult to obtain. It's also again, of course unsafe and addictive. Kratom provides me with a wonderful option to addictive prescription opioids. I am able to take it several times a day and it helps immensely with my pain. Again, I'm perfectly normal and boring. I'm not addicted to Kratom. I'm not strung out. I am a highly productive parent and employee. Taking Kratom away will force me to try to turn to much less safe alternatives. Airwenatives that have been proven to lead to addiction. I've taken Kratom safely for over seven years, under the advice and supervision of my physician by the way. Please don't take this away.

CommentID: 222738

Commenter: Erik
Do not schedule

6/3/24 8:35 pm

Kratom is a tool used by so many to better their life. Please uphold the consumer protection act that is currently standing.

CommentID: 222739

Commenter: Jennifer Batchelor

6/3/24 8:35 pm

Kratom has no business being scheduled

Kratom, safe and effective for so many reasons and needs, has absolutely no business being scheduled. There is nothing but false reporting showing kratom to be safe when safe, regulated and provided in it's pure form. Adults have the absolute right to utilize natural and safe supplements and to schedule kratom would be more damaging than helpful. The florida department of law enforcement once acknowledged that kratom was beneficial when seeing illegal tainted drug supply harming and taking the lives of so many was a true issue. Kratom was only beneficial in this light. States that have adopted the Kratom protection legislation to ensure safe, pure and regulated supplies of kratom have also seen positive results. Scheduling any substance NEVER works and to try it again with a natural plant would be an even bigger mistake in light of it's efficacy. Do not schedule this plant or any of it's alkaloids if you care about your constituents!

CommentID: 222740

Commenter: Lisa M.

6/3/24 8:35 pm

Ignorance...please follow the science

Kratom has been a life saver for me. Opioids do not work for my kind of pain nor do they agree with me. Most medication does not agree with me. Kratom is safe and highly effective for so many of us struggling with fibromyalgia and other illnesses. Please do your homework and listen to the facts presented to you about this life-changing supplement. Please.....!

CommentID: 222741

Commenter: Brian

6/3/24 8:35 pm

Kratom saves lives

Kratom helps pain management patients escape the narcotic prison, it's very useful

CommentID: 222742

Commenter: Wayne Miller

6/3/24 8:35 pm

Kratom changed my life

Let me preface this with a little family history. My mother's side of the family are almost all alcoholics. Her father ran his car of a bridge around the age of 50, because he was drunk driving, and 2 of her 3 brothers died in their 40s, from alcoholism. My mother, although not as bad they were, is also an alcoholic. I didn't meet my father until i was 24, and when i did, i found out that he also drank at least a 12 pack of beer a day. I spent most of my life addicted to alcohol since age 14. By 16, I was drinking every night to the point of being drunk. At 25, I started drinking in the morning and all day long. I needed 5 or 6 drinks before work just so I wouldn't shake so bad. Several times, I tried to quit drinking, and within 36 hours, I would go into seizures. Did the detox a few times, but wasn't strong enough to stay away from the alcohol. Went away to a great Christian rehab in 2011. It was a 9 week program and i made it through sober. I followed that up with living at a Christian halfway house for 3 months. Life was new. I was new. It was great. But at some point, you have to live in the unprotected "real world". Within a few months, I started getting those alcohol cravings back. This was 2012. I didn't want to go down that road that has brought me and my loved ones so much pain. So I started searching on the internet and found out about a leaf called

kratom that some alcoholics had used to quit and abstain from alcohol. I wasn't drinking yet, but was real close. I was very skeptical, but I was desperate not to go back into my own personal hell. It took about a few weeks to get my dosage right, but it worked. I couldn't believe it. I could make it through the day and not be fighting those generational demons that had haunted me my whole life. It was too good to be true. I took it everyday and my quality of life reached a level i had never witnessed or thought possible. Then in 2015/2016, I had heard that kratom was getting banned. I had just had my first daughter and didn't want to put that in jeopardy by having illegal substances in my home, so I quit taking kratom. Within 3 weeks, started drinking again. Within 4 months, I had lost everything, including my marriage, license again, job, and relationship with my daughter. February 1, 2017 I enrolled myself in a year long rehab. Did great there. I can stay sober in a protected atmosphere with no temptation around me, but unfortunately the world isn't like that. After graduating that program i decided that i would start life over in a whole new area to me just miles from where this rehab was. Within a few weeks, the cravings for alcohol was creeping back. I surely didn't want to go down that road again. I was 40 years old and didn't have much fight or hope in me left should i give in to my addiction. I remember thinking to myself, if only kratom didn't get banned. (I forgot to mention that at the year long rehab, we had no television, internet, etc, so had no way to keep up with what was going on in the real world, let alone the news on kratom). Little did I realize, it was never banned. I ordered some immediately. I sit here writing this 5 years later. I have remarried, I see my child regularly, I have excelled at my job. I own 3 cars (most of my life I barely owned 1 because of DUIs, and lack of financial resources because of my addiction). These last 5 years have been my best. I could have saved myself from alot of pain had I found this earlier in life. But I'm lucky. 12 of the guys I was in the year long rehab with, have died from overdose. There is some guilt about me not keeping up with them as good as I should have, because I could have probably saved a few of them by telling them about kratom. I will be forever grateful for this leaf, that gave me a life i never thought was possible.

CommentID: 222743

Commenter: Jennifer Sommerfield

6/3/24 8:35 pm

Keep kratom legal

I wanted to write on the importance of keeping kratom legal. Unadulterated Kratom is not harmful. I learned about Kratom about 6 years ago. I was taken off medication that worked for me and was given a few different prescriptions for pain. All did not help, the side effects were the worst. Since finding kratom, I am full time employed for the last 3 years. I was part time prior to that for 2. There's no side effects I manage my pain and feel great. Please help keep our plant legal. There's many like me who found this wonderful plant to help with daily life. Pure unadulterated Kratom saves.

thank you for your time,

Jennifer Sommerfield

CommentID: 222744

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 8:36 pm

STOP!

Kratom has benefited me greatly for years! Making it illegal is a mistake!

CommentID: 222745

Commenter: Michael Rivera II
Saved my family

6/3/24 8:36 pm

Kratom saves lives. You might as well make coffee schedule 1 then .

CommentID: 222746

Commenter: Anonymous
kratom has saved my life

6/3/24 8:36 pm

Please read the facts! Kratom is an extremely useful & safe plant. Without kratom, I wouldn't have the "life" I have now. I was living in a nursing home at age 36 & have chronic pain daily. I didn't want to go down the opioid path & kratom had helped me get a "life" again. Otherwise, I was in too much pain to do anything or be useful to anyone. It was a sad & frankly, suicidal condition I was in because I could barely move! Kratom has literally saved my life & has given me a life worth living again. Opioids couldn't of done for me what Kratom, when properly used, has done for me.

Please read all the facts & listen to all sides with an open mind & heart. The removal of Kratom would revert people with chronic pain either back to their old lives or they'll have to resort to opioid use, which we all know is a dangerous & slippery slope. Kratom is NOT like that whatsoever. Please help preserve the lives of the people like me that use this plant in order to live and be a contributing member of society.

CommentID: 222747

Commenter: Sherry Lopez

6/3/24 8:36 pm

Kratom is safe to use and shouldn't be criminalized

Kratom is safe and should not be criminalized

CommentID: 222748

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 8:36 pm

Don't enact legislation that impacts people negatively fir something you don't understand.

Kratom is one of the most useful plant substances, and literally saves lives

CommentID: 222749

Commenter: Dave

6/3/24 8:36 pm

Kratom is saving lives if handled correctly

Regulation (over 18, health inspections,safety precautions, testing) is key. To il legalize it is to hurt recovering people that could benefit from it.

CommentID: 222750

Commenter: Sean Roberts

6/3/24 8:36 pm

BANNING KRATOM IS NOT THE WAY!

Doing so will solve nothing. Kratom is not causing anyone any issues no matter what the nay sayers claim. It's something that should be enjoyed by responsible adults and not criminalized. This ban will cause nothing but a newer addition to the black market. If you think it won't then you aren't living in reality. So the smart thing. Do the right thing. Leave kratom be.

CommentID: 222751

Commenter: DO

6/3/24 8:36 pm

Please thoroughly research this subject, the evidence does not support banning whatsoever.

Proposals like this ban should not be considered until actual scientific research on the subject has been reviewed. Bans have been halted all over the country once people familiarize themselves with the facts, so I urge you to put aside the nonsense and take a look, please.

CommentID: 222752

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 8:36 pm

Kratom is completely safe - stop this insanity

Kratom does not cause respiratory depression (which is why opiates kill) or an opiate high. It has been known to treat many conditions effectively and safely which is why big pharma hates it. Amist a huge opiate epidemic and fentanyl genocide you're going to go after Kratom? That's like going after coffee drinkers amidst the crack epidemic. For the people, right?!

CommentID: 222753

Commenter: Emily M

6/3/24 8:36 pm

Please consider, this ban is not supported by Virginians.

As a tax-paying citizen of Virginia it's my opinion this ban would not benefit Virginians. This substance is not harmful to the public. Please consider the research that's already been done. Instead of banning a naturally occurring plant alkaloid, put your energy into researching how it can help people. These bans feel led by pharmaceutical lobbyism, and not in the best interest of Virginians.

CommentID: 222754

Commenter: Rubin Bustamante

6/3/24 8:37 pm

Do what's right, keep kratom legal.

I do not support this petition. kratom has helped millions of people and allowing big pharma to get their hands on this miracle plant would be the worst thing that could happen.

CommentID: 222755

Commenter: MARK CASH

6/3/24 8:37 pm

Do not schedule

Please do not schedule kratom. You are taking away a safe choice and pathway for many folks.

CommentID: 222756

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 8:37 pm

Do not support this ban!

Kratom is saving lives and helping people. It has helped me immensely. Instead focus on things that are actually harming people. The science states that Kratom is not one of those things! Follow the science!

CommentID: 222757

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 8:38 pm

Science

Why? Because it touches opiate receptors? Are you against endorphins too?

CommentID: 222758

Commenter: Dave

6/3/24 8:38 pm

YOU'RE GOING TO KILL PEOPLE

Criminalizing kratom in the state of Virginia would force hundreds of thousands of productive citizens to resort to the only thing available - clandestine fentanyl. It will ultimately kill nearly all of them, and the minority who do not immediately drop dead will become a burden on the Virginian taxpayers.

Passing this would also ensure that I never visit there or contribute a cent to the Virginian economy.

CommentID: 222759

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 8:38 pm

Do not ban Kratom!

Do the research before arbitrarily enacting bans on safe and helpful plants such as Kratom. There is currently an opiate epidemic in our country. Kratom is a safe and natural way to help reduce the casualties from this epidemic! I do not support this petition!

CommentID: 222760

Commenter: Rich

6/3/24 8:39 pm

KEEP KRATOM LEGAL!

I'm 34 years old. In 2015, I got rear-ended by a vehicle that was traveling at a high rate of speed. Since then, I have had horrible back pain that greatly reduced my quality of life. I

have multiple spinal injuries now that cause me to wake up at night in pain and unable to do things that I love, including kayaking, biking, working out, and working in general. The pain killers helped, but the doctors wouldn't continue to prescribe them to me because they are "addictive". My pain management came to a halt and all the other pills prescribed didn't help. A friend told me to try kratom for my back pain and I've been using it as needed since 2016. It has greatly impacted my quality of life and I can sleep throughout the night, and do those things I love doing without having to stop from the pain. Banning kratom is banning my last treatment option I have to be a productive member of society. I don't only speak this on behalf of myself, but for all the people that use kratom as a part of their own treatment plan. Veterans that fought for our freedom, law enforcement that put their lives on the line for the public's safety, truck drivers, older people with chronic pain and young people that lost hope for a better today. We speak out for the majority because we found something that's natural and helps us live better lives with less pain. Banning kratom is not the way to go. At most, there should be an age restriction on the sale of kratom, and that is it.

CommentID: 222761

Commenter: anon

6/3/24 8:39 pm

please stop the criminalization

Safe herbal solutions used for hundreds of years by adults should not be made illegal. Especially kratom, with such an incredible safety record. Look at how many die from Tylenol. Kratom is an incredible tool against the opiate epidemic. Banning kratom is honestly mind boggling to me, almost as if those pushing the criminalization want more people to die. Its heartbreaking.

CommentID: 222762

Commenter: Liz

6/3/24 8:39 pm

Do Not Criminalize Kratom

Hello,

Please do more research into Kratom before you ban it. It is NOT a synthetic opioid like some uneducated doctor's say that it is. It is a plant that is a member of the Coffee and Tea plant family.

Kratom is what got me off of hard PRESCRIPTION drugs (namely Vicodin, Percocet, MS Contin (morphine sustained release tablets), Xanax, Tramadol, & Fentanyl). I have worked in the pharmaceutical industry for over 6 years and it kills me that people are taking prescription medications that do more damage than good. Plants have been highly underestimated in this country and it's time to put some actual research into them instead of banning them because they're "scary" or "not well known".

Please do not ban this plant. It has helped many drug addicts get off of hardcore drugs such as Heroin, Ketamine, Oxycodone, Morphine, etc. If you ban this plant, you are taking away people's chances for recovery from drug addiction.

You all are basically doing what this country did when Marijuana was popping off. Please do not repeat that mistake.

Educate yourself. Talk to Kratom growers, herbalists, and herbologists. Get to know what this plant is all about before making any decisions concerning banning Kratom.

Don't prove the American people right about how the "government" operates.....thru lies, cheating, and deception. Do the right thing.

That is all.
Thanks,
-Liz

CommentID: 222763

Commenter: Kalend Hamlin

6/3/24 8:39 pm

Kratom Saves Lives.

Kratom is safe and should not be made out to be dangerous. I use kratom everyday for chronic pain, and it has helped me get my life on track. The other alternatives that big pharma present are extremely dangerous and cause more issues than solutions. The fact that big pharma hates kratom is a testament to their lack of morals and principles.

CommentID: 222764

Commenter: Bonnie

6/3/24 8:39 pm

Kratom ban

Look at the actual science - kratom is safe and beneficial. Do not support this wasteful and unjust legislation.

CommentID: 222765

Commenter: Jeanine Jewell Sattler

6/3/24 8:40 pm

Kratom saves lives

My name is Jeanine and I suffer with chronic pain. I was in a car accident in my early 20's that changed my life forever. I went to the best doctors who perscribed opioids and I took them for 18yrs. For 18yrs I struggled with the physical and emotional ups and downs of taking those drugs but without them I was un able to function. I stopped taking opioids 8yrs ago and only take Kratom. Kratom has saved my life. I have no problem not taking it the days I don't need it and I can be productive on the days I do need to take it. Without Kratom I believe opioids would have eventually destroyed my marriage and my career. Because of Kratom I can work and live my life. I don't know what I would do if I had to go back on opioids. Please educate yourself. This is a safe product that has given many people their lives back.

CommentID: 222766

Commenter: Cassie

6/3/24 8:40 pm

PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING!

Please listen to the ACTUAL research! Do not make this a scheduled substance! It hurts NO ONE! You will be hurting ALOT of people if you do! Please inform yourselves with unbiased research!

CommentID: 222767

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 8:41 pm

Keep kratom legal

Being someone who suffers from constant, chronic pain from Fibromyalgia and childhood injuries, kratom has given the ability to work and be productive. I've safely used kratom products for 13 years now and know many other individuals who have also taken kratom for as long and it has bettered their lives as well. Kratom should be regulated but available in safe, tested products - not criminalized. Science has proven over and over that kratom is safe in it's natural form. What should be done is to pass the Kratom Consumer Protection Act, which is designed to regulate all kratom available to ensure it's honesty and safety.

CommentID: 222768

Commenter: Dominic Renna

6/3/24 8:41 pm

Please don't do this.

Kratom saved my life. Eleven years ago, I had a debilitating pill addiction. I honestly thought I was going to end up killing myself. And then I found kratom. Kratom is not a dangerous substance like heroin or methamphetamine. It helped me take my life back. We still sell cigarettes and alcohol and those are actively destroying lives and killing people. We need more research, not a ban. We need people not understand, not be scared and ignorant. Please don't do this.

CommentID: 222769

Commenter: nathan kingsbury

6/3/24 8:41 pm

Kratom

i started taking Kratom because avascular necrosis from alcoholism and a side effect was it greatly reduced my alcohol cravings and i'm 5 years off alcohol and i'd be dead if it wasn't for kratom

CommentID: 222770

Commenter: Victoria Garcia

6/3/24 8:41 pm

DO NOT SUPPORT KRATUM BAN!

Kratom has gave me my life back. If I didn't have kratum to help me out of my opiate addiction, I likely would be dead from fentanyl overdose. Everyone should have access to kratum if needed.

CommentID: 222771

Commenter: Kevin R Snyder

6/3/24 8:42 pm

kratom has kept me away from opioids since February 2017

I have been taking 12gm per day since February 2017. I had S1-L4 spinal decompression surgery in September 2015 and have suffered post-surgical back pain ever since. For most of 2016 I was taking 20 mg per day oxycodone. I found kratom and took myself off the oxycodone, and have been that way since. Without kratom I will be forced into taking the opioids again.

CommentID: 222772

Commenter: Julian Price

6/3/24 8:42 pm

Kratom Saves Lives

Kratom gave my dad, Marshall Price, his life back. Within two weeks his severe symptoms of withdrawal began to subside. He was clean from November 2019 until his unfortunate passing in 2022. He died incarcerated, convicted of trafficking kratom across state lines. This charge felt egregious due to how much kratom benefited his life. Imagine the Price family's trauma when he unfortunately passed at the county jail.

Our hope going forward is that the town hall meetings take the science and personal testimony into consideration. The FDA cannot, under oath, say that kratom is dangerous.

Allow the people to treat their pain in a safe manner by considering the Kratom Consumer Protection Act (KCPA). This bill would solve a lot of the common complaints with kratom.

CommentID: 222773

Commenter: Mrs. Vaughan

6/3/24 8:42 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS

I have been diagnosed with Fibromyalgia, Osteoarthritis, Degenerate Disc Disease throughout my entire spine, Spondylitis, Bursitis, Neuropathy, Nerve Damage, Herniated and bulging discs throughout my entire spine, etc etc. After being poly drugged for many years, I began looking for natural supplements for chronic pain and found Kratom. I wouldn't have survived getting off over 12 prescription meds without it! It helps my withdrawals as well as my pain, and I take raw leaf powder that hasn't been adulterated and has been third party lab tested for contamination, heavy metals, etc. There is no scientific evidence of Kratom in its natural form of being dangerous. Please keep it legal!! People are dying every day from drugs, and Kratom isn't a drug... it's a plant that has so many benefits without the awful side effects and withdrawals from pharmaceuticals.

My husband and I are currently looking for our retirement home in Virginia. This will be a huge game changer if Kratom is no longer legal.

CommentID: 222774

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 8:42 pm

Keep Kratom legal and safe

I and other friends have used Kratom for years with no negative effects. The results have all been positive for pain, well being, and functionality in the world. Big pharma is and has been responsible for ill health and deaths for years. Making Kratom a Schedule 1 'drug' will only serve to make criminals out of innocent people and cause far more problems for all who use Kratom and their loved ones.

CommentID: 222775

Commenter: Bill Dobbins

6/3/24 8:42 pm

Banning kratom will lead to more death

Kratom does appear to be far safer than all illegal and most prescription opioids: a CDC study of the 27,000 overdoses that occurred between 2016 and 2017 found that it was implicated in less than 1 percent of deaths. Given the large number of people who regularly use it and the low

number of fatalities, researchers estimate that it is more than 1,000 times less likely to kill than typical prescription opioids.

The herbal supplement can be abused, but given the explosion in opioid deaths, eliminating this safer substitute will almost certainly lead to more deaths.

CommentID: 222776

Commenter: Linda Harkness

6/3/24 8:42 pm

Do not make kratom Schedule 1

It is important for people to have options. I know people who have gotten good benefits from using kratom when other options have failed to work.

CommentID: 222777

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 8:43 pm

Do not ban this natural substance

Please do not ban kratom as its all natural and has not been proven nor shown to be dangerous. Leave the natural stuff out of regulation thank you

CommentID: 222778

Commenter: Jacqueline Matchett

6/3/24 8:43 pm

Keep Kratom legal!!!!

Please keep Kratom legal! I've used it for 10 years and don't know what I'd do without it. It helps me sleep when no medication helps. Thank you.

CommentID: 222779

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 8:43 pm

Freedom!

Try not to tread on the freedom of Americans. Scheduling Kratom is not the right thing to do. Follow the real research on the matter please. Thank you.

CommentID: 222780

Commenter: Todd Harris

6/3/24 8:43 pm

Kratom is not dangerous and saves lives

Kratom is not a dangerous plant, by itself. It is not capable of killing anyone and is only when mixed with many other substances that it is possible that it can be dangerous. It has saved so many lives that is. It is a natural plant that keeps people away from harder opiates. With more than 100,000 deaths from fentanyl year scheduling, this is literally a death sentence for many people. Do your research and you will see that kratom is not a dangerous substance

CommentID: 222781

Commenter: Alice P**Kratom**

Hey there.

Making kratom schedule 1 won't help anyone. It won't stop people from seeking substances to fill the void, you'll actually make your cities worse. You see, it's actually helping mitigate addiction. When people who live in constant pain are ignored or unable to get medical treatments that work, they will look for other ways to alleviate the pain. I have not known a day without pain since 1997. I will likely never have another pain free day as long as I live, yet no doctors want to make my life bearable so that I can support my family and pay my taxes. I have a genetic condition that causes pain, it will get worse as I age. Taking opiates isn't the solution. I've been taking kratom since 2016. I am no longer bed ridden because I control when I need to take it and how much I take. I work a full time job plus maintain a small homestead while I support my family and child. I would be bed ridden and on disability without it. This plant doesn't get you high, there's no euphoria, but it does make it bearable. Many people will die if you make kratom illegal. Regulate it so its safe, but don't ban it.

CommentID: 222782

Commenter: Mike santangelo**Overdose rate will skyrocket, kratom saved my life**

I had cancer and treatment put me in a position to become addicted to pain pills. Kratom kept me from using going on 12yrs. Please do research on how safe it is with no side effects. I promise the overdose rate will skyrocket in VA if made illegal and it will leave honest people with no choice but to use opioids.

CommentID: 222783

Commenter: Jeremy**Kratom helped me get off Fentanyl. I wouldn't be clean today if it was illegal.**

Kratom literally saved me life and helped me get off fentanyl. I now have sole custody of my children and I am their sole provider. Kratom gave my kids their dad back. I'm a business owner and I pay my taxes. I never paid no damn taxes while I was using heroin and fentanyl. Punishing people or locking people up for using Kratom will cost the tax payers millions. it will push so many people back to their drug of choice, heroin. DECRIMINALIZE NATURE

CommentID: 222784

Commenter: Anonymous**Kratom Saves Lives**

Please do more research and follow the science on Kratom

Kratom saves many lives and millions of Americans rely on Kratom for their daily struggles.

CommentID: 222785

24

Commenter: Anonymous**Like saver**

This natural remedy saved my life and control's the nerve pain I have that conventional drugs and doctors had no clue how to handel...actually my Doctor tells me to keep doing the kratom

CommentID: 222786

Commenter: Anonymous**Please keep kratom legal**

Natural kratom comes from a tropical tree in the coffee family native to Southeast Asia and has been used for centuries in traditional medicines. Kratom has been safely used for decades here in the United States, and is becoming increasingly popular because of what it is, and what it isn't. This all natural leaf has done wonders for my pain and anxiety. Please keep kratom legal and available.

CommentID: 222787

Commenter: Frank G**Kratom ban.**

We all know this is cause yalls pharmaceutical cash cow is hurting, not for any type of public safety.

CommentID: 222788

Commenter: Anonymous**Banning Kratom is Unjustified and Gratuitously Withdraws a Dramatically Beneficial Therapeutic Aid**

There is no science behind banning or limiting consumers' access to Kratom. If there were, the FDA would have succeeded in its original intent to ban it. It is an important and beneficial therapeutic option that, like almost everything, is harmful only in ridiculous high doses or abused. The safety profile is akin to if not better than that of Tylenol, but its therapeutic benefits are far greater. When a governmental body chooses to deprive consumers of choices and freedom, it should do so only in the most compelling of circumstances. And this ain't that. Don't be stupid. Leave Kratom alone.

CommentID: 222789

Commenter: Lisa**Kratom**

Stop trying to take away the only natural product that works for people!! Kratom helps me in so many ways it's criminalizing kratom, and wanting to see people suffer even more. Putting it in a schedule is just money in your pocket and everyone can see through this game. Haven't people

who are justified to take kratom gone through enough with Drs and their fear of the DEA!! This is ridiculous to treat people this way!!

CommentID: 222790

Commenter: Laney

6/3/24 8:45 pm

Keep kratom legal

Kratom should remain legal due to its potential benefits as a natural alternative for pain management, mitigating opioid withdrawal symptoms, and improving overall quality of life for many individuals. Scientific studies and anecdotal evidence suggest that kratom can provide relief for chronic pain and serve as a harm-reduction tool for those struggling with opioid addiction. Legal regulation ensures quality control and safety, reducing the risk of contamination and adulteration that can occur with black market products. Prohibiting kratom could push users towards more dangerous substances, exacerbating public health issues rather than solving them.

CommentID: 222791

Commenter: Justin dodge

6/3/24 8:45 pm

Please get properly educated in kratom

Most people that do not know anything about kratom and its benefits typically are very misinformed about it unfortunately. It's not a drug. It's a supplement at the most. It has many uses from anxiety, pain and depression. Mental health is a huge issue in this country that is being treated with pharmaceuticals and most people it takes years to find the right dosage and prescription that actually works for them. In the meantime life can be hell. Same goes with people dealing with chronic pain and all that even depends on if you can find a caring doctor. Good luck. We all know how the medical industry is now. Kratom gives people the opportunity to get relief without the nasty side effects of traditional pharmaceuticals. No overdose issues. No respiratory depression. Nothing. I have been a kratom user for about 10 years. My quality of life is so much better since I switched to kratom and got away from pain killers. I could go on and on but please let people make their own decisions on how they can treat their chronic pain. Thank you.

CommentID: 222792

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 8:45 pm

Kratom saved my life

I wouldn't be here without kratom! My dr dumped me, like they like to do and I was on Methadone 90mg. Just yanked it away and I went thru the worst withdrawals ever. I didn't know of kratom at this time! After I researched it, I was in a great deal of pain, and knew I had to get relief or I would relapse very soon. So I tried it and notice how much better I felt. Then my chronic pain was so much better. I felt alive since I started taken kratom I I been taking it the last 7 years!

CommentID: 222793

Commenter: M J Russell

6/3/24 8:45 pm

What's next coffee?

So many laws curtailing basic freedoms popping up every day. In this country we are supposed to have these freedoms. Moral police are slowly eroding these in the name religion or common good. Kratom has been proven scientifically to be safe for a long time. What's next coffee or some other substance we've used for years.

CommentID: 222794

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 8:45 pm

NO to scheduling kratom

Instead of taking away a tool that has helped many with chronic pain (among other uses) with little downside, how about redirecting that energy to oversight of its import and quality (testing for toxins and impurities, and making sure bad product (often sold in smoke shops, gas stations, etc) is removed.

CommentID: 222795

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 8:45 pm

Follow the science

Please follow the science on kratom. I Fully support the AKA and all its efforts to keep kratom legal for responsible citizens such as myself.

CommentID: 222796

Commenter: Ida Keim

6/3/24 8:45 pm

No . I don't support this ban .. it's outrageous !

My mother had terminal cancer and was in a lot of pain the last year of her life but she want to take the harsh chemical filled pain medicine that made her droggy . Because of Kratom she was able to be pain free and able to enjoy her grandkids and other things she liked to do till the end . It shouldn't be someone else's decision what we put into our . Stop trying to make the decision for other people and let people live their lives in peace ! If you don't like Kratom then stay away from it, but let others choose for themselves. Some people drink coffee all day, some drink alcohol, some people like energy drinks and all of these things are worse than Kratom . But we let people do what they want . Please stop trying to control others. Thank you

CommentID: 222797

Commenter: John P Hooper

6/3/24 8:45 pm

Krayom is the only pain reliever I can take

After many years and issues with phamalogical drugs for pain my Dr introduced me to krayom tea. It relieves my pain with no adverse reactions. I work in pharmaceuticals. This needs research, not schedule 1. That's just ludicrous.

CommentID: 222798

Commenter: Erin

6/3/24 8:45 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

My husband has had chronic back pain for 15 years. He has tried EVERYTHING and was even prescribed oxy by his "pain management doctors" only to be told years ago that they couldn't prescribe it any more. At his wits end from going thru withdrawal from oxy he was told about kratom from a naturopathic doctor- that it helped people who were addicted to opioids. He started using kratom 8 years ago and it has been a MIRACLE. He can function! There's no brain fog. It has helped his pain tremendously with NO SIDE EFFECTS.

PLEASE KEEP KRATOM LEGAL! Don't listen to what the FDA or the main stream medical community says. They're just mad that it's a plant and not a pharmaceutical drug that actually helps people.

Thank you!

CommentID: 222799

Commenter: Allie

6/3/24 8:45 pm

Do not ban kratom

I'd also like to share with you my story about why kratom matters so much to me. I found kratom at a very desperate time in my life. I was in so much pain and none of the many doctors and/or hospital visits could figure out what was wrong. I was essentially bed-bound. Then I started kratom and it afforded me the ability to get out of bed and be a mom again. It turned out that I had a brain herniation, Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, acquired epilepsy, POTS, dysautonomia and myasthenia gravis. My major joints dislocate frequently throughout the day due to my condition. That was about 8 years ago and I still safely take it every day. It has helped me stay on the same very low dose of pain medication for the last 7 years with no need to increase. Most people develop a tolerance and require higher doses, my doctor has asked me if I feel like I need to increase and I do not need to. My bloodwork is always within normal limits, no signs of toxicity or other overt reactions despite being on multiple medications including 2 different medications for epilepsy. In fact, prior to beginning kratom, my liver enzymes were elevated and after I initiated self treatment, they returned the normal limits. If kratom is removed from my life, I, and many other pain patients like me will suffer greatly and will have to rely on higher doses of opioids or some may take extreme measures. I know how low it can get and I refuse to go back there again, my kids need me, please don't do this to us.

CommentID: 222800

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 8:45 pm

Kratom saved my life

I was horribly addicted to painkillers. 100% pure Kratom save my life. We need it more than ever with the fentanyl pandemic right now. Could help millions of people get off Fentanyl!

CommentID: 222801

Commenter: Dr. R. Baughman

6/3/24 8:46 pm

26

STOP the ban!

There is NO REASON to ban or criminalize as there is NO DIRECT EVIDENCE OR RESEARCH to support such a move. People can live a full, responsible, AND pain free life without addictive prescription narcotics, even — so do not take away their choice to do so.

CommentID: 222802

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 8:46 pm

Educate and research, not ban

Please consider that education and research are far more responsible than bans. We are currently in the middle of un-doing all of the previous generations' bans on medicines (and even culture). Research and education provide the way to making right choices, as government, as citizens and as human beings.

CommentID: 222803

Commenter: Sarah D

6/3/24 8:46 pm

Against banning kratom

Kratom has been a life saver for me and I've been off of opiates since January 2009. Many of our veterans take kratom and your every day folks. We shouldn't be considered criminals and it's absurd to think it's a Schedule 1 drug. It's a leaf that isn't chemically altered in any way. If you're making an educated decision you wouldn't ban it and make it illegal, that's not fair to kratom consumers and science doesn't back it up being a Schedule 1.

CommentID: 222804

Commenter: K

6/3/24 8:46 pm

Kratom Saves Lives

Kratom is a natural substance that is SAFE alternative. It saves lives. If banned consumers would just turn to more dangerous substances.

CommentID: 222805

Commenter: Betty Ostrander

6/3/24 8:46 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

I have been using Kratom for 10 years. I am 68 years old. I have fibromyalgia and osteoarthritis. Kratom helps my pain and is much safer than the pharmaceutical drugs I was taking. Kratom will not kill you. If you take too much you will throw up and possibly get dizzy. Can pharmaceutical medication say te same thing? If someone dies with Kratom in their system they either have other drugs in them or they have purchased it from a nonapproved seller. I believe that Kratom is God's natural medicine!

Thank you for your time

Betty Ostrander

CommentID: 222806

Commenter: Stephanie Rodzon

6/3/24 8:47 pm

Kratom saved my life as a chronic pain sufferer who was barely alive. 9 yrs later I'm LIVING

9 yrs ago I found kratom after my doctor dropped me and labeled me a drug seeker. I was left in constant pain and anguish. I found kratom and I feel better now than I ever have before. I'm healthier and active all thanks to this plant.

CommentID: 222807

Commenter: Max

6/3/24 8:47 pm

I do not support this petition.

Kratom is a safe, non addictive and natural alternative to prescription and OTC pain killers. It is safe and effective. Reading the comments of those in support of this petition. I wonder if they know the facts about acetaminophen, which is actually linked to 100s of deaths per year and 10,000s of overdoses and hospital emergency room visits per year in the US alone. Tylenol should not be legal and classified as schedule 1 before kratom should. NAIDS can destroy your liver and kidneys and can cause stomach lining issues.

I have used kratom safely for years, without any addiction or abuse. Please consider all the people it is helping that have chronic pain to which Kratom is one of the only safe and effective alternatives.

CommentID: 222808

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 8:47 pm

KEEP kratom legal!

I sincerely urge and warn you not to support this ban!! You will be eliminating, what is for so many, the only affordable lifeline they have in there pain management and addiction recovery! This plant saved my life and allowed me to reclaim my physical and emotional health. There are likely millions in Virginia alone who have safely used this herbal alternative as I have for years. I am healthy, medication free and physically fit, in my late 30's and kratom is the reason. Please, a ban on kratom will have devastating effects on families, businesses and those in recovery for any reason!

CommentID: 222809

Commenter: Scott

6/3/24 8:47 pm

Kratom and how it's helped me.

Kratom has helped my chronic spinal pain enormously with no notable side effects. I wish I could say it has not made me as mobile as I was 20 years ago, but unfortunately my degenerative conditions are far too advanced, which landed me on permanent disability in 2012. However, kratom helps take the edge off of my pain, which is certainly better than the synthetic opioids, which I was previously prescribed by doctors, which were only effective for a few months and then it was very painful to titrate off of them. That is really saying something! Another great advantage has been the fact that if I need to stop talking Kratom, I have never experienced any deleterious effects whatsoever, when doing so. Even after stopping for a week at a time, which would have

been physically impossible with Oxycodone or any of the opioid family of pain medications. I hope and pray that this gift from nature is never allowed to be taken from the hands of those that rely on Kratom for a happier, and healthier state of mind, and body. It has been a heaven send! The FDA is circulating false information about Kratom and they know it, as they're under pressure from big pharma to have it banned, so we are fighting hard to stop that. I hope you'll understand and can help me, as well as millions of other Americans who have no other alternatives to help with their chronic pain. Thanks so much for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,

Scott Lohr

CommentID: 222810

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 8:47 pm

Do not ban Kratom

This is not a dangerous substance. I am a highly educated, responsible citizen with stellar professional and personal achievements. I have used Kratom responsibly for 5 years for chronic back and hip pain from a commuter biking accident. Surgery was unsuccessful. Kratom helps me function. I am 61 years old, with no background of substance abuse. This natural substance provides similar help, without "high" for so many Americans. Keep Kratom out of the courts and keep Kratom legal in Virginia!

CommentID: 222811

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 8:47 pm

I do not support a kratom ban

Kratom worked wonders for me when I was suffering from chronic pain. Keep it legal.

CommentID: 222812

Commenter: Joe H

6/3/24 8:47 pm

Kratom Safely Helps People

Kratom has been for me a life-changing leaf that has made it possible for me to play golf and sleep comfortably with very little pain as compared to my life before using this. The alternative is harmful pain killers and anti-inflammatory medicines that have side effects. Also, it has been beneficial in being a pre-workout drink that does not harm my prostate or amp me up too much. Kratom is not like alcohol, marijuana, and drugs that are mind altering. Kratom does not impair you in any way. On the contrary, green Kratom helps you to be more energetic and alert and red Kratom helps those who have chronic pain. I was first introduced to it by a woman who has fibromyalgia. It changed her life and it has changed mine as well. I would venture to say that those who seek to make it illegal are either uninformed or they are simply being a mouthpiece for the pharmaceutical industry that wants you strung out on their harmful man-made medicines that yield them great profits.

CommentID: 222813

Commenter: Trey

6/3/24 8:47 pm

Ban is ridiculous

I find it extremely hypocritical considering that Kratom is completely harmless, can't hurt you can't kill you. But the stuff that comes out of pharmacies hooks people, gets people addicted, can kill people.

CommentID: 222814

Commenter: John H

Do not infringe on our healthcare.

Virginia citizens have the right to create our own personal healthcare at home. For profit healthcare does not have the ability to treat our pain with the medication on hand today. Kratom saves lives and creates new healthy habits. No to the scheduling of Kratom in Virginia.

CommentID: 222815

6/3/24 8:48 pm

Commenter: SS

Please don't make kratom illegal

Kratom has positive properties and we deserve access if that's what we choose. Instead why not fund studies and give grants for safe growing and processing and education?

CommentID: 222816

6/3/24 8:48 pm

Commenter: Concerned citizen

Don't take away a chance at a normal life, please.

Id like to share with you my story and explain why keeping kratom legal in Virginia matters so much. I hurt my back many years ago and was placed on pain pills. I became addicted to them and they ruined my life, as I'm sure you've heard stories before. I started buying Suboxone off the streets thinking, this will help with the pain of withdraw. Little did I know, the withdraws from Suboxone were even worse than the pain pills. Years and years, I suffered. Until I heard about an Herb, called Kratom, was actually helping people around the country to stop the addiction and get their lives back. Well, I had to try it. Today, I am 6 years free of the misery! A small amount of Kratom took away the horrific pain of withdraw from opioids.

The only side effect, constipation. It took 3 months and I was already forgetting to take any kratom when I woke up, and I slowly began to trust that the Kratom was saving my life. And it did just that. It saved my life. I now have a full time job, that I can pass a drug test at..., and have gotten my family back and grown closer to them more than I have ever been. I'm contributing to society, providing for my family and I don't know where I would be without Kratom. Please, do the research, do the studies, don't take away the opportunity for people to get their lives back! Don't condemn that really need this product to recover and get their lives back. Please, don't take that away from them.

CommentID: 222817

Commenter: Anonymous

Listen to Consumers

6/3/24 8:48 pm



My name is Robert Latter. Nine years ago I started suffering from a chronic ailment called Interstitial Cystitis (IC); compounding this ailment are Hunner's lesions (bladder ulcers). There is no cure because the American Urological Association does not know what causes it. In the past nine years, I have undergone over a dozen surgeries to cauterize the bleeding ulcers. ? Because of the pain, I often find myself getting up nightly a half-dozen times. I have tried a variety of sleeping aids and pain relievers, several of which are controlled substances, but to no avail. ? IC (also known as BPS-Bladder Pain Syndrome) causes many sleepless nights along with a significant interruption to life. A trip to dinner, the movies or walks with my grandchildren can rarely be enjoyed due to the preoccupation with pain. ? Six years ago while living in Virginia I was made aware of kratom and the claims of pain relief. I consumed 1-2 small dosages daily from an American Kratom Association GMP approved supplier and it literally transformed my life. After only 30 minutes I felt dramatic relief from the pain. ?I could now sit through a movie, church service and business meeting; I felt like a new man! I know there are countless others who have similar stories to mine. I implore you to PLEASE follow the science as there is a significant amount of misinformation readily available. Respectfully, Robert Latter

CommentID: 222818

6/3/24 8:48 pm

Commenter: Anonymous Doctor

WHO Determined Kratom Should Remain Legal and Is Safe

The FDA has tried and failed to schedule kratom because the actual science supports kratom remaining legal. The WHO conducted an intensive study ultimately recommending against scheduling kratom. The science supports kratom being a safe substance and a useful harm reduction tool. To all those suggesting otherwise please provide peer reviewed studies to support your opinion. Because the vast majority of studies support kratoms safety profile and utility.

CommentID: 222819

6/3/24 8:48 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

The science does not support ban - keep kratom safe and legal.

The research and science does not support scheduling Kratom or its derivatives as a scheduled drug. Please don't give in to the misinformation. It's natural, it saves lives, and it harms no one. It should be safe and available. Changing its classification would create far more problems and solve none. Thank you.

CommentID: 222820

6/3/24 8:48 pm

Commenter: JL

A ban would damage my ability to play with my child and decrease quality of life

A ban would damage my ability to play with my child and decrease quality of life. It was a godsend 15 years ago when I discovered this herbal medicine.

CommentID: 222821

6/3/24 8:49 pm

Commenter: Richard Lampe

Kratom is Non-addictive alternative to Opioids.

Dear Board of Pharmacy,

I am a Veteran and former Police Officer. After several surgeries to combat Cancer , I was getting addicted to opioids and I was told about Kratom. I successfully used it to relieve my pain and stopped using prescription pain meds that I was getting addicted to. When my pain was finally gone I had no further desire or cravings to use Kratom like I did with Opioids. Kratom was a Godsend in my Book.

Please KEEP Kratom Legal for people to Use , as it has been used for Centuries and is a relative of the Coffee Plant.

Sincerely,

Richard Lampe

CommentID: 222822

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom saved my life

Kratom has saved my life and has given me a second chance to live. Don't ban!

CommentID: 222823

Commenter: Cariochik247

Keep Kratom Legal

So many people depend on this powerful plant. That's just what it is A PLANT that grows from Mother Nature!!!! Leave our plant ALONE!!!!

CommentID: 222824

Commenter: Anonymous

Please Do Not Ban Kratom.

Please do not ban Kratom. That would be a horrible move and it would punish people who do not deserve to be punished. The only reason I know why people use Kratom is because people are doing their best to maintain their health and live with painful day to day conditions, and the medical route has either been ineffective, cost prohibitive, or it has flat out failed patients because the treatment often becomes far more dangerous than the conditions. Would you be able to actually be proud of yourselves by persecuting upstanding citizens who are merely in pain? Because that's the only effect a ban would have besides creating a black market that would introduce dangerous adulterated kratom, and it would make opioids like fentanyl more prevalent in your community. I do understand that you are probably appealing to FDA propaganda, which make no mistake is embarrassingly incorrect regarding the science of Kratom and look a little further and you'll see they have lost scientific credibility on many issues for decades. With Kratom, the FDA is doing that once more. They have been soundly disproven in the face of other government agencies as well as the World Health Organization regarding Kratom. As well as operating in complete untransparency. I know you can be better to your people than that.

Thank you.

CommentID: 222825

Commenter: Anonymous

I do not support a ban

Kratom is of benefit in an environment where those with chronic pain are frequently given no other recourse. It is also frequently used as a form of harm reduction for opiate addicts trying to reduce or cease taking them. It is frankly dangerous to consider a schedule 1 ban in this context, and would lead to far greater risks to public health

CommentID: 222826

Commenter: Jesse

please Do NOT Schedule Kratom, This Plant has Saved my life.

Hello, I am 44 years old and suffer from debilitating lower back pain from an injury 30 years ago. Both opioid & Non opioid pharmaceuticals were never fully effective in treating this pain and improving my quality of life. I have been using Kratom leaf powder(Tea)at a low dose for 7 years now and have never been healthier both Physically & Mentally. It has given me my life back. For over 10 years I was an alcoholic prior to Kratom. This plant treated my pain and emotional state simultaneously, removing all cravings for alcohol. If this plant in its natural form is banned, it will devastating to myself and others that I know. Plain leaf powder has been proven in multiple scientific studies to have a superb safety profile, please I beg you to follow the science.

Sincerely, Jesse

CommentID: 222827

Commenter: Nicholas Bauer

Kratom, safe, studied, and supportive.

In the heart of our nation, Virginia, where liberty and the pursuit of happiness are fundamental rights, the battle for natural wellness continues. Kratom, a centuries-old botanical, has become a beacon of hope for millions seeking relief from aches, anxiety, and opioid dependence. Yet, today, we stand on the precipice of losing this invaluable plant to unwarranted regulation.

Kratom, derived from the leaves of the *Mitragyna speciosa* tree, has been used responsibly by countless individuals for its remarkable therapeutic properties. It is our natural ally in the fight against chronic pain, a gentle support for those battling the clutches of addiction, and a source of comfort for those living with anxiety and depression. Its benefits are not just anecdotal; scientific studies and personal testimonies alike highlight its potential as a safer alternative to prescription medications. Even the FDA's own studies and researchers have revealed this potent information.

However, despite its profound benefits, kratom faces the threat of being scheduled and banned—moves that would unjustly criminalize its use and strip away the freedom of choice from those who rely on it. This decision would not only be a blow to individual rights but also a setback in our collective effort to embrace natural, holistic approaches to health and well-being.

The scheduling of kratom would drive it underground, pushing desperate individuals towards dangerous alternatives and exacerbating the very crises we seek to mitigate. It would stifle research, hindering our understanding of its full potential, and deprive countless people of a lifeline in their journey towards wellness.

We must not let fear and misinformation dictate policy. Instead, we should champion education, responsible use, and further research into kratom's benefits and risks. Regulation should focus on ensuring quality and safety, not on imposing blanket bans that do more harm than good.

In the spirit of compassion, freedom, and scientific inquiry, we urge policymakers to recognize the importance of keeping kratom unscheduled. Let us not rob people of a natural option that has already transformed so many lives for the better. Stand with us in defending the right to choose, the right to wellness, and the right to a future where natural remedies are respected and accessible.

****Keep Kratom Free. Keep Hope Alive****
CommentID: 222828

Commenter: Ashley Campbell

6/3/24 8:51 pm

Please do not criminalize this coffee tree relative.

Please take a close look at the cases used to claim this tree leaf is unsafe. There are always dangerous drugs involved in those cases. Kratom is far less dangerous than alcohol. Even if this tea was unsafe for the user, why would we put that customer in prison over it? Prison is what is actually unsafe! If the FDA's concern were for customer safety, why have they ignored concerns about contaminated leaf powder that was brought to their attention?

Instead, we should pass the Kratom Consumer Protection act, that has been passed in 12 states already, to keep Virginians safe from contaminated product and safe from prosecution over an herbal tea!

This leaf has seen hundreds of years of use by normal every day workers who use it like we do coffee, for an energy boost. Do not destroy lives over it, please. Criminalization also prevents valuable research into this useful plant.

CommentID: 222829

Commenter: Phillip Wilbur

6/3/24 8:51 pm

Keep Kratom Legal!

Please keep Kratom Legal. There are so many people out there this plant has helped. It has saved a lot of their life's and some like myself helps their pain etc.

CommentID: 222830

Commenter: Madalyn

6/3/24 8:52 pm

Do not support this ban!

30

Living with unbearable, constant pain is something no one should ever have to go through. Kratom has given me and so many other people like me their life back. It would be a detriment to my health and well-being if that were taken away. Thank you.

CommentID: 222831

Commenter: Colleen Branch

6/3/24 8:52 pm

Please keep kratom legal

Please keep kratom legal as it is a plant that helps many people with their pain and to stay off of opiates. How many times is the FDA going to try to ban this plant? Back in 2016 they tried to schedule it as a schedule 1 with the DEA, the DEA did not schedule kratom. Then in 2022 the FDA asked the World Health Organization to ban this plant. How much tax dollars need to be spent before everyone will realize that this natural plant saves lives.

I was involved in a very bad car accident 6 years ago. Left me with permanent pain. Watched a friend of mine die from opiates, so I did not take the opiates that my doctor prescribe me. Thank God, I found kratom. Kratom allows me to live a full life. It does not take the pain away forever, but it gives me relief for about 4 hours.

Just because some people have abused kratom you should not make it illegal for law-abiding citizens from taking kratom, leaving them only to rely on opiates.

CommentID: 222832

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 8:53 pm

Kratom should not be scheduled

This flies in the face of harm reduction when we're talking about actually harmful substances like heroin which should be scheduled. Kratom conversely saves lives full stop. The fact you'd try to schedule shows ignorance frankly. - Virginia resident

CommentID: 222833

Commenter: Tracy

6/3/24 8:53 pm

Do not ban Kratom!

Kratom is a safe and effective supplement for pain relief and addiction sufferers.

CommentID: 222834

Commenter: Dustin driscoll

6/3/24 8:53 pm

Kratom legality.

If you follow the current science you will see there is NO scientific base to add to the schedule 1 list, kratoms active alkaloids. Kratom is not a dangerous drug without medical uses. Kratom is a safe and effective alternative to traditional medicine and when used by responsible adults is a life saving herbal remedy. Please keep kratom safe and legal.

CommentID: 222835

6/3/24 8:55 pm

Commenter: Rachael Leaton

Pain Control.

People depend on this to manage their pain; keep Kratom legal.

CommentID: 222836

6/3/24 8:55 pm

Commenter: James L Johnson

Kratom should not be outlawed

Kratom needs to be regulated, not outlawed.

Pass the Kratom Consumer Protection Act (KCPA).

JJohnson

CommentID: 222837

6/3/24 8:56 pm

Commenter: Ryan

Keep kratom legal.

I have terrible back pain an dkratom allow sme to work without side effects.

CommentID: 222838

6/3/24 8:56 pm

Commenter: Don

Strongly oppose Kratom Ban

I speak strongly against the proposed addition of Kratom to Schedule I. Kratom is a mild plant, no more intoxicating than coffee with no none overdose potential any greater than water, coffee or 1,000's of other items people use daily. It would be ridiculous to ban a plant when the voters of Virginia have forever tolerated alcohol and have decided to legalize marijuana. Prohibition is not the answer. The science does not support a ban.

CommentID: 222839

6/3/24 8:56 pm

Commenter: Michael Simmons

Keep Kratom Legal

Kratom is a safe and healthy supplement. Please keep it legal and available.

CommentID: 222840

6/3/24 8:56 pm

Commenter: Justin F

Kratom

absolutely do not support this petition. Kratom is helping millions of people

CommentID: 222841

6/3/24 8:57 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Don't make schedule 1

I do not support this petition to make kratom consumers criminals if it is a Schedule I substance. It helps me with my pain when I need it. I don't need addictive painkillers.

CommentID: 222842

6/3/24 8:57 pm

Commenter: will

why ban herbal tea?

There are tens of thousands of people who benefit from kratom everyday it improves their lives and is no worse than coffee.

CommentID: 222843

6/3/24 8:57 pm

Commenter: jesse Mitchell

This has helped so many!

This plant when taken in moderation and responsibly saves lifes. This should be protected not persecuted. I imagine more people die from Alcohol each year than kratom.

CommentID: 222844

6/3/24 8:57 pm

Commenter: Mike C

Please keep Kratom legal and off schedule

Dear government official ,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen and advocate for public health to express my support for keeping kratom legal in our state. Kratom, a natural plant native to Southeast Asia, has been used for centuries as a traditional remedy for various ailments and has recently gained popularity in the United States for its potential benefits in managing pain, anxiety, and opioid withdrawal symptoms.

As someone who has personally experienced the positive effects of kratom, I can attest to its efficacy and safety when used responsibly. Kratom has allowed me to manage my chronic pain without relying on prescription opioids, which carry a high risk of addiction and other severe side effects. Many others in our community have also found relief through kratom, often using it as a safer alternative to more dangerous substances.

Moreover, numerous scientific studies and reports suggest that kratom, when used responsibly, poses a relatively low risk compared to other substances. Regulating kratom rather than banning it outright would allow for better quality control, ensuring that consumers have access to safe and uncontaminated products. It would also provide an opportunity for further research into kratom's benefits and potential risks, which could inform more nuanced and effective public health policies.

Banning kratom would not only deprive individuals of a valuable tool for managing their health but could also drive users to seek out more dangerous and illicit substances. I urge you to consider the positive impact that kratom has had on many lives and to support regulations that ensure its safe and responsible use, rather than an outright ban.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
CommentID: 222845

Commenter: Anonymous

You're barking up the wrong tree.

There are addicts all over Virginia, Meth, Heroin, Cocaine, Fentanyl and Kratom your worried about? It has helped people get off pain killers and Heroin, Helps people with pain, STOP NOW

CommentID: 222846

6/3/24 8:57 pm

Commenter: Timothy Browning, PA-C

Please Follow the Science and Do Not Schedule Kratom

Dear Sirs/Madams,

I am adding my name to ask that you do not schedule Kratom as an illegal substance. At this time, there is no scientific literature to support banning Kratom and there are myriad people who will attest to how it has helped them. More research needs to be done regarding this supplement, and it would be harmful to outright ban it.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Thank you,

Tim Browning, PA-C

CommentID: 222847

6/3/24 8:57 pm

Commenter: Dave Senior

Kratom has helped me with a 20 plus year battle with Lyme Disease!

Hi:

I have dealt with Late Stage Lyme Disease, especially migraine headaches from it. Kratom has been one of the best and safest supplements that I've taken to help me with the residual effects from Lyme Disease, especially the agonizing pain of migraines.

There just is no good reason (or science) that should call for scheduling any component of Kratom. I ask you to reject the scheduling of Kratom, and instead just request that distributors in this state follow the safe practices that the American Kratom Association recommends.

Dave Senior

CommentID: 222848

Commenter: Brad Phipps

6/3/24 8:59 pm

Banning kratom will just promotes illegal fentanyl use and other pain relief alternatives

We can all agree the our nations opioide abuse is at a all time high so by banning kratom it will actually make the use of fentanyl and other illegal substance to run rampant. If we look back in history the initial cause for the rise in fentanyl use was stimmelmed from the lack of patient care and the ability for people that really was in pain to easily obtain medication. I will agree and say kratom shouldnt be available in gas stations to children but given restrictions such as alcohol is quite acceptable.

CommentID: 222849

Commenter: Raul Duke

Please don't make kratom users into criminals

Kratom has been essential to many of us to live a normal, productive life. Please don't make us into criminals

CommentID: 222850

6/3/24 9:00 pm

Commenter: R. Young

Against outlawing of Kratom

Criminalizing Kratom in VA will do far more harm than good. As a republican run state, this intrusion surprises me. I'm not sure how decriminalizing marijuana just to turn around and make Kratom illegal, makes any sense.

R. Young

CommentID: 222851

6/3/24 9:00 pm

Commenter: Mackenzie Rowe

I Do Not Support Schedule 1 Legislation

I DO NOT support a schedule 1 OR 2 legislation for this plant. Kratom itself has been turned down as a threat to public health on the world stage at the WHO once a few years ago, the FDA has failed numerous times on the national stage as well as the DEA. With this knowledge already widely known to kratom consumers and non users alike, this is very obviously another "Reefer Madness" ploy of the 1930's Marijuana outlawrepeating itself. All of the "evidence" of overdoses of this plant are from people irresponsibly mixing illicit substances with it which should rule these "overdoses" from MULTIPLE substances, not just kratom. Furthermore, most of these comments supporting this ban are individuals from the medical field, who lose support of prescribing dangerous medications to patients that can simply use medicinal herbal healing of the kratom plant. Kratom in a State that is protected under a KCPA (Kratom Consumer Protection Act) has fewer problems and controls regulations within the State in question. This results in Kratom products that are put through extensive tests for any dangerous metals or bacteria within the packaged product. It sets age limits for consumers as well. Scheduling this plant will destroy more lives than it would "save". It will greatly affect consumers who deal with mental illnesses, bodily pain that they might not want to seek help through medication or even addicts that have a more natural way of becoming clean.

I was once a 5 year opiate medication addict. Lost cause, absolutely no hope at all for ever living a normal life again but found Kratom and have been going on 5 years with no drugs at all. Not even a sip of alcohol. I can't help but to say my piece on the matter because there may be somebody like me out there that needs the same help I needed. The same kind of help that rehabilitation or pharmaceutical opioid antagonists couldn't give but that a natural plant somehow did. If the State of Virginia schedules this plant as some dangerous substance, it will doom thousands of Kratom consumers across the State of Virginia. Please take my comment into consideration and keep Kratom legal.

CommentID: 222852

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:01 pm

Kratom ban in s a waste of resources do not support

I do not support any ban on Kratom. This substance has not been classified as dangerous. This is a waste of government resources and will make law biding Kratom users and retailers criminals. Our country has enough problems as it is, and putting energies into banning a substance which a large number of citizens find beneficial is a completely wasted effort. This substance has been on the earth for thousands of years and has been used by human beings for thousands of years. There is no immediate or latent threat whatsoever posed by the availability of this substance. There is no science to back up the "dangerous" claims. There is no epidemic of Kratom overdose. There is no relationship between Kratom users and crime. All research I have been exposed to merely states that "not enough" research has been done on this substance to say it is in fact dangerous or beneficial. Please spend your efforts determining if this substance is in fact dangerous before making the argument that it should be illegal. Empirical data from world wide kratom users clearly shows that it is not dangerous. Any proposed ban on Kratom is based on non-scientific data and attempts to elicit an emotional response. Any "Kratom related" deaths as reported by the CDC claim that additional substances cannot be ruled out. Furthermore, Kratom has only been classified by the CDC as "a cause of death." However the vast majority of deaths involving Kratom also contain a large number of other dangerous substances such as fentanyl, cocaine and heroine. (Known killers.) Please focus on these drugs instead of Kratom. I am fairly confident the victims also had caffeine in their system. Is that going to be banned as well? Do the right thing. Thank you.

CommentID: 222853

Commenter: Kim Mills

6/3/24 9:01 pm

Kratom

Kratom saved my life. It is not addictive nor does it harm people. It is a plant. Part of the coffee family!

CommentID: 222854

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:01 pm

Kratom

Kratom saved my life from a terrible drug addiction that had taken everything from Me. Kratom help me keep it together and off drugs and now 5 five years of drugs

CommentID: 222855

33

Commenter: Blum-Unibe, Myrna Kay

6/3/24 9:03 pm

Reject banning of Kratom

I strongly urge you to reconsider the banning of Kratom. I myself am on an again off again user for severe pain and for early migraine treatment. I have never experienced any adverse reactions of addiction or psychosis with Kratom! I have even used in conjunction with Tramadol and again did not experience any addictive or psychotic reactions, even with Tramadol, which I object to the scheduling. I might even still be working as a nurse if I had had Kratom available. My sister-in-law swears by it as it does not adversely affect her job in banking! (I know that is considered hearsay) Please I urge you to reconsider the ban. I read a lot of data before I tried it and felt quite safe with its use. The only thing that bothers me is it is not standardized across the board. I urge you to seek standardization before banning. Thank you for you time.

CommentID: 222856

Commenter: Dr. Kahmal

6/3/24 9:03 pm

Facts!

Anyone in support of this petition has no experience in medicine nor controlled substances.

I do not support this petition.

Any plant that has been scheduled as a controlled soon becomes altered by pharmaceutical companies for a profit. We can not let this happen to Kratom. It is a natural occurring plant product. Let's keep it that way.

CommentID: 222857

Commenter: Keri

6/3/24 9:03 pm

No valid reason to schedule kratom

Kratom does not meet the criteria for a schedule one substance. You have no valid argument for moving forward with the scheduling of a plant that grows in the ground. It has been used as medicine for 1000 years and we're just not seeing all the associated deaths that would warrant the scheduling of this plant. If you schedule anything, it should be alcohol, cigarettes, and fentanyl. Look at how many deaths those substances have caused.

CommentID: 222858

Commenter: Taylor Greene

6/3/24 9:04 pm

Kratom saves lives

So many people benefit from kratom, both physically and mentally. I am one of those people. I went from being an anxiety-ridden alcoholic at the age of 22 to being a stable, healthy member of society by taking kratom.

-Kratom has not once negatively impacted my physical or mental health, or anyone around me.

-Nobody would know I took kratom if I didn't explicitly tell them.

-Can alcoholics or drug addicts say that?

We have bigger problems to worry about in this country. Like how big pharma is ruining peoples lives.

CommentID: 222859

Commenter: John A. Snider

6/3/24 9:05 pm

Keep Kratom legal

It amazes me that I live in a state that overturned a kratom ban in 2016 State vs. Miller and gave kratom back to the people of the state of Tennessee. However, our marijuana laws have not been updated! I find great irony here that Virginia has legal recreational marijuana and there's actually legislation to outlaw kratom? The people are tired of over regulation! Quit taking money from the FDA and big Pharma and listen to the will of the people.

CommentID: 222860

Commenter: Danny

6/3/24 9:05 pm

Keep Kratom legal, Kratom tea has improved my life

Please keep Kratom legal. I'm disabled with spinal disease and seizure disorder. I use Kratom for chronic pain control. I used to be prescribed 2 different pain medications at a time for my chronic pain. These included Methadone and Vicodine and at one point Oxycotin. After the FDA began taking Doctor's licenses away, my doctors quit prescribing pain medication and I suffered daily for a few years until visiting Florida one winter season and found Kratom as a major solution to the chronic pain which I suffered daily. I have been using Kratom for the pain since 2016 and have had no need for opiate pain medication. I would be forced to go to the street and depend upon dangerous alternatives if Kratom is banned. Please keep this wonderful, natural pain medication legal.

CommentID: 222861

Commenter: BeckyB

6/3/24 9:06 pm

KeepKratomLegal

This plant has helped so many!! Please keep it Legal!!

CommentID: 222862

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:06 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

Keep kratom legal - I oppose the request to ban and place kratom or its alkaloids as a schedule 1 substance.

CommentID: 222863

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:06 pm

Banning kratom will have negative consequences on the community

Banning kratom will undoubtedly have negative consequences on the community and promote illicit opioid use and removes a drastically safer option for people who have suffered from addiction and chronic pain, it makes no sense to do something so extreme especially in the times we are living. Millions of people use kratom safely every day. I have used it off and on for years and have had no health issues like those caused by illicit and pharmaceutical medications. I have stopped using with relative ease compared to other substances including coffee/ caffeine. To ban kratom will remove a helpful tool we need in this opioid epidemic. It makes a much sense as Banning coffee because methamphetamine exists. They are not the same. And should not be treated as such

CommentID: 222864

Commenter: David Bendel

6/3/24 9:06 pm

Kratom scheduling topic

Please consider the science behind kratom and the extraordinary benefits it has for many people. Regulation would be great, but criminalization is extreme and does nobody any good.

CommentID: 222865

Commenter: Crystal Montoya

6/3/24 9:06 pm

Do Not Schedule Kratom

I do not support the scheduling of Kratom. This is a natural pain relief alternative that should be available that people should have the right to try.

CommentID: 222866

Commenter: Kevin Fayne

6/3/24 9:07 pm

Please don't make kratom illegal

Kratom gives me relief from diabetic neuropathy pain. I have tried prescription drugs but they are addictive and dangerous. Kratom saved my life.

CommentID: 222867

Commenter: Steve Bodi

6/3/24 9:07 pm

Kratom

Please leave kratom alone!! I had an opioid addiction that kratom helped me to overcome! Did you know that the kratom and coffee plants are related?

CommentID: 222868

Commenter: T.F.

6/3/24 9:07 pm

Don't take our plants away

This leaf has helped me stay level in my anxiety. No worries of any ill health effects. It keeps my thoughts from racing. Lifts my motivation.

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Please study up on this leaf. Locking it away, out of reach is not only wrong, but it shows a genuine lack of empathy towards those of us who depend on their daily dose to maintain a healthy mental condition.

CommentID: 222869

Commenter: Chris

6/3/24 9:07 pm

Kratom should be kept legal!

With so many people dying from opioid overdoses the fact that banning Kratom would even be considered is crazy! I can't tell you the number of people that I have heard from that's lives have been saved by using Kratom. It is a safe and effective pain management treatment that has helped so many.

We are at a scary time when so many people became addicted to opioids that were overprescribed by doctors. Now the pendulum has swung the other way and doctors are scared to give patients a script for pain meds. You are going to force people in chronic pain into using dangerous street drugs because they can't get anything from their doctors and you are taking away safe alternatives. This is the last thing you should be doing and it will hurt people badly.

CommentID: 222870

Commenter: Christopher Deaney

6/3/24 9:07 pm

Kratom has saved me from a life of chronic pain

Please understand that without kratom I would be dependant upon pain killers for the rest of my life. I was hit by a car at age 8 and that left me with numerous surgeries and knees dislocations my entire life.

Kratom is just a leaf from a tree in southeast Asia and does not pose a threat to anyone.

We used to use these plants and herbs for healing before pharmaceuticals came along.

Our ancestors relied on understanding plants and herbs for healing and I prefer to control my symptoms naturally.

I'm sure I speak for many others who use kratom to help themselves naturally.

Please don't make kratom a schedule 1.

We made that mistake in 1937 with cannabis and now we see medicinal uses for that plant.

Let's keep the kratom research moving forward and not stop learning about the plants God put here for us.

Thank you for you're time.

Christopher

CommentID: 222871

Commenter: Paul Spanbauer

6/3/24 9:07 pm

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

61750

35

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Keep Kratom legal

Kratom saves lives and helps people get off narcotics. Scheduling it is ill advised.

CommentID: 222872

Commenter: Rick Hale

6/3/24 9:08 pm

Kratom is safe

I began taking 500 mg Kratom capsules 3 years ago to try to control my back pain instead of taking the prescription Hydrocodone that my Doctor put me on. It has enabled me to quit taking hydrocodone. I have experienced no side effects during this time. Instead of banning kratom, follow the advice of the American Kratom Association and regulate it.

CommentID: 222873

Commenter: Ryann S

6/3/24 9:08 pm

Stop trying to ban Kratom!!!

Stop trying to crack down on Kratom. Use your time and resources to actually stop real drugs. The only reason you want to stop it is cause you can't capitalize on it. Kratom saves lives. I am 3 years sober from opiates. Kratom helped me kick Suboxone. Kratom is safe alternative to taking pharmaceutical pain meds(legal poison).

CommentID: 222874

Commenter: Scott Acker

6/3/24 9:09 pm

Please do not make kratom a Schedule 1 narcotic

I would like to express my concern regarding the state of Virginia making kratom a Schedule 1 narcotic. I have been a responsible kratom consumer for over 8 years and I can tell you firsthand that without the amazing botanical, I would most definitely need to go back on antidepressants which came with a whole host of terrible side effects. Please please please keep kratom legal for the citizens of Virginia.

CommentID: 222875

Commenter: Jason Dane

6/3/24 9:10 pm

What are you doing?

I am writing in strong support of Kratom. Banning this natural herb is not a well thought out idea. So many folks like myself use it and are hard working American citizens. I've been using it respectfully for years and it has improved the quality of my life. It is a natural plant, not a chemical. Please follow the science and do your research. I have relatives in your beautiful state that also use this and I am advocating for them as well. Kratom is a safe, scientifically backed natural plant and it should be regulated, not banned. Prohibition as we know will not make it go away, it will just be driven underground. Thank you for your time.

CommentID: 222876

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

62750

Commenter: David DiSalvo

Stop this effort to criminalize kratom

To whom it may concern - having closely studied the science behind kratom and its chief chemical components, I urge you to stop this criminalization effort. I and many thousands, perhaps millions, of others call for well-founded, thoughtful analysis, not political fear-mongering, and any even cursory examination of the scientific data will show that criminalization efforts like this one are the product of fear-mongering. Scheduling efforts like this stifle important research and shackle individual rights, and frankly we are tired of political reactions that ultimately HURT the public, as this one no doubt will if passed. Stand with true public health advocates who hold to a scientific, evidence-based approach, and reject this effort. Politics should not replace science in matters of public health.

Thank you.

CommentID: 222877

6/3/24 9:10 pm

Commenter: Sun Jais

Keep Kratom legal and treated as a plant just as coffee.

Kratom should not be banned or controlled. It is a plant with numerous benefits with zero ill effects. Request to keep it legal.

CommentID: 222878

6/3/24 9:10 pm

Commenter: Scott Murphy

Kratom helps maintain my mental/physical health.

I've been on kratom for the last 4 years and it's been critical to maintaining my mental and physical health. Without kratom my mental health would be difficult to manage as I have clinical depression that would be crippling without kratom. Additionally, my body pains associated with past injuries are much more easily tolerated with conservative doses of kratom. All the aforementioned benefits are redeemed using less than 1 g of kratom leaf powder per day.

CommentID: 222879

6/3/24 9:10 pm

Commenter: Kyra Pearl

Please Do Not Ban Kratom, a Healing Substance

My name is Kyra. I'm 48 years old. I'm a professionally licensed massage therapist with 22 years of experience. I'm a productive member of society who helps heal people and take away their pain, tension and other negative effects. Sometimes I even keep them from undergoing needless surgery or taking harmful medication.

I started using kratom in 2016. I was informed about it by a friend who told me how much it helped her. I suffer from depression, insomnia, anxiety and migraine headaches. Kratom has helped me greatly manage these symptoms.

I don't drink or do drugs. I have no need to get high. I use kratom medicinally, and I'm not addicted to it. I take a small amount of it once per day.

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I firmly believe that it's my right to decide what goes into my body. People are killing themselves and/or destroying their bodies with alcohol and cigarettes, which are legal and readily available everywhere. I believe that the individual should be punished for any crimes related to what they consume, and not the public. It's very difficult for me to imagine anyone on kratom doing destructive things, as its effects are more like an energy drink or caffeine, things that are obviously also legal and widely consumed.

Banning kratom is something I'm firmly against, and a decision that would hurt millions, both directly and indirectly. I do not want to even think of a life without kratom. It would severely hurt me, and make me less efficient at doing my job, which helps others to also be more productive.

At this point, my life would not even be worth living without kratom. I'd gotten to such a low point in 2016 that I was considering suicide. I then was timely introduced to kratom, which helped turn things around for me and spared my loved ones and massage clients a lot of pain. If kratom is banned, I fear I would go back to the path of potential suicide.

In my opinion, kratom should be readily available to anyone 18 years of age or older. It is a natural leaf, and has a myriad of health benefits (both mental and physical) which I've experienced firsthand. I believe denying it to the public and making productive members of society criminals for its possession is both wrong and unfair.

Thank you for your consideration. I respectfully ask that those involved in decision-making educate themselves about kratom, and review some scientific facts before simply dismissing it without no thought.

Kyra P.

CommentID: 222880

Commenter: JW

Kratom saves lives

I was able to free myself from multiple Rx medications and treat my anxiety/pain/and depression naturally with 2 tablepoons of kratom tea per day. I personally know many people who were able to finally win over their addiction to dangerous and deadly substances with this wonderful plant. I've seen people go from bed-bound pharmaceutical dependants, to functional, thriving members of society who take a small dose of this tea and are able to work full days, play with their kids, hike in the woods, without the throes of addiction and it's effects.

This plant saved my brothers life, a marine with PTSD who became addicted to Xanax and pain killers. he was actively planning out his out svicide when someone reached out and asked him to try kratom. Within 24 hours, he disposed of all drugs he had in his home, he said he walked outside and for the first time in 20 years, looked outside with clarity and hope and said to himself "this is what it feels like to be me again".

He tapered off kratom over the next couple of years and is now 100% substance free and loving better now in his 50s than he has for decades. All because of this tea.

Do right by the people, let them keep their lifeline that comes with this plant ??

CommentID: 222881

6/3/24 9:11 pm

Commenter: Tim Fields

Kratom

Kratom is a life saver and something that has helped so many. Please leave it alone and let us use something that benefits us.

6/3/24 9:11 pm

CommentID: 222882

Commenter: JB

6/3/24 9:11 pm

Please don't ban Kratom. It helps save lives!

Science does not support a ban on kratom. It is used by many as a way to wean off dangerous opiates and manage chronic pain in a less addictive manner.

Please don't ban this natural substance, unlike dangerous street drugs and pain pills, kratom helps save lives.

CommentID: 222883

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:11 pm

Kratom is not the enemy

Kratom is not the enemy! It has medicinal qualities. As a user I can honestly say it has never made me high. Kratom has improved my quality of life by providing safe pain relief. Banning this plant will cause havoc on those who choose a harmless plant over illicit and dangerous drugs. Putting Kratom in the same category as harmful drugs is not accurate. I oppose a ban.

CommentID: 222884

Commenter: Chris Robison

6/3/24 9:11 pm

Please keep Kratom legal and available - from personal experience

Hello-

I am a highly productive member of society - a 50 year old man working for a top IT firm, husband and father of two that also happens to suffer from lower back pain. Ibuprofen doesn't touch it and I do not want to go on opioids. There is one thing that has provided me relief over the last 8 years and that is Kratom.

I get routine physicals every year, my bloodwork is immaculate. I have never suffered any health problems in my years of using Kratom. On the contrary, the relief that I get from taking Kratom allows me to focus on my family and my work. Kratom should be legal, regulated and available to adults so that we can have tested products. If this is moved to Schedule I, then we will seem the same failed policies with this that we had with cannabis where things just move to alleyways and nobody can be sure of the quality of the extract.

I beg you - please consider the many, many thousands of people who find relief in this safe, natural extract. I think the vast majority of citizens in this country are tired of being told what they can and can't do for their own health. The thought of either having to sit through hours of painful sitting and trying to grit my teeth and concentrate through pain while I work is so depressing. Especially - when I know that people in other states have access to a natural extract that does not have NEAR the addictive or potent qualities of the opioids that our doctors are fine with prescribing.

CommentID: 222885

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:12 pm

Please do not ban kratom

Hello my name is Brandon I'm 27 years old and have been taking kratom for the last 4 years with no problems. At the age of 23 I witnessed my dad's suicide. When you see someone you love like that it's horrifying and changes you in many ways. I was diagnosed with PTSD, anxiety, insomnia, depression. The medication that I got from my doctor had many side effects, too many to list. Thankfully my mom's friend told me about kratom. From that day on I've been able to breathe. I go to work everyday pay my taxes contribute to society in meaningful ways. Please reconsider this ban. It will only hurt people. Rather than banning it we should regulate it so vendors can't sell adulterated kratom. It really is no different than coffee. And as a matter of fact it comes from the coffee family. Thank you for taking time out of your day to read this. Please visit kratomanswers.org, they have all the updated information and studies on kratom. Also please look into what the World Health Organization has to say about kratom. Look into what the national institute of health. Look into what Department of Health And Human services has to say about the matter. I truly don't know what my life would look like if kratom was banned tomorrow. You'll be hurting a lot of people by banning this amazing God given tree. God bless you!

14 He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for people to cultivate— bringing forth food from the earth: 15 wine that gladdens human hearts, oil to make their faces shine, and bread that sustains their hearts

CommentID: 222886

Commenter: Cavin

6/3/24 9:12 pm

Kratom

You're killing people if you ban Kratom. My cousin died from opiate overdose after her state banned Kratom. She was fine in Kratom until it was illegal. Then she slipped back into opiates because she didn't have her life saving medicine. I suffered from severe chronic pain due to traumatic injuries that caused me have severe nervous system dysregulation. I would have definitely succeeded in my second attempt at suicide had I not found Kratom and it helped my depression, anxiety and pain enough for me to live and find a cure for my conditions. Now I don't take it because I found the cure, no thanks to pharmaceutical companies, and Kratom made that possible.

CommentID: 222887

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:12 pm

Do not schedule Kratom

I have taken Kratom for over 10 years and have never had any adverse effects other than pain relief and lessened anxiety. Look at the science as politicians love to say. Go to the website of the American Kratom Association and educate yourself as to the science. To my knowledge there has never been a death solely attributed to Kratom.

CommentID: 222888

Commenter: Jason Smith

6/3/24 9:13 pm

Gods creation

Genesis 1:29 "And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat."

Kratom is ingested in the green leaf form as tea, not synthesized in a lab or refined with petroleum distillates and smoked, snorted, or injected. Outlawing Kratom is outlawing Gods creation, and violating our God given and Biblical right to use the leaf of a tree the way it is intended to be used. Thank you, and God is watching.

CommentID: 222889

Commenter: Anonymous**Keep kratom legal!!!**

Kratom literally saved my life.

CommentID: 222890

6/3/24 9:13 pm

Commenter: Anonymous**I Oppose Scheduling Kratom**

Hello,

I use kratom to help me stay off hard drugs like heroin and fentanyl. I know many other who do the same thing. We do t need it scheduled. We need it regulated. More people will die if this passes vs if it doesn't pass.

CommentID: 222891

6/3/24 9:13 pm

Commenter: Ida Lawrence**This plant medicine allows me to live without chronic pain**

I'm 78 years old and have been taking Kratom for chronic hip pain for years. This plant is SO BENEFICIAL. I don't have to take addictive prescription drugs for pain. I'm so grateful that I can sip a little kratom and go about my day. Why are people trying to take this beneficial plant away from us? It is not in the least addictive. If I don't take it I notice myself yawning and that's about it. AND I notice my hip pain coming back. STOP doing the will of the pharma industry. We have a right to use plants and supplements and we don't need 'protection' to police us. Thanks - Ida

CommentID: 222892

6/3/24 9:14 pm

Commenter: JAY KEMAHLI**Millions can't be wrong...listen please, we need your help...**

Please listen what we are saying and help...

CommentID: 222893

6/3/24 9:14 pm

Commenter: Anonymous**Stop the Ban**

I haven't been on prescription pain killers for my back since 2016 because of Kratom. It's more helpful than being addicted to pain killers.

CommentID: 222894

6/3/24 9:14 pm

Commenter: Randy Heimgartner**PLEASE !! DO NOT BAN KRATOM.**

HELLO, I was prescribed Oxycodone from a doctor after a car crash. My life began a downward spiral from that point on from perscription pills to using street drugs. I was in and out of jail and became a habitual offender in the eyes of the Florida court system. I was facing 30yrs in prison so I finally decided to stop using. I was white knuckling it and still suffering terrible pain. I started using Kratom to manage my pain and it works !!! I take it 3 times a day just as I would my prescribed medication. However the difference is I do not abuse Kratom. If you were to take large amounts of Kratom worst case you would only vomit, not die!! The only true Kratom deaths are when there are other illicit prscription or street drugs involved. Kratom is natural and it works !! Less for some and more for others, but if you are looking for legal pain relief it works. I have not been arrested since 2008 or been in a court room since 2011. It does not alter your bodily function anywhere near as much as THC and it is being used regularly in my state. You can smell it while driving everywhere. I would rather drive on a road filled with Kratom users than THC users any day !!! You would be much safer!!!. Trust me I have tried both and Kratom Affects body aches and pain not your ability to function or think and react. THC effects the brain yet it is everywhere in my state. If you Ban Kratom your opiate use and deaths willn double if not triple. Please reconsider until more is know about the substance that is keeping myself and thousands of other pain sufferers pain free and out working and productive members of society. Thank you for your time.

HaveA Great Day !!!!! ,

Randy Heimgartner

CommentID: 222895

Commenter: Marc Dubeau**Schedule 1 is Overkill for Kratom**

I am a current user of kratom and I find it to be a helpful substance and without the danger of what a Schedule 1 substance should be. Kratom is a lot safer than opiates and I have been able to use it medicinally for over a decade. I think that Schedule 1 for kratom is overkill. I am in support of more realistic regulation of kratom, such as regards for quality control and education. Please keep kratom legal and with better considerations.

CommentID: 222896

6/3/24 9:14 pm

Commenter: Chris Sobel**Scheduling Kratom would not accomplish the goals put fourth by ban proponents**

As a disabled veteran, former medical professional, and proponent for kratom access, I oppose this measure. Proponents of scheduling Kratom have argued in this post, in summary, that:

1. Scheduling will promote research

This is demonstrably false, and any medical professional should be ashamed to suggest this. Any researcher knows that making a substance schedule 1 will make it drastically harder, not easier to study. Look at the difficulties surrounding studies regarding new treatments for PTSD and cluster headaches via MDMA or psilocybin, or cannabis research in general over the last 40 years. Scheduled substances are drastically harder to study due to the high level of regulation and controls associated with the substances. Let's not pretend that a scheduling is a gateway to research. Instead, put money towards research, which will be facilitated by access. People argue

that there is no established treatment for Kratom... a ban will be a sure way to hamper discovering more science on Kratom.

2. The FDA has issued alerts and tried to schedule Kratom, therefore we should schedule it. The FDA's attempt to schedule Kratom was rebuked at just about every juncture, including bipartisan opposition at the congressional level, and failed due to lack of evidence and dubious pseudo-science within a short period of time. This is the same organization that opened the gates on oxycodone after accepting questionable studies and allowed the flooding of America with dangerous opiates. Follow the existing science, not an organization that has lost major public credibility in the last two decades.

3. We should do this for public safety—after all, Kratom is linked to deaths and a host of side effects.

The evidence needs to be carefully considered as to the real extent of this claim. Regarding deaths, there are almost no documented deaths from Kratom alone. The existence of Kratom in a poly substance death with far stronger compounds present is not likely a kratom death given the lack of actual kratom "alone" deaths. There are drastically more deaths each year from legal substances and fda approved medications yet the risk/reward is considered acceptable for many of these. Any public safety decision has to weigh the possible harms associated with each course of action. I believe, all things considered, that the harm from a ban would vastly outweigh the benefits, which could be accomplished by passing consumer protection legislation that sustains access for consumers.

4. There are no accepted treatments for Kratom

By this people mean that there are "no FDA approved" uses of Kratom. While quality, peer reviewed and repeatable studies are always the highest bar for establishing medical use, it would be unwise to ignore the massive anecdotal evidence surrounding Kratom use for a variety of conditions. Surely, both the ancient cultural track record and replete testimonies of kratom users should be a signpost to preserve access and catalyze research—not restrict access and hamper research.

Thank you for your consideration

Chris

Ret. USAF Pararescue

CommentID: 222897

Commenter: Jacob H.

6/3/24 9:14 pm

Addition of Kratom to Schedule 1 Response

I have used Kratom, myself, regularly for the past 14 years and have not seen any of the anecdotal "consequences" of its' use banded about. I have, in said time, however obtained multiple degrees and certifications, made a name for myself in my own industry now being a leading expert, provided for my family, and been a positive role model in my community. To claim Kratom has no purpose or is intrinsically dangerous is, quite frankly, close-minded and ignorant.

Some may hurt themselves with it as with any other substance. I remind you, people have killed themselves with water too. Stupidity and self-harm won't be prevented by banning this substance. Those who would will find another way.

CommentID: 222898

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:15 pm

Do Not Ban Kratom

Please, do not ban Kratom. It's saved me from crippling pain from severe scoliosis. I'm allergic to narcotics, so this has been a miracle for me! I don't know where I'd be if I had to live in this pain, with no relief.

CommentID: 222899

Commenter: Soren Shade

6/3/24 9:15 pm

As a rule, prohibition causes more dangerous substances to take the place of the prohibited one

Opium, which causes the consumer to fall asleep before danger to health is felt, was prohibited. This prohibition gave way to the popularization of morphine, which was commonly administered through a syringe, and had greater addiction potential than opium as well as being lethal at certain doses.

Morphine was replaced with the "safer" alternative, heroin. Heroin was then made illegal, which opened up the market for a dearth of semi-synthetic opioids with varying potencies. All of which could also kill you.

These substances were then restricted or prohibited, propelling the market to adopt the most potent synthetic opioids available so as to serve the market demand most efficiently and make smuggling easier and more successful. Today, we are seeing the issues with fentanyl and other highly potent opioid being the most popular black market drugs.

All of this could have been avoided by leaving the highly desirable and miraculously safe opium legal.

Don't repeat this history with kratom. It will cause many more thousands to suffer, and will in not long term way change the drug market demand, and will instead shift the profits to criminal organizations.

Kratom is remarkably safe. Just 30 minutes browsing a handful of articles about "kratom" on google scholar will show you that. What is needed is regulation, which Virginia already has. If you believe their is a real issue with kratom on the market, the answer is to increase regulations so that consumption and harms/benefits can be monitored. Making it illegal will take it out from your control, harm legitimate business, force consumers to a dangerous black market, pack the overflowing prisons with yet more non-violent offenders, and enrich those who choose to break the law.

CommentID: 222900

Commenter: Henry L.

6/3/24 9:15 pm

KRATOM IS HARMLESS!!!

I was a toxic alcoholic who didn't care about anyone but myself, to the point to where I developed pancreatitis at 23 years old. I was 90lbs overweight and killing myself slowly. Until I found this miracle plant called Kratom that gave me my life back! It gave/gives me the motivation to be the best version of myself! It kept/keeps bad thoughts at bay without clouding my judgement or vision. It made/makes me see the bright side of life, while making me less socially anxious. It doesn't

cause any bad side effects from daily use, I've had blood work done every 6 months periodically and my liver and pancreatic enzyme levels have been perfect! I use kratom as a crutch through daily life and my life has gotten nothing but better (for me and everyone around me) since I started taking kratom 2-3 years ago. Please don't take this beautiful harmless plant away from the people that benefit so dearly from it. It's not hurting anyone or anything.

CommentID: 222901

Commenter: Anonymous

Do not schedule kratom

Please do not schedule kratom

It has help many of us who use it responsibly

CommentID: 222902

6/3/24 9:15 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom is helping people quit deadly opioids

Making Kratom schedule I will halt all scientific research into this plant which can be and is currently being used to treat opioid dependence with much success. It is a vastly safer alternative and making it illegal will only increase the amount of overdose deaths caused by traditional opioids.

CommentID: 222903

6/3/24 9:15 pm

Commenter: Craig schenk

Oppose criminalizing it

Have we learned nothing from decades of failed prohibition policies? This would be a disaster.

CommentID: 222904

6/3/24 9:16 pm

Commenter: Rome

Stop the Ban. PTST Former Military Need it

One of our several guests is former military who was in a special Army unit and did 3 tours in Afghanistan. He tried the VA approach only to become severely suicidal due to the pharmaceuticals they were prescribing. Once he found Kratom, he has been able to live his life free from depression and pain. He shared stories during his deployment and he doesn't wish that on anyone. He said Kratom saved his life while prescriptions did not. He no longer goes to the VA for medication! It was his choice without influence. This is just one of countless other stories I've heard from consumers sharing the importance of this plant.

CommentID: 222905

6/3/24 9:16 pm

Commenter: mike komorowski

KEEP KRATOM LEGAL:

6/3/24 9:16 pm

The push to criminalize kratom stinks of big business and lobbyists with politicians paving the way. Give the people what they want. Don't take dirty money or favors from special interest groups. Kratom alone has never killed anyone and helps those with addictions and pain among other medical conditions. Don't be the state that went back in time. Help Americans heal.

CommentID: 222906

Commenter: Christopher B Tinnell

Keep kratom legal

Please keep kratom legal. There are no valid reasons to make it a Schedule 1. Alcohol is far, far worse, yet remains legal. I have 9 years of experience with kratom, and have no health issues resulting from this plant.

CommentID: 222907

6/3/24 9:16 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom Should Not Be Banned

I am a married, highly educated working professional who has faced a life-altering challenge. Twelve years ago, I suffered a devastating adverse reaction to a prescribed medication, resulting in permanent neurological damage. In my quest for relief, I was prescribed a myriad of medications, including opioids. While opioids provided some relief, the side effects were intolerable, leaving me in a constant state of despair.

Then, a beacon of hope appeared when my son-in-law suggested that I try Kratom. It took me a year of thorough research and contemplation to finally make the decision to try this natural alternative. Since that pivotal moment, I have never taken another FDA-approved pharmaceutical for pain. Kratom has given me my life back. I can now manage my pain naturally, allowing me to work, exercise, travel, and fully engage in life. Although I will never be completely free from pain, Kratom has given me a quality of life that I can truly live with.

I urge you to consider the profound impact Kratom has had on my life and the lives of countless others. Instead of criminalizing or banning this invaluable plant, I strongly advocate for quality control legislation. Ensuring the safety and consistency of Kratom products can protect consumers while preserving access to this life-changing natural remedy. Let's prioritize the well-being and autonomy of individuals like myself, who have found solace and strength in Kratom.

CommentID: 222908

6/3/24 9:17 pm

Commenter: Owen

Kratom

Don't make Kratom illegal it helps lots of people.

CommentID: 222909

6/3/24 9:17 pm

Commenter: Mark swindell

Keep kratom accessible

Please do not make kratom illegal. It helps way to many people. Thanks

6/3/24 9:17 pm

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

CommentID: 222910

Commenter: JOHN

6/3/24 9:18 pm

Follow the science, Kratom helps countless thousands nation wide

With all the evil that responsible adults are being subjected to because of the opioid issue. We don't need to add to it by placing a Schedule 1 regulation on Kratom. The resulting cost of suffering this will needlessly place on Virginia citizens will be catastrophic.

CommentID: 222911

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:18 pm

Please don't schedule Kratom

Please don't schedule Kratom. It is a natural substance, not addictive.

CommentID: 222912

Commenter: Jay

6/3/24 9:20 pm

No Kratom Ban

As a Virginia resident, I DO NOT support this ban. It would have negative effects for the community.

CommentID: 222913

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:20 pm

Absolutely not in support.

Do not.

CommentID: 222914

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:20 pm

Kratom saves Veterans!

Disabled veteran here. Chronic pain led me down the path of prescribed prescriptions that led me down the road of addiction nightmare. Consuming Kratom I am no longer on any other pain medicines, antidepressants, anxiety medication, Gerd medications. It has given me meaning and the pain-free will to live.

Please don't take this natural plant and make it illegal.

CommentID: 222915

Commenter: TruthTellerInVirginia

6/3/24 9:21 pm

I disagree with classifying in it as a schedule 1

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

CommentID: 222916

Kratom is harmless, and helps so many with pain, and opiate addiction. Please don't do this.

Commenter: Ryan Larsen

6/3/24 9:21 pm

Do not schedule 1 Kratom

While more research needs to be done on kratom, I can 100% say that it has medical value and legitimately helps people. I personally was able to quit drinking with the help of kratom and have replaced chronic use of ibuprofen for arthritis with kratom. I am a professional, loving husband and father, and have my affairs in order. This plant has changed my life for the better with no repercussions. It would be a shame to ban something with so much potential to help.

Please do not schedule 1 kratom.

sincerely,

Ryan Larsen

CommentID: 222917

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:21 pm

Absolutely not in support.

Kratom saves lives.

CommentID: 222918

Commenter: Gabe S.

6/3/24 9:21 pm

Kratom saved my life

My name is Gabriel Shockley, I'm 40 years old. 4 years ago I was on a path of destruction, with drugs and alcohol leading the way. My whole adult life was spent struggling to maintain adulthood with weekly half gallons of liquor and beer, just to eventually trying amphetamines to help me recoup after benders. One day my cousin introduced me to a green powder called Kratom. He explained to me how this special plant was key to stopping his opioid addiction after he broke his spine after a car crash. I knew there was merit to it, because I know how long he had struggled with pain medication. So I tried it. It was the first weekend in years that I went without a drink; I was intrigued. I had energy, and I could focus, and it removed my desire to drink or take drugs that very weekend. I was finally in a place where my judgement was less clouded, and I went to rehab, 30 days. I tried the sobriety meds they prescribed me through the month, and set me up with afterward, which had little effect on my cravings. So I acquired more Kratom to see if that could make a difference. That was in the year 2020, I had my last drink July 17 of that year, and my last amphetamine a month before that. As of today, it's been 3 years, 7 months and 28 days. That's how long I've used Kratom as well. I take a healthy scoop in the morning before work, and if my energy is depleting from the manual labor I'm involved in, I may take another scoop in the early to late afternoon, and finish the day strong. It's safer on my heart than strong caffeine drinks, no headaches or nervousness, and doesn't effect my appetite in the least. It's been a Godsend. I had pretty much gave up on life, believing I'd drink and do drugs till the day I died, expecting something

drink or drug related to end my life. Not anymore! Kratom gave me hope by breaking the chains that alcohol/drugs had me bound in. Since I discovered what this miracle plant could do, I've helped several folks in my recovery alumni groups, get off of suboxone and other sobriety maintenance medications, and have helped others stop drinking outright. I'm a very productive citizen now, and I've managed to save enough for a decent bank account, a savings, and several annuities to help me in retirement. I've got a life now, a great one actually. There's no way I could've passed this opportunity by, to let anyone who'll listen, know what Kratom did for me, and encourage anyone who's struggling with a deadly addiction, to know there's REAL hope out there. It seems too good to be true, but it's really not. I'm living proof, along with others I've been blessed to help with the assistance of Kratom. I use it everyday as a supplement with my daily vitamins. It would be a very very very huge shame if those of us who consume, and help others achieve sobriety, had this tool stripped from our recovery toolbox. It really does save lives when it's thought all hope is gone.

CommentID: 222919

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:22 pm

Do not schedule Kratom

Kratom has been a lifesaver for me. As someone with extensive orthopedic injuries and surgeries, I've been on opioids for many years of my life. Kratom has permitted me to stop prescription opioids and still treat my debilitating pain. Scheduling this plant will exacerbate the damage the opioid epidemic has had on Virginians. Do not schedule it.

CommentID: 222920

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:22 pm

Making Kratom Illegal Would Kill People

I know a few people that would still be using hard drugs or would be dead if they had not found kratom. Kratom can not kill anyone. There is no chance of an overdose. This is why they started taking kratom because they did not want to die. I truly believe it saves lives.

CommentID: 222921

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:22 pm

Please do not.

Kratom personally saved my life.

CommentID: 222922

Commenter: Gary Morrison

6/3/24 9:22 pm

Kratom is safe and effective

I am a former educator and former volunteer law enforcement officer. I have had two major back surgeries and numerous procedures for spinal pain. I started using Kratom several years ago to control regular pain . It's very mild and safer than the opioids that doctors usually offer me. It's been safer than Tylenol. It is effective and easy to consume. There are so many Virginians like myself that use Kratom powders to control pain and even as an energy boost or anxiolytic (depending on the dose). Please protect our rights to have access to this safe and mild herb. The

alternative for huge numbers of Virginians will be highly addictive and dangerous pharmaceuticals. As a member of the American Kratom Association, I can assure you that Virginia is highly populated with people who use this mild alternative and those of us who have found the benefits of Kratom do vote. Please protect our rights.

CommentID: 222923

Commenter: Anthony B

6/3/24 9:23 pm

Do NOT support 18VAC110-20-322

Good evening, I am writing you because this petition includes mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine as two alkaloids that should be banned and they should absolutely not be banned. The Kratom alkaloids are safe and efficient. I, along with millions of Americans have been using Kratom for years and it has very much improved my health and well-being. It has been scientifically been tested and proven to be safe. Please do not consider this bill. Thank you.

CommentID: 222924

Commenter: Ryan Rendick

6/3/24 9:23 pm

Please do not ban kratom

This herbal supplement saved me from alcoholism. I have been using the plant for the last 3 years in moderation + I have very little desire to drink. As a result I find the The supplement very helpful for my anxiety disorder. My obsessive compulsive disorder + my alcohol abuse disorder. Without this plant in my life I'm not sure I can be as strong and as productive as I have been. The answer is safe and responsible. Use of kratom no different than alcohol. Please do n

ot ban kratom. Respectfully, your s. Ryan public school teacher

CommentID: 222925

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:23 pm

Kratom Is a Botanical

Stop the potential ban on Kratom! It is a botanical and is far safer and more effective than what the pharmaceutical companies make to relieve pain. Draconian rules and laws do not apply here. Receiving pain management is already a dumpster fire and you will cause great harm to those who choose a plant over poison. ??

CommentID: 222926

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:24 pm

DO NOT CRIMINALIZE KRATOM

The only bad thing about Kratom is that it has addiction potential but so does a bunch of other legal vices people use everyday. Don't be foolish. People use this to operate/function. If you criminalize Kratom, you might as well criminalize Cannabis and alcohol (don't).

CommentID: 222927

Commenter: Anonymous

You can regulate but please don't ban.

For the sake of the people, do not.

CommentID: 222928

6/3/24 9:24 pm

Commenter: Samantha Rita Claybaugh

To Whom It May Concern...

To whom it may concern,

First and foremost, I would like to thank you for taking the time to read my comments and listen to my story. Kratom is one of the few natural plants/supplements that actually take away some of my chronic pain. I was bedridden for years, in which I was using prescribed narcotics to mask my pain. They made me feel worse, sick, I lost weight, couldn't eat, slept all the time, etc.

I realized then that I needed to find an alternative method to my health. My fiance discovered Kratom at a smoke shop and I tried it for the first time in 2013. It was the first time that I felt free from chronic pain. My pain was always a level 8 regularly and Kratom helps take it down to about a 2. I don't feel any mental effects such as getting a high or anything like that. It literally just takes away some pain that I have.

While taking Kratom, I also do a lot of Yoga, I eat a whole foods diet, meditate, have a great support system of family, friends, and doctors, and so much more.

I can now work a job, cook, bake, hike, do sports, drive, and everything else that involves the freedom of a human being. People who don't have health issues cannot understand what it's like to not be able to do regular things such as drive, cook for themselves, or go out with friends. For the longest time I yearned for life before Kratom, and now I am finally living it as a productive member of society.

I hope that my story can encourage you to let this plant continue to help the millions of Americans that take it. I am always here if you want to talk or ask me any questions.

Thanks for listening.

Sam Claybaugh

CommentID: 222929

6/3/24 9:25 pm

Commenter: Christopher Vaughn

Consider the Kratom Consumer Protection Act Instead

Please discuss the KCPA kratom consumer protection act instead of a ban. Kratom is legal in 43 states. About half have passed KCPA. This is an herbal supplement used in dozens of places for

treatment of chronic fatigue and chronic pain. The American Kratom Association would be happy to explain the science as well as KCPA.

CommentID: 222930

Commenter: Eadie Rowell

Kratom

6/3/24 9:26 pm

Making Kratom illegal is unnecessary and a broad step in the wrong direction!

I am a 70 yr old Kratom consumer. I have consumed Kratom for 10 yrs without any ill effects. In fact, my primary care physician, orthopedic surgeon, OB/GYN and dentist all approve of my decision to consume pure, unadulterated lab tested Kratom.

I spent over 25 yrs living in an opioid induced fog from prescription opioids. My health suffered drastically, my social life was nonexistent and my ability to drive was hindered out of fear I would get in an accident and be charged with a DUI!

Today, I am thriving! I quit ALL opioids in 2017. My PCP has done comprehensive lab work on me every six months since 2017 to monitor any ill effects since not much was known scientifically about Kratom at the time. All my labs improved within 4 months of choosing Kratom to manage my chronic pain from two failed lower back surgeries, osteoarthritis, and fibromyalgia. My liver function improved and is right in the middle of the standard range. My cholesterol dropped 40 points and my blood sugar dropped from 105 to 85 and has maintained these improvements for eight years

To ban Kratom in Virginia would be a huge mistake. I live in North Carolina and travel to Virginia. I would become a criminal as soon as I crossed the border into Virginia.

Rather than ban Kratom you should contact the American Kratom Association and let the organization guide you to developing the Kratom Consumer Protection Act that numerous states have passed. This would provide clear age limits for consumption, and protect consumers from bad actors who add illicit drugs to Kratom to boost sales. KCPA would also provide law enforcement with clear guidelines when encountering Kratom.

Pure unadulterated Kratom powder that has been lab tested for heavy metals, salmonella and illicit drugs is safe and should be the consumer's choice. Even the FDA had to admit in a California court that it has no evidence Kratom is dangerous or an eminent threat to consumers. I am begging you to reconsider your choices. Do not ban Kratom! You will be hurting so many law abiding Kratom consumers who have had their lives changed by this harmless leaf.

Please follow the actual science available and do not believe the lies and misinformation. The citizens in your state should have the freedom to choose safe, unadulterated Kratom.

Thank you for your time.

Mrs. Eadie Rowell

Zebulon, NC

CommentID: 222931

Commenter: Andrew Gooch

Keep Kratom Legal!

Please keep kratom legal!!!

CommentID: 222932

6/3/24 9:26 pm

Commenter: Joseph origi

6/3/24 9:26 pm

Please do not make kratom alkaloids schedule 1

I strongly disagree with the petition to make kratom illegal. It is a natural alternative to opioids and other addictive medications that kill. It is a plant leaf that is all. It has a ceiling effect that will not cause an overdose. It does not kill. Look at the numbers of how many people have died from kratom alone with no other drugs in there system. There has been none from unadulterated leaf kratom. Now compare that with prescription opioids especially fentanyl. Hundreds of thousands of people have died. If you make kratom illegal you will be forcing even more people to the black market thinking there buying a pain pill for there pain and it ends up being fentanyl and another person dies. There are a lot of people who used to use opioids and turn to kratom for there pain so they don't turn back to opioids because of there pain. It also has great antidepressant and anti anxiety properties. It's a safe plant to use. It would be devastating to take this away from people who need it and cause much more deaths. This is a safe alternative that does not kill. I believe there should be some oversight and regulation to make sure the kratom is tested and unadulterated. It should be available to the people that need it. Haven't we learned that prohibition does not work and only causes more harm than a substance itself would be especially kratom with its safety profile. Fuels black markets and people using way more dangerous drugs that will kill them. I finish by saying this. Please if anything regulate kratom but do not take this natural plant based medicine from the people who need it desperately.

CommentID: 222933

Commenter: mike komorowski

6/3/24 9:27 pm

KEEP KRATOM LEGAL:

I'm shocked at the support for making kratom a schedule 1 substance. The first opening comments are filled with so much wrong information by people that otherwise seem to write an educated comment. What a shame the true facts are washed out by false opinions. Keep up the good fight AKA !! Mac , please keep on trucking.... Love LoveMike aka KOSMO

CommentID: 222934

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:27 pm

I do not support the Kratom Ban

I know that Kratom has saved thousands of lives, I support it being legal!

CommentID: 222935

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:27 pm

Stop the ban on kratom

By banning kratom you will put people back on road to abusing other stuff that will help them.Kratom is the only thing that helped me get over my opiate addiction

CommentID: 222936

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:27 pm

44 Do not punish the ones that have been using it safely because of those who do not.

Please don't.

CommentID: 222937

Commenter: Daniel

6/3/24 9:27 pm

Kratom is an herb not a drug. It's had been medicine for thousands of years please stop this

Please stop criminalizing a plant medicine. It is not dangerous. Marijuana is much more dangerous, yet it is legal. Pure kratom is a beneficial plant that has helped millions of people. How can we ban an herb yet there are pharmaceuticals that kill millions of people a year? It's not the plant that has issues its the people who abuse it. People abuse alcohol, tobacco and many other legal things which are way more harmful. Kratom is safe and effective. Please think about this clearly and logically. If the plant is marketed and regulated like other supplements there is no problem. Most people who use kratom use it responsibly. I'm in pain and I don't want to feel high from prescribed THC, and I hate opioid drugs because it causes pruritis..so kratom is the only thing that works for my pain and chronic headaches. I can't take nsaiids because I get ulcers. Please consider your actions, you will cause detriment to many people trying to survive chronic pain

CommentID: 222938

Commenter: Jordan h

6/3/24 9:27 pm

Please stop advocating and passing laws in favor of big pharmaceutical companies

In 2011 I was ran over by a customers vehicle at work causing major damage to my lower spine and hip. I have a three level fusion to my L3-L4, L4-L5, L5-S1 vertebrae resulting in a permanent disability rating of 63% I spent half of my day stuck in bed or a wheel chair. I was prescribed 100mcg 72hr fentanyl patches and 5mg deluded for break through pain muscle relaxers and anti inflammatory to deal with muscle spasms. I still spent most of my life major pain. Finally after weekly ER visits I meet a person who knew a holistic treatment specialist who had alternative medicinal methods. I detoxed the pharmaceutical drugs against my doctors wishes and experience something no one should have to vomiting illness panic attacks shaking full body pain but that's okay according to the FDA. Since seeking alternative medicine in 2017 my life has drastically improved I use Kratom twice a day for pain relief and I am able to function work no longer feeling depressed from the drug cocktail and because I was a drain on my family. No I'm not 100% better but I am able to live a life and function which big pharma was never able to provide. I haven't been stuck in bed or used a wheel chair in 5 years thanks to Kratom banning it will not help the people it will further enrich the pharmaceutical companies and force people like myself back on to FDA "approved" drugs that will kill us and are designed to make you need more look at what fentanyl is doing to our country funny it wasn't described as a death sentence in 2014 when I was given it from my doctors. But hey that's ok because the doctors have prescribed it. Please do the right thing for me and your voters. You are elected to be our voices and we don't want this to be banned or regulated.

CommentID: 222939

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:27 pm

Scheduling Kratom would be a very poor decision on many levels for your state

As a concerned American citizen, I strongly urge you to keep Kratom legal in your state. For many individuals, including myself, Kratom has been a crucial tool in managing chronic pain, and anxiety. It offers a natural alternative that supports wellness and improves the quality of life for countless

people. Criminalizing Kratom would not only strip away a valuable resource from those who rely on it, but also push them towards more dangerous, addictive substances. Prioritizing the well-being and freedom of your residents by keeping Kratom available for responsible adults would be a better allocation of resources.

Thank you for your time.
CommentID: 222940

Commenter: Lisa Fedder

6/3/24 9:28 pm

Kratom

Kratom has been a great alternative for hydrocodone for me. I have a variety of autoimmune conditions and a congenital bone deformity that cause alot of pain. Along with osteoarthritis and chronic migraine. Kratom helps with the pain and fatigue and brain fog. It's also a great bridge for when the hydrocodone doesn't stretch as far as it should. You must think of those who cannot get help with pain because of the opioid scare. Kratom is way better than cannabis as it doesn't cause a high so to speak. More oversight is need for high quality, unadulterated Kratom. Please consider the value of Kratom vs the value of synthetic pharmaceuticals. Safer for sure. Thank you for taking the time to read my comment.

CommentID: 222941

Commenter: Joseph Independent

6/3/24 9:28 pm

Kratom helped me get off pharmaceutical without Suboxone/Methadone

Kratom has helped me in so many ways, not only did it help me wing off opioids/opiates. It also has helped me with cravings as well, as an ex- opiate/opioid addict, I highly valued an alternative that is a natural plant instead of the mercy of a doctor or clinic. Please listen and educate yourself on the matter instead of just going by what big pharma feeds you.

CommentID: 222942

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:29 pm

Please DO NOT Ban Kratom

This herbal supplement saved me from opioids due to chronic migraines. I have been using the plant for the previous 6 years in moderation + I am as healthy as I've ever been. As a result I find the supplement very helpful for my health and life. This herb is safe and effective. If you ban Kratom, you would need to ban coffee beans and many other natural substances, which makes ZERO sense. Please keep this plant safe and legal. Thank you!

Respectfully,

Christine (advisor at a community college with a Master's Degree in Education)

CommentID: 222943

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:29 pm

45 Please do not criminalize Kratom

I am a mom to a child with special needs. I have a hip injury and drinking Kratom tea a few times per week manages my pain so I can work and care for my child's multiple physical needs without resorting to opioids. Kratom is a natural tea that I prefer rather than getting involved with addictive opioids . Thank you

CommentID: 222944

Commenter: Eddie A

6/3/24 9:29 pm

Kratom

You're going to hurt a lot of people if you criminalize this. Kratom helped save my life. I use to be addicted to meth and morphine. Kratom is one of the tools I used to help get and keep myself clean.

CommentID: 222945

Commenter: Melissa

6/3/24 9:30 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

I've been taking kratom since 2015 for all types of pain & mood issues in addition to other supplements & Rx that all help other areas as well. I was on opioid medication for over 10 years & even had to use a wheelchair. I was so desperate to find something else though because I had too many side effects. It ruined my GI tract , gave me permanent hyperalgesia and I lost my teeth. I found kratom and it worked to help me wean off them and gave me quality of life back where I had little. It helps me manage but it's not as strong as the Rx I had. Therefore I'm still limited but it helps me have some control back & my pain is from where it should be-not everywhere. I've taken it everyday unless I needed to take a break for other reasons and have had no withdrawals or psychological dependence. I just feel "normal". My 72 yr old mom even takes it for RLS, otherwise she can't function in the day because her Rx puts her to sleep. A scheduling of kratom sets a very bad pattern and is completely undeserved once you read the SCIENCE. Please, do not criminalize it. Pain patients already have to practically beg for any help. Some have committed suicide over banning it because their quality of life is so bad. Thank you for your time. I hope we are HEARD. ~ M

CommentID: 222946

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:31 pm

Kratom is a life saver

Many people have found new life away from opioids thanks to kratom.

CommentID: 222947

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:31 pm

As a Vet, kratom is the only thing that works for pain

I served my time in the Marines. We trained and fought hard. It broke my body after even through I am younger.

There have been days when I couldn't get out of bed.

Finding kratom has helped me wonderfully to get my life back on track

Please follow the science that's not funded by the people who are trying to ban it.

It is safer than any other schedule 1 drug by miles. It doesn't make sense.

CommentID: 222948

Commenter: Kerry

Don't criminalize this...it's not a drug

Don't take this away. It's an herb. Not a drug.

CommentID: 222949

6/3/24 9:31 pm

Commenter: Thomas

Substitute for Pharmaceutical Drugs

I would not be surprised if the main entities behind this move to ban kratom are the pharmaceutical companies. I have used kratom for about the last 5 years in lieu of pain medication prescribed by my primary care physician. For me, it is clear that kratom, used at 2 gram increments approximately 2-3 times a day, has adequately dealt with my lingering pain from past knee injuries and arthritis. At 68 years old, I don't need a governmental organization to tell me what I can and can't do to treat my lingering pain. I am a responsible adult who understands the misuse of any product, be it coffee, alcohol, sweets (obesity), or kratom.

CommentID: 222950

Commenter: Anonymous

Making Kratom Schedule 1 would have a dramatic negative effect on the people of Virginia

Nine years ago I was stricken with an incurable neurological condition that causes unrelenting pain, extreme fatigue and other symptoms. The medical community doesn't know what causes my condition, how to cure it, or even how to effectively treat it. This condition made me disabled. I've been unable to work or completely take care of myself. I've tried and continue to try every reputable treatment I can for my condition. Despite that, the only thing that has given a dramatic improvement to my symptoms is Kratom. Kratom reduces my pain and vastly improves my quality of life.

I've used Kratom as a treatment for over eight years with no ill effect. For myself and other disabled people that it helps, Kratom is a godsend. Thinking about going back to the pain and suffering I endured before I started taking Kratom is devastating. Kratom needs to be protected and researched for the good of those like me. The research that already exists on Kratom is very promising. Unlike opioids, Kratom has shown low addiction risk and does not negatively affect the respiratory system. Many former medical professionals like myself have researched Kratom and use it to reduce their symptoms. Those of us who live with overwhelming medical conditions are already suffering enough, please don't take away a substance that provides great relief.

Banning Kratom would cause me to require opioids, if I could even get them prescribed. Opioids have been shown to be far more dangerous than Kratom. Without Kratom I would be in unbearable pain. Please do not ban a supplement that is helping so many people. A ban would be disastrous to the people of Virginia.

CommentID: 222951

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom consumers are NOT criminals

Classifying kratom as schedule 1 will unjustly and unnecessarily make criminals out of countless kratom consumers who are safely and effectively using it to treat pain and improve their quality of life. This kind of legislation is draconian and harmful.

CommentID: 222952

Commenter: Alex P

I do not support the kratom ban

Going after a ban would be a huge mistake. There are no studies that cite deaths from ONLY kratom, and we currently passed an act to make sure consumers can purchase lab tested and safe kratom. Making it a schedule 1 will only encourage a black market on it and actual deaths.

****trigger warning**

My personal experience is that I wanted nothing but to die 8 years ago due to extreme PTSD. I was going to therapy and on antidepressants but found nothing worth living for. I was put on different drugs and when I had a bad side effect to one, it was recommended I take a heavy barbiturate to offset that side effect. I was a zombie, alive but not living. Then I found Kratom and gained my confidence back, my will to live, and a clear mind. I can take as needed such as for anxiety, being triggered, or to help me sleep. I never suffered any adverse effects or withdrawal.

There are many stories like mine, people who have been able to recover from addiction, and people who do not want to continue taking extremely addictive drugs (that has caused an alarming amount of deaths). What does this ban accomplish? Putting more people in jail or prison for profit? Force people to take dangerous opioids or barbiturates because big pharma needs more money? Please do not ban kratom. All it will do is create more problems (which by the way kratom is related to the coffee family so I guess ban coffee too). Alcohol kills more people. Opioids kill more people. But sure take something helpful away because our for profit medicine could care less about our lives, and care more about how much money they can make.

CommentID: 222953

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom is not the enemy

Kratom is not the enemy. It actually saves lives by providing people a safe pain relief option. Kratom does not make you high. Kratom has given me a better quality of life by keeping me off of dangerous opiates. It is a plant and is NOT an opiate. To ban Kratom would be dangerous for those who use it. Many may look for illicit and very addictive and dangerous drugs to get relief. Kratom is a much safer alternative

CommentID: 222954

Commenter: Dan

6/3/24 9:35 pm

Do not ban this natural substance!

Kratom has immensely aided myself and multitudes of other individuals maintain a productive and healthy life free from more harmful substances. Kratom safety profile has been proven time and time again in all studies performed. Please do not make criminals out of law abiding citizens for using a natural plant!! If you feel the need to take action against the less than scrupulous companies who create extracts, perhaps mimic the actions by Tennessee lawmakers who carved out natural Kratom and only banned extracts and other adulterated forms of Kratom.

Warmest regards,

Dan

CommentID: 222955

Commenter: Anonymous

DO NOT BAN KRATOM

I'm finding it difficult to believe you'd ban a natural substance that's helped millions worldwide. It CAN NOT kill you! it's laughable. Those who oppose it citing "there was traces of kratom in the deceased autopsy report but fail to mention the heroin needles sticking out of their arm. It's nothing but a pharmaceutical ploy to keep making trillions

CommentID: 222956

Commenter: J Lenders

Kratom saved my life

I was dying. I saw the end was near. Doctors had me on fentanyl patches, fentanyl pops, Methadone and Oxycotin. My body was shutting down and the pain doctors would kill me if I did not stop. Then I heard of a miracle plant that would relieve my pain and prevent withdrawal. That was 2018 and I had been disabled in an accident in 2004 that temporarily paralyzed my left arm and made walking agony. I was unable to sleep or work, so I made the mistake of trusting my corrupt doctors that see me only as a piggy bank. I am alive today due to God's mercy and KRATOM. I don't need Kratom any more, I gradually weaned myself off. But I meet people in PAIN every day and KRATOM gives them a new lease on life.

CommentID: 222957

Commenter: R Dahan

Do not make kratom a schedule 1 drug.

Kratom is way too helpful, in too many ways to count. But let me point out a few: kratom is anti-inflammatory, has anti-diabetic properties, anti-hepatic properties, does NOT suppress breathing, unlike most opioids. Hundreds of thousands of people have found kratom as a way off of harder drugs, has helped countless others live their lives with less pain and more autonomy. Adults age 21+ should have the option to take kratom that has been lab tested and follows all of the kcpa guidelines in place in states all over the country.

CommentID: 222958

47

Commenter: Amanda Fugitt

KEEP KRATOM TEA LEGAL

It is completely ridiculous to try and ban A PLANT that has been safely used for centuries in TRADITIONAL medicine. This is a tree in the coffee family, that has saved thousands and thousands of lives. People that cannot use pharmaceuticals because of allergies are able to use this plant and find substantial relief. People who were once addicted to heroin or pain pills are able to escape that bondage and live a regular life as a functioning member of society. I was once drug addicted and went to treatment 13 times, nothing was able to help me but this PLANT gave me my life back! Do not demonize this plant it is incredible and way more beneficial than any chemical drug that y'all could formulate. If banned you will only increase the number of people using harmful street drugs. Worry about the opioid epidemic and how you can help those people not how you can create more "criminals". LEAVE THIS PLANT ALONE

CommentID: 222959

Commenter: Anonymous

Science is in, DONT BAN KRATOM

Banning Kratom would hurt your citizens.

CommentID: 222960

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom is more good than anything.

Kratom is not the enemy. It helps people and has gotten people off of drugs and alcohol. Don't ban this because people depend on it and help a bunch.

CommentID: 222961

Commenter: Daniel Woolman

Kratom saved my life

I was addicted to heroin from the ages of 18-30. It led me to become homeless, depressed and a non productive member of society. At the age of 30 I was able to use Kratom to stop using heroin and other opiates and began to live a normal and manageable life. If I hadn't had Kratom to use I honestly don't think I would be alive today. With the fentanyl epidemic claiming 100,000 lives a year now in the USA taking something safe like Kratom and condemning people who safely use Kratom and rely on it will only create more damage and likely will increase overdose deaths from other dangerous opiates. Kratom is habit forming and a dependence occurs with regular use but that dependence is far safer and is a much better alternative than the other deadly opiates plaguing society today. Save lives and keep Kratom legal.

CommentID: 222962

Commenter: Jake Paslay

Do not ban kratom!

6/3/24 9:37 pm

I do NOT support this ban! Kratom is NOT dangerous, it's saved lives!

CommentID: 222963

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:37 pm

If you've never taken it don't demonize it

Making Kratom illegal would be a very bad decision I am a Kratom business owner for the past 7 years and I've been told thousands of stories how it saved people's lives from the people that live them Kratom is nowhere near a schedule 1 drug it does not get you high it helps people from getting high

CommentID: 222964

Commenter: A.M.

6/3/24 9:37 pm

Please allow consumers to make their own health choices.

Please allow consumers to continue to make their own health choices. My entire family has been using kratom for over a decade. We're all working professionals and health conscious people. Kratom is not a dangerous substance, it is a plant. Our family doctor has even commented on how excellent our health has been over the years. "Whatever you're doing...keep doing it." were his exact words.

Please allow Americans to retain their freedom to choose and research which supplements best fit into their lives.

CommentID: 222965

Commenter: Matt

6/3/24 9:38 pm

Authoritarian Overreach

The usual suspects come out to ban Kratom. Ignorance is no longer an excuse, as there is ample data supporting the effectiveness, benevolence and miniscule abuse potential. What is the reason for a ban this time? Big Pharma influence in funding someone's campaign? And you want to move this plant into Schedule 1 no less? Despicable.

CommentID: 222966

Commenter: Melissa Vaughn

6/3/24 9:39 pm

Kratom Kills

Kratom is a killer. If you are lucky enough to survive it, it will wreck your home and marriage. I have witnessed first hand how addicting it is, it effects your liver, kidneys, and your common sense. I have seen someone spend a weeks pay on it. It does not help an opiate addiction, it replaces it. I have witnessed the anger that it causes. It's banned in Alabama already and for good reasons. Kratom is by far the worst addicting drug I have ever seen. Please ban this drug and make it illegal to possess it. If you are pro-kratom then you are either in denial or hooked on it yourself.

CommentID: 222967

Commenter: Brian Brown

6/3/24 9:39 pm

Kratom should not be scheduled at all and should never be a sch. 1 or 2

of all the things that need to happen or change, it's ridiculous that changing the scheduling on this is such a high priority. it's not exactly a surprise because priorities are not in order across the board for much of the government due to the agenda of people with a vendetta for control. I pray that you decide to not remove one of the easiest ways for people with an addiction to change their life to stay away from heroin, fentanyl, and opiates.

please save lives by leaving Kratom alone and focus on eliminating the fentanyl problem.

thank you

CommentID: 222968

Commenter: Scott Dance

6/3/24 9:39 pm

Kratom is to Heroin or Opiates = what Caffeine is to Cocaine or Meth.

The kratom plant is part of the coffee family and has a 1000 year history of use in southeast Asia. if you are wondering what all the hysteria may be about, it is integral to know that drug companies have synthetic kratom tested and waiting in the wings to spin prescription bucks for them. Hence the smear campaign. Look up the clinical trials and the name "MGM-16". Already in the pharmaceutical pipeline, synthesized from the alkaloids (not opioids) found in kratom: mirtagynine & 7-hydroxymirtagynine. The very two alkaloids that are used to make this new patentable pharmaceutical drug. Big Pharma needs to get rid of nature's less expensive version.

Kratom is to Heroin or Opiates = what Caffeine is to Cocaine or Meth.

CommentID: 222969

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:40 pm

Dont schedule or Ban the herb Kratom

Do not make criminals of kratom users. Do not ban it, do not make it illegal and lastly do make it a schedule 1. It is a botanical herbal not a drug and has been used for over a 1000 years in Asian countries. It helps people with addiction, anxiety, brain fog, insomnia and so many more things. I've known a lot of people who have been able to get off opiates and anxiety meds using kratom. It is NOT an opiate though it frequently gets mislabeled as an opiate. Alcohol, marijuana and opiates have worse side effects than kratom. Please do not ban or schedule it a 1.

CommentID: 222970

Commenter: Trevor E

6/3/24 9:40 pm

Please don't ban Kratom

Hello my name is Trevor and I live in VA. Please don't ban kratom. It really helps and improves my life and banning it would impact me negatively. It has helped thousands of people with various ailments with no side effects. I request of you to deny this petition. Thank you.

CommentID: 222971

Commenter: Milton Dudley

6/3/24 9:40 pm

Please don't restrict my use of Kratom

Virginia is a wonderful and beautiful state but if you've been Creighton I will have to make a detour around your street or face the possibility of going to jail. I am a retired minister in the Congregational Church who has been using for 6 years. Please keep Kratom legal and safe.

CommentID: 222972

Commenter: Ken

6/3/24 9:40 pm

Please do NOT schedule kratom

I don't live in Virginia, but I grew up there and have family members there. I do NOT support the scheduling or criminalization of kratom because restricting access to this plant would cause more harm than good. Although kratom is not completely risk free, it is much safer than opioid use. With one study finding that kratom has a risk of overdose death more than 1,000 times smaller than that of opioids [1]. I am concerned that restricting access to kratom would cause people to turn to much more dangerous street opioids like heroin and fentanyl. It would also unnecessarily criminalize people for merely possessing a plant and put significant restrictions on research of kratom.

What Virginia needs is regulation to ensure that kratom users can get pure, unadulterated, accurately labeled kratom, not a ban. This will reduce kratom-related adverse effects without restricting people's ability to use the plant. Please do not prohibit this plant that benefits so many people's lives.

[1] Henningfield JE, Grundmann O, Babin JK, Fant RV, Wang DW, Cone EJ. Risk of death associated with kratom use compared to opioids. *Prev Med.* 2019 Nov;128:105851. doi: 10.1016/j.ypmed.2019.105851. Epub 2019 Oct 21. PMID: 31647958.

CommentID: 222973

Commenter: Natasha

6/3/24 9:40 pm

Scheduling Kratom is not the solution

Scheduling Kratom in Virginia will eliminate the ability for citizens to have access to safe and regulated GMP approved and lab tested Kratom leaf from consumers that abide by regulations that the American Kratom Association have put in place to keep us safe. Please protect your citizens with safe monitoring of natural alternatives. Thank you.

CommentID: 222974

Commenter: Kori West

6/3/24 9:40 pm

Stop banning harmless plants!

I've taken Kratom daily for the last six years. Oddly enough the reason I tried it was because the DEA was trying to schedule it as a dangerous "opioid". I thought "hell, I need to try that". No surprise there was no "high" associated with it and I almost couldn't tell I had taken anything if it weren't for the fact it totally took away the miserable restless leg syndrome I had been suffering from all throughout my body. It was a freaking god-send! Bonus that I was also able to stop taking my anxiety medications too. Now I take kratom like a daily vitamin to keep these things at bay.

The fact of the matter is the FDA wants kratom banned and they have no problem lying about it and making up states to make it seem "deadly". It's not. They know if people are able to use kratom to treat their ailments, that's less money in the pocket of their big pharma donors. Plus pharmaceutical companies can the patent the active chemical and make their own deadly drugs for profit.

Before you pass your vote I highly suggest you go on line, order some, try it, and see that it's literally nothing to be afraid of at all.

CommentID: 222975

Commenter: Brian Larson

6/3/24 9:40 pm

I do not support Board of Pharmacy Petition "Addition of kratom to Schedule I" (CRIMINALIZE KRATOM)

I can't see why you would want to ban kratom.

Perhaps additional regulation could make sense but this is an incredibly helpful plant for the health of those who use it and there really isn't much danger associated with it.

It's nothing compared to marijuana and even that is being legalized.

This would be like banning chamomile tea because it makes you tired.

Please don't take away the plant that takes away pain for people without forcing them on oxy and has many other helpful benefits.

CommentID: 222976

Commenter: Chones

6/3/24 9:41 pm

Don't Take away what has saved many veterans

Virginia, make sure you have full science backing you before you make a decision. This shouldn't even be a decision. Kratom has saved the lives of many veterans that have come back from Iraq and Afghanistan, myself included. It helps with pain, trauma and anxiety, and it's virtually inexpensive. I have been blessed with it since 2007 and I've had no adverse reactions and a lot of positive experiences. I have been helping myself and helping others from this plant for a long time, maybe more than anybody else you will find around you so please contact me if you would like to talk about it.

CommentID: 222977

Commenter: AMK

6/3/24 9:41 pm

Keep Keaton legal, safe and accessible!

Kratom is an invaluable tool against pain and addiction for so many, a cousin of coffee and downright innocuous when compared to tobacco which is used as a money making powerhouse for various entities. Never mind alcohol, which kratom can also lessen the dangerous impact of. Criminalizing kratom will only lead to a dangerous market founded and fostered by those convinced by criminalization that it can be sold as such. There are no reasoned, illustrated reasons to vilify this botanical. Only greed and fear mongering which is no foundation upon which to build

legal precedent. Keep kratom in the light of day where it can safely benefit people who rely on it in lieu of options which too often harm. Thank you.
CommentID: 222978

Commenter: Mariospeedragon

6/3/24 9:41 pm

VOTE NO to Schedule 1 Kratom

To this may concern,

I am an occasional kratom user since 2015, it has greatly improved my day to day life. But I'm far from the only one that making kratom a Schedule 1 substance would greatly affect. It's one of those things that is not even in the realm of other schedule 1 drugs. Any type of ban would have extreme consequences for elderly, middle aged, and younger adults. Kratom is undoubtedly a major deterrent from using opiates and a ban could send the opiate epidemic to catastrophic numbers. I'm not one to live in fear, but in the land of the free, we should be able to make tea from leaves native to Indonesia. Ultimately, I certainly Understand age restrictions, and overall restrictions on advertising and such, but a kratom ban is at the consequence for the citizens of the Commonwealth. I really Hope it doesn't ever come to making kratom a schedule 1 drug. Thanks for you time, Jason Rowland

CommentID: 222979

Commenter: Troy DAIBor

6/3/24 9:42 pm

Don't BAN Kratom!

Kratom saved my life! I am clean and sober for 10 1/2 years! I have zero cravings for alcohol or opiates. Without Kratom this would not be possible. The responsible users of Kratom should not have to suffer for the bad actors that are causing this issue. Allow Kratom to be regulated is the best path forward!

CommentID: 222980

Commenter: B. Pittman

6/3/24 9:42 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

Making Kratom a schedule 1 drug would be a travesty and an inaccurate use of the current drug scheduling used by the Federal government and most states. Kratom has many therapeutic uses. The main one I've seen and the most beneficial has been helping those addicted to opioids wean themselves off opioids and then wean themselves off of Kratom.

Just as with alcohol, responsible use of Kratom is neither dangerous or adversely addictive. Currently if I forego the daily use of coffee I will get intense and unwelcome headaches. One I like coffee, two it's legal and three if for some reason I couldn't drink it at the worst I'd have a few unpleasant days. Kratom is really no worse. If I forego useage of Kratom my only withdrawal effect is a bit of insomnia which goes away after 3-4 days. Making Kratom a schedule 1 drug would grossly quantify the plant incorrectly.

CommentID: 222981

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:43 pm

Stop criminalizing Kratom

Kratom offers significant pain relief without the side effects that are very common with opioids. Kratom has a potential of being a harmless alternative to opioids. Criminalization of Kratom will penalize law abiding citizens who are just looking for pain relief without getting addicted. This is why I stand against the criminalization of kratom.

CommentID: 222982

Commenter: Ben J

6/3/24 9:43 pm

Kratom saves lives

My family has taken Kratom for over 11 years now. Sometimes we forget to take it but when we do take it, the organic Kratom trees leaves turned into powder has made my neck pain resolve to manageable whereas before I was laid up in bed taking many different prescription drugs just to stay alive...

Kratom has only helped my family and also a side note we used to get slight colds when the weather changed but ever since starting Kratom, we haven't even been sick in the slightest for over 11 years now! I personally think the powdered leaf helps the micro gut biome in humans. This could help millions of people!

Keep Kratom legal!

Pass the Kratom consumer protection act if you want to govern over anyone.

Do it in a positive way! Keep it legal! Keep it organic!

CommentID: 222983

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:43 pm

Banning Kratom is Like Banning Tea

Kratom is a plant that helps people in so many ways. Dont ban something you don't understand. Kratom is most equivalent to coffee or tea. Yes you can die from caffeine if you consume an insane amount of it, but it's nearly unheard of to do so.

CommentID: 222984

Commenter: Daniel Miller

6/3/24 9:44 pm

Saved my life

Kratom has saved me from drug abuse. I have a successful life now with the help of Kratom. I'm married with a child and live a happy amd healthy life because of it. Allowing this to become a scheduled drug will ruin the lives of so many good people naturally saving themselves from dangerous addiction all because big pharma wants to get people hooked on their "cures".

CommentID: 222985

Commenter: Elliott Fremont

6/3/24 9:44 pm

Keep kratom legal. I am against this ban.

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

The FDA recently conducted a human dose-finding study, which found that no significant adverse events occurred when participants took kratom, even at high doses.

The finding, which the FDA presented at a scientific conference in February 2024, was that "kratom appears to be well-tolerated at all dose levels,".

It is imperative that we trust our scientists and keep kratom legal so we can continue to research this amazing plant as it has a huge potential for good.

The Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act (DSHEA) of 1994 allows for the marketing of traditional medicines and dietary supplements. Under this law, products that were marketed as dietary supplements before 1994 are generally considered safe unless proven otherwise. While we are uncertain when Kratom was first marketed as a dietary supplement, it is clear that the spirit of this law needs to be considered strongly with kratom, as kratom has hundreds of years of long term use and is recognized as safe in healthy communities where it has been used without social or physical harm since before history.

CommentID: 222986

Commenter: David

6/3/24 9:45 pm

Do not criminalize kratom

Kratom is lifesaving for so many, myself included. Criminalizing kratom will serve only to worsen the lives of those who depend upon it to help manage chronic pain, stave off opiate dependency, battle alcoholism, the list goes on. You will be doing your constituency a grave injustice by scheduling kratom and making it illegal to possess.

CommentID: 222987

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:45 pm

Stop State Schedule 1 Petition

Kratom, when taken therapeutically, could omit many of the prescribed and over the counter medication. Unfortunately, many medical professionals do not understand and are not able to prescribe Kratom.

Most individuals who use Kratom for therapeutic purposes are self-medicating, but have adapted and figured out how to use Kratom on their own. The people who are advocating for banning Kratom, do not understand the devastation that they can cause by denying access to Kratom. Most medical professionals do not advocate for natural medicine, nor do they understand the health benefits of Kratom.

If law enforcement wants to prevent opioid crisis and fentanyl overdoses, then they should look into helping citizens with Kratom therapy.

CommentID: 222988

Commenter: Josh

6/3/24 9:46 pm

Please do not make Kratom illegal.

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Kratom is a safe and reliable alternative to opioids prescribed. Kratom helped me turn my life around and allowed me to become a productive member of society. I was able to complete my degree after finding Kratom and get a great job!

CommentID: 222989

Commenter: Mollie M. Cartagena

6/3/24 9:46 pm

Don't criminalize Kratom

I have used Kratom for years for my rheumatoid arthritis pain. I have no ill effects from it. I'm actually healthier because it keeps me active because I am not suffering in pain. It's the pharmaceutical opiates that are toxic!

CommentID: 222990

Commenter: Kat

6/3/24 9:47 pm

Please listen to the science on this SAFE plant

Please listen to the science and not criminalize this safe plant. It allows so many of us to live normal lives that we wouldn't be able to otherwise. Please do the research before making the rash decision to schedule.

CommentID: 222991

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:47 pm

Kratom does not need to be banned. It's an HERB.

Banning kratom is so unnecessary. it's an herb. if you ban that then you should also ban tobacco and marijuana. Also alcohol.

CommentID: 222992

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:47 pm

Kratom is Green Teal Please DO NOT criminalize herbal medicine!

I have osteoarthritis throughout my entire vertebrae and have had both my hips replaced. Kratos elevates alot of my pain so with out it I would Not be able to work. We tried for years many other different methods but Kratom is The ONLY thing that works besides actual pain medicine which is obviously not possible or good for me.

CommentID: 222993

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 9:47 pm

Keep Kratom legal!

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

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CommentID: 222987

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If law enforcement wants to prevent opioid crisis and fentanyl overdoses, then they should look into helping citizens with Kratom therapy.

CommentID: 222988

Commenter: Josh

6/3/24 9:46 pm

Please do not make Kratom illegal.

Three years ago on holiday, I broke my ankle. I had no pain killers available other than Advil and Kratom. I took a small amount of Kratom and was able to tolerate the pain overnight until a paramedic could get me to a hospital to have surgery. I know others with chronic back pain or even cancer who do not have access to pharmaceutical opioids, but CAN take Kratom to relieve their pain and can therefore have a much better quality of life. Please do not make Kratom illegal. It is a valuable botanical that can take the place of strong painkillers with much less danger of addiction than pharmaceuticals. Kratom users are generally people just like you and me who have injuries or chronic ailments and need alternatives to opioids.

CommentID: 222994

Commenter: Dr. Joseph

Keep Kratom 100% Legal

1. Pain Relief: Kratom has been traditionally used for pain relief in Southeast Asia. Its active compounds, mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine, work on opioid receptors, but with fewer side effects than traditional opioids. This makes it a potential alternative for managing pain.
2. Reduced Opioid Dependence: Some people use kratom to lower their opioid use and ease withdrawal symptoms. While it can be addictive, it may serve as a harm reduction strategy for those struggling with opioid addiction.
3. Traditional Medicine: Kratom has been used for centuries as a natural home remedy for fatigue, pain, diarrhea, and muscle cramps. Although modern research is ongoing, its traditional uses suggest potential benefits.
4. Safety in Moderation: The general public opinion is that kratom is safe "in moderation." While it affects opioid receptors, it doesn't recruit beta-arrestin-2 (the reason for breathing suppression), reducing the risk of respiratory depression compared to traditional opioids.
5. Controversy and Regulation: Kratom is a subject of controversy, but banning it outright may not be the best solution. Some legislators propose regulating things like dietary supplements or food additives to balance safety concerns with accessibility.

Remember that while kratom has benefits, it's essential to use it responsibly and be aware of potential risks. Always consult a healthcare professional before using any herbal supplement.

CommentID: 222995

Commenter: Anonymous

Keep Kratom Legal!

Kratom has helped many people get off opiates. I have seen it work for people with other issues as well. My very close friend has narcolepsy and none of the prescribed drugs she got gave her any real benefit. They mostly just gave her anxiety. Kratom helped her the most and she was able to live a normal life again. Consumers should be able to make their own decisions. To say a plant like kratom is more dangerous than alcohol or any other legal thing that provides revenue and taxes for the state is preposterous. The people claiming it causes problems have not done any real research, it's easy to Google a bunch of claims that aren't backed up by any science, but if you actually look at the research, it paints a much different picture. Keep kratom legal!

CommentID: 222996

Commenter: William j marks

Please look at the medical reserchr

Respectfully, I am asking that the results of the medical studies on Kratom be thoroughly reviewed before any ban is enacted. I can tell you Kratom has saved my life - a life of trying to manage pain with prescription opioids. I was fed up with being prescribed medication that is know to not only be addictive, but left me unable to function as a 'normal' adult with a career and family. A friend who also had debilitating back pain told me he had been introduced to a 'miracle' plant, Kratom. After thoroughly researching Kratom, I discovered it was an amazing natural substance that not only gave me relief from my pain, it allowed me to be pain free while being a fully functional employee, husband and father. Kratom has helped me get my life back - managed my pain and it has absolutely none of the horrible effects of prescribed opioids.

In short, please keep this amazing life changing plant accessible for all - especially those who are now being prescribed opioids and are in a horrible place - trying to manage their pain, while being able to be 100% functional in every way. Regulation is welcome, but denying access and prosecuting those using this natural resource in order to live with their debilitating pain, would be a horrific way to put more people in a position to rely on addictive opioids that keep them in a fog and cut off from society.

CommentID: 222997

Commenter: Brian

Kratom saves lives

Please keep Kratom legal, it's allowed me to keep working And support my family without the use of prescription pain medicine Thank you for your time.God bless you

CommentID: 222998

Commenter: Anonymous

Keep kratom legal

I can't believe that the state of Virginia would even consider banning kratom. For what reason would they do this? Common sense regulation is the answer, plain and simple.

CommentID: 222999

Commenter: Anonymous

From a Licensed Mental Health Professional: DO NOT Ban Kratom and It's Alkaloids

As a Licensed Mental Health Professional, I urge you to keep Kratom legal and work with the American Kratom Association(AKA) to develop a Kratom consumer protection act (KCPA). This way you're actually doing your job and ensuring your citizens are safe when they consume a Kratom product; if you ban Kratom what do you think will happen? Sorry to point out the obvious, but what will happen is that you will have an influx of street drug and alcohol overdoses because people will go back to drinking alcohol, or using street drugs which Kratom helped them get off of so they could actually live their lives again. I see this everyday. A lot of people are alive today because of this plant Kratom.

6/3/24 9:52 pm

Also, if kratom is banned the black market will flood itself with kratom that is not lab tested for safety (when you could have prevented this by setting up the framework in the form of the American Kratom Association's KCPA) and it will become random powdered plants that are sprayed with research chemical opioids or depressants such as ODSMT, -Zenes, research chemical/designer drug benzodiazepines, or fentanyl analogues that malicious people will call 'Kratom' when in reality it's not kratom it's something else- this will harm people. A ban on kratom will inadvertently kill thousands if not hundreds of thousands of people, or cause individuals to seek out harmful alternatives which leads to criminal behavior, death, and physical/mental health concerns. Seems like you're trying to profit off of substance abuse clinics and the substance abuse crisis. Though, I doubt that's the case. You care about your citizens. If you truly care about your citizens, you will listen to them and individuals from other states who use kratom; as to not set an ignorant precedent. Then, do your due diligence and take time to educate yourselves.

The kratom consumer protection act enacts lab testing requirements and age restrictions on who can buy kratom; in addition to labeling requirements for the packaging. Plus more to keep kratom users safe from adulterated kratom products.

If you say kratom is dangerous, it's because there are kratom products on the market that are "laced" or adulterated/contaminated with non-kratom alkaloids- research chemical/"designer drug" opioids that can be as potent as fentanyl or more potent. Labs cannot detect these novel compounds because in order to detect a compound there has to be an analytical standard (a sample of the chemical being tested for). If toxicology shows that someone has died from "Mitragnine toxicity" that is 99%(this statistic in particular is fictional to express a point) of the time not the case. It's some research chemical opioid made in china that no one has heard of, not 'mitragynine toxicity' and there are hundreds of thousands of different variations of these research chemical opioids that can be made in these Chinese labs. Do you remember "Spice/K2"? The same thing will happen, but worse. If the kratom plant, mitragynine, and 7-hydroxy-mitragynine are kept legal and accessible to all then people will be safe.

The other 1%(this statistic in particular is fictional to express a point) where someone has been harmed by consuming kratom are people who naturally are allergic to kratom and its alkaloids or who take it along side pharmaceutical drugs that have interactions with it that are dangerous (we only know of a few one of which is an antihistamine); these people who supposedly get harmed by consuming kratom is a minuscule number of your total population and the total population of the US. Mitragynine, kratom leaf, and 7-Hydroxy-Mitragynine(7HO) are safe for health adults, and keeping it legal is safer than banning it. **Kratom, mitragynine, and 7-hydroxy-Mitragynine DO NOT recruit beta-arrestin, which is the chemical that causes respiratory depression and death from opioids and opiates. Kratom, Mitragynine, and 7-Hydroxy-Mitragynine DO NOT do this. It's in the most current research on kratom. Kratomanswers.org**

According to the LD-50 research, in order for a 150lb person to have a 50% chance of dying by consuming kratom leaf alone, one would have to consume ~6lbs or 3kg of kratom powder in one sitting. That's impossible. Then, for mitragynine (the dominate alkaloid in the plant kratom) someone who is 150lbs would have to consume 32 grams of pure isolated mitragynine. This would cost over \$1,000 to purchase if an individual could find a vendor who sells this pure of mitragynine. The person would have to be deliberately trying to harm themselves. Go pour 32g of sugar in a ziplock bag and see how much that is. Now imagine spending \$1,000 or more on that- if you try to consume it all in one sitting you have a much more serious problem, and a plant is not to blame. That's like trying to ban tylenol because people die from the use of it, or hurt their liver. It's an inanimate object. We wouldn't ban tylenol, because millions and millions of people use it without harming themselves. Same goes for alcohol, and people die from alcohol use everyday.

The hypocrisy with this ban on kratom you intend on doing is laughable, because if you're trying to ban kratom you have no idea what you're talking about from a pharmacological standpoint, a mental health standpoint, nor a drug trend standpoint (being able to have the foresight to see how this will impact drug trends). You keep alcohol on store shelves. You keep tylenol in pharmacies

OTC, and on other store shelves just like the majority of other states and the rest of the world; these chemicals(alcohol and tylenol) are more dangerous than kratom. Period.

At the very least, stop and look at how many people die from alcohol every year and compare that to the supposed 'Kratom deaths'. It's illogical to try to ban kratom, it is a safe plant for healthy adults.

******Every patient who has disclosed they use kratom to me has been able to increase their ability to fulfill responsibilities to themselves, their families, and their community since using kratom. When before they couldn't. If you ban kratom you will do much more harm than good, and if you don't believe that, do the research and listen to the people.**

www.kratomanswers.org

CommentID: 223000

Commenter: Sam R.

6/3/24 9:53 pm

Do not ban legal access to kratom or ban its constituents, mitragynine and 7-hydroxy-mitragynine.

Please continue to do what is best for Americans and keep access to kratom legal. The repercussions of making it illegal are vast. Let me divulge, and please read carefully.

This is a benign plant — comparing it to opioids would be akin to comparing chamomile and lavender to benzodiazepine tranquilizer medications. It's just too far-reaching. The properly reviewed science all consistently shows that there is nothing dangerous about the plant. Not to mention, it has such a low potential for abuse due to its many alkaloids that result in emetic (vomiting) unpleasant sickening side effects when taken in amounts above a therapeutic threshold. People who try to abuse it learn this lesson hard and fast. It is being horribly mischaracterized by lobbyists for big pharma, which is trying to patent the active molecules in it to capitalize on its distribution and profit from it, while removing it from the access of responsible consumers. Not to mention, if outlawed, all that will happen is the users of kratom will turn to unfortunately dangerous opioids because nothing else can help their pain in a way that is similarly benign to kratom — or — they will begin to purchase kratom from a black market of unregulated and potentially adulterated products, which is exactly what the KCPA is preventing from happening. Let me add that I have seen people whose lives were succumbed to the dangerous and deadly addictions to hard pharma opioids, fentanyl, and heroin ... but when introducing kratom to them, they became functional, no longer sick or endangered, and have been given a new lease on life, becoming contributing members to the economy of America, with a quality of life that was absent without kratom. If you allow removal of kratom from being accessed, you will soon see the spike in dangerous opioid usage and deaths, because quality of life will be removed, and pursuit of happiness will be stunted by extreme pain paradigms that would no longer be possible to treat without dangerous alternatives. Do you want to lend to this outcome? I encourage you to realize that more people than you think are responding well to kratom and rely on it for the sake of pursuing a quality life that lends meaning, purpose, fulfillment, and safety — likely including many friends and family of yours you know and respect — and if not, then the people that your friends and family know and respect are using this and able to live with a semblance of quality of life, avoiding dangerous pharma and street drugs as a result of the KCPA.

Knowing that IF kratom and its constituents are banned, and that if official establishment & foreseeable continuity of the KCPA (kratom consumer protection act) is repealed or not established ... THEN you will heavily contribute to the opioid epidemic by forcing people who prosper now, in good health, to soon suffer ... as a direct result of your choice to ban it. We should have the **right**

to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We should be driven by science, not twisted words or misinterpretations.

Pass the KCPA, keep it, never ban access to kratom or its constituents, and ignore the money-lobbyists for pharma who push agendas that involve no peer-reviewed scientific factual data to back up their propaganda they push as a result of aiming to capitalize on the kratom market (as opposed to eliminate it, like they claim they want).

Support people, not the corrupt tactics of pharma, which have caused this false perception, ever since August of 2017, when they patented the active molecules of the plant and then attempted to ban the plant 30 days later, beyond their scope of power, by trying to make the DEA "legislate" (beyond their power) and enforce a ban, instead of simply enforcing laws already legislated. This has gone too far, in too many ways.

Become a good agent, do the right thing, save access to kratom, and preserve it. Pass the KCPA.

...Or else the repercussions of failing to do so will result in many bad outcomes, as a result of your failure to allow the KCPA to pass, and your choice to ban kratom, should you decide so poorly to act on the behalf of special interests instead of acting on the democratic behalf of the people you represent.

I highly encourage you to familiarize and educate yourself with the content brought forth by the American Kratom Association's work, in order of obtaining the full picture, as well as direct access to the science. **Focus on real issues, like fentanyl analogues and the more dangerous and exponentially more deadly (yet legal) nitazene drugs, instead.** Focus where focus should be. **Don't exacerbate an epidemic by banning access to kratom,** which prevents lives from being destroyed, and helps people gain their lives back (as well as economically contributing capacities). Save kratom access. Never limit it.

Save lives. Stop the suffering of these bans, which only have been pushed by misinformation, propaganda, pharma lobbyists, and a total lack of scientific comprehension.

-An educated harm reductionist with foresight, and even more to add.
CommentID: 223001

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom saves lives

Kratom has helped millions of Americans to live their lives without the use of pharmaceutical medications or illicit substances. Banning this plant will cause those Americans to either live in pain or turn to those substances for relief.

Adopt a KCPA act as many other states have to regulate and tax the market and help those in this

54

CommentID: 223002

Commenter: Johnny Markos

Keep it Legal its helped me immensely

I got burned incredibly bad a while ago and have nerve damage. I've been to many doctors and have been treated very badly and has not been helped overall. I was at the point I wanted to cut my limb off to get rid of the pain. I was desperate and I was trying anything. I randomly tried Kratom in tea form and it's been the only thing to keep me sane. I don't know what I would do without it I would be lost again. Please don't do this it will ruin many lives. I know people abuse all things and cause problems but as a whole I know the benefits of Kratom.

CommentID: 223003

Commenter: Anonymous

Don't do it!

Do NOT make this a L1!

CommentID: 223004

Commenter: Sue Mc

Kratom saved my life

From 2008 until 2016, I took opioids for my intractable pain from CRPS. Until the DEA took those away. I found kratom July 2016. I have taken it every day for 8 years. I am better off now than when I took pain meds. I don't worry about overdose. Or any other issues from big pharma meds. I don't support a ban. Please regulate use. Keep away from children. I only purchase from companies that follow American Kratom Association guidelines. Please follow the science. Don't take away a plant that helps millions.

CommentID: 223005

Commenter: Anonymous

Actions that will harm many pain patients should be supported by evidence

People in pain rely on Kratom to have any quality of life. There is absolutely no research to support claims that it is addictive or dangerous. Stop harming pain patients.

CommentID: 223006

Commenter: Doug Taylor

Kratom has been a massive help with Willis-Ekbom disease

I'm writing to advocate for the availability of pure unadulterated kratom for important medical reasons. I am a 71-year-old retiree with a serious case of Willis-Ekbom disease, also known as Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS). This condition has no known cure and can become so overwhelming as to cause sufferers to become suicidal. Kratom was a godsend in helping to

mitigate my RLS symptoms, and it allowed me to stop using oxycodone for the same condition. Please allow citizens access to this very helpful and important plant.

Thank you.
CommentID: 223007

Commenter: Dani B

Kratom saved me from Opioids

Hello,

I have been taking Kratom for about 6 yrs.. I am a 54 yr old, professional. I have not increased the small amount that I take in 6 yrs. I have a bilaterally fractured vertebrae. I was in a pain management program for over 10 years when suddenly my very own Doctor stopped practicing because he became hooked on much stronger opioids than what I was taking. So my next step could have been to Dr shop but with the black eye on opioids I felt that I would be ridiculed wherever I went. I don't want to be ridiculed, I just want to live life. I live in pain 24hrs a day. I work 9-10 hrs a day. No matter what is happening I still choose to fight back on that pain, go to work and be a tax paying productive member of society.

After my Doctor stopped practicing I researched Kratom. I weened myself off of the pain medicine I was taking & began taking Kratom. I take it in small quantities. Taking Kratom along with exercising as much as I can tolerate and taking over the counter NSAID medicines has gotten me through over 6 years without opioids. Kratom doesn't create highs for me, it relaxes my body just a bit and that little bit helps gets me through the day. I am not sure how I will get through a ban.

Here is the problem, I abide by the law. If I am not allowed to purchase Kratom by law, I won't, I will needlessly suffer. The only people who will still use Kratom are the ones who don't abide by the law.

So in the end the only citizens that a potential ban is hurting are law abiding citizens such as myself. Thank you for taking the time to hear my truth.

CommentID: 223008

Commenter: Matthew H

Kratom is a lifesaver

I am a 46 yr old male in the state of PA. I am a productive member of the community with a job requiring national board certification and a state license. I have a clean arrest history, and am diagnosed with a mitochondrial disease. This causes, among multiple issues, extreme fatigue. It is so bad that I could sleep for 24 hours and then fall back asleep. The drs have offered nothing medicinally because there are no options. I use kratom intermittently throughout the day at low doses and it is the only thing that helps. I have a primary doctor, a rheumatologist, a musculoskeletal neurologist, a general neurologist specializing in this disorder, and some supports (PT, OT, ST) who are all aware of the kratom usage and are universally in support knowing that nothing pharmacologically is a better alternative. Because of Kratom, ai am able to work 32-38 hours per week. Without it I would be forced to go on disability as there is no way I could get through a work day. Yes, disability was even mentioned during my last multidisciplinary appointment. I enjoy my job, it took 9 years of college, 3 degrees, and too much effort to give up on when something as beneficial and harmless as Kratom can allow me to work. Please leave Kratom alone and instead establish safety measurements such as third-party inspections to guarantee availability for the people to use it without worry of contaminants.



CommentID: 223009

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom saves LIVES and has saved mine!

Kratom is the only thing that has worked to help my pain. It keeps out if the doctors office and off the streets. If it is made illegal, I will be seeking an attorney to sue the state at the event of my death, because my pain levels are not treated by your doctors.

CommentID: 223010

Commenter: Larry

Keep Kratom Legal

Please keep Kratom legal. People use the plant peacefully to help with all sorts of ailments such as anxiety & pain while still allowing them to function and perform at their jobs.

CommentID: 223011

Commenter: Amanda

Please keep kratom legal. Making this illegal will ultimately take the lives of many who depend on i

Kratom is all natural you don't get high or impairment. Kratom I'd from the coffee family. A plant. Safer than any drug or pharmaceutical medicine. Making kratom illegal will ultimately take the lives of those who rely on a holistic way of living. It will force people to seek drugs or pain medication which isn't easy to come by. Leaving those to suffer who utilize this leaf for sobriety & holistic alternative to pharmaceutical medicine

CommentID: 223012

Commenter: Anonymous

Please do not criminalize kratom.

Please don't criminalize kratom. I've been diagnosed with Crohn's Disease and this helps with pain.

CommentID: 223013

Commenter: Mike Lano

Kratom changed my life

I could barely walk due to the pain from an injury I obtained in the Air Force, and nearly always had to use a cane.

Kratom dulled the pain for years until things finally healed up, and now I'm in great shape. Without it, I'd be years behind in career, I'd not have started a family and I'd have been in immense pain. I'm shocked that anyone would try to ban Kratom, they'd have to be absolutely heartless.

CommentID: 223014

Commenter: Jill

6/3/24 10:00 pm

Kratom Saved My Life!!

I am a 40 year old wife and mother of 3. My husband is a military veteran, my son enlisted in the U.S. Navy as Master at Arms. I have suffered from chronic pain for almost 17 years. Nothing helped. I was on opioids and handfuls of medications. I had a very poor quality of life to the point I didn't want to live anymore, until I found Kratom in 2017. It saved my life! Literally! Now I take care of my disabled daughter, I have my own small business and lead a productive life. I am not a criminal. My husband who got hurt during his service to our country is not a criminal. This plant is not harmful. I have taken it safely for 6 years. My husband (the U.S. Veteran) as well. Please do not criminalize this plant that has helped so many!!

CommentID: 223015

Commenter: Grieving Father

6/3/24 10:01 pm

KRATOM KILLS !

My 25 year old son died by "Kratom Intoxication". No other drugs in his system. Sole cause of death per the autopsy report was Kratom. This substance needs banned around the nation !

CommentID: 223016

Commenter: Cynthia M Donegan

6/3/24 10:01 pm

Addition of Kratom to Schedule 1

I do not support this petition to make Kratom consumers criminals.

CommentID: 223017

Commenter: Mark Nesser

6/3/24 10:01 pm

Kratom gets people off of deadly opioids like Oxycodone!

Nobody overdoses on Kratom. Kratom gets people off of deadly and highly addictive opioids like Oxycodone!

CommentID: 223018

Commenter: Erik

6/3/24 10:01 pm

Do Not Criminalize Kratom!

As a strong advocate for the safe and informed use of kratom, I urge the Board to reject the petition to amend 18VAC110-20-322 to include mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine in Schedule I. Kratom has been a valuable and life-changing aid for many individuals managing chronic pain, anxiety, and opioid dependence. Scheduling these alkaloids would criminalize responsible consumers, pushing them towards dangerous alternatives. Please consider the extensive evidence of kratom's benefits and the potential harm to Virginians if this natural substance is unjustly prohibited.

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

103/750

CommentID: 223019

Let's prioritize informed regulation and education over criminalization. Thank you.

Commenter: Bobbie warf

6/3/24 10:02 pm

Kratom saves lives

I have used kratom for 8 years for chronic pain. I am a Nurse and i know for a fact i would not still be alive today had i not switched my dr prescription opiates for the kratom leaf. Please protect my rights to natural plant medicine as the earth intended.

CommentID: 223020

Commenter: FREEDOM

6/3/24 10:02 pm

STOP TAKING AWAY OUR FREEDOMS

Here we go again. The Government is trying to take away our freedom and blaming it on some dumb cause. Kratom is 1000x more healthy than anything a doctor gives you. Suboxone and those Methohexel Clinics destroy peoples lives. Would you rather people be getting it on the black market with the high chance it has Fentanyl in it? Come on stop working for Big Pharma and start working for the people. There are a million more important things you could be working on like inflation, crime, education, housing and cleaning up the corruption within our government! Just stop this madness. Kratom is the safest thing in the world. More people die from having Sex than using Kratom. That's actually a real statistic.

CommentID: 223021

Commenter: Margaret Schoneman

6/3/24 10:02 pm

Stop just plain STOP

Kratom has been around since time began, just like tobacco and alcohol. You have not banned those two drugs. if you ban Kratom you then need to ban tobacco and alcohol. They have killed more people, but you leave them alone.. why? Because you are paid LOTS of money to keep them on the market.

Kratom saves lives, they help people who are addicted to opioids because of DOCTORS

prescribing them, I know because I was one also. Kratom helped me deal with the pain when all else failed. I take it when I need to and do not have any adverse effects if I don't.

Stop trying to rule people like a dictatorship.

CommentID: 223022

Commenter: John Shinholser co-founder of the McShin Foundation

6/3/24 10:03 pm

Kratom save lives,do not touch!

Virginia has a defective underage prevention and education system,that is the problem.

According to data 87% of Kratom consumers are generally responsible adult consumers, that are flabbergast anyone especially educated people who took a hippocratic oath to follow "science not ideology are opposed to safe access to Kratom.

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

104/750

Fortunately Virginia has a Kratom Consumers Protection law as well as strong citizens stepping up being faces and voices of safe kratom consumption.

Its so upsetting to see special interest groups hijack our country, destroy our communities and in some instances kill people and destroy families. Do not ban Kratom, do not schedule Kratom just enforce the current law. The special interest addiction docs are gonna make plenty of money as long as medicaid pays for suboxone, the criminal justice industry has plenty of felons, we don't need any more "broken drug war laws". Why your at it stop stigmatizing and demonizing Kratom.
CommentID: 223023

Commenter: Robb Siark

6/3/24 10:03 pm

Do not schedule

Please look at the studies. Alcohol has caused more death, side effects and other associations than Kratom has ever been linked too. If Kratom is be scheduled there is no reason than alcohol should remain.

CommentID: 223024

Commenter: Eric Melson

6/3/24 10:05 pm

Please don't make Kratom schedule 1

Kratom has been an absolute lifesaver for me and so many other people. I can't speak enough on the benefits of Kratom leaves. They have never gotten anyone I know of high like some I have stated but they have really relaxed my restless leg syndrome and help me sleep so much better without having to go to a regulated pharmacy like so many things. Also give me energy in the morning if I take it. That has been the same for so many others that I know and love. Truly just an absolute great tea. Has so many beneficial properties compared to the properties that get so drug through the mud. It is a naturally occurring plant and I don't see why we have to regulate everything under the sun just let us be! I would recommend making it 21 years of age to purchase just like alcohol should be. But I have watched alcohol ruined so many people I know in love but yet you can drink as much of that as you want.

Kratom is not even close to alcohol in potency. Please don't ban this healing tea and if you do we need to ban every drug like ibuprofen, green tea, Tylenol, heartburn medication, and so many others that benefit us as humans.

CommentID: 223025

Commenter: Thomas Russo

6/3/24 10:05 pm

Kratom helps so many people

Kratom turns lives around in so many positive ways!

For a lot of people, there's no better help than kratom. Especially if they have fibromyalgia, a condition that most doctors don't recognize as a real health issue and will not treat.

Ask me how I know!

Thomas

CommentID: 223026

57

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 10:05 pm

Do not ban Kratom. It saves lives.

1. Kratom has helped so many people live a good, productive life. Banning it is the wrong decision.

CommentID: 223027

Commenter: Dana

6/3/24 10:06 pm

Classifying this miracle plant as dangerous is ludicrous!

It is so disheartening that I am constantly having to make comments like this one to protect such a miracle plant. It is obvious that our system has become corrupted when more emphasis is placed on the few allegations of harm caused by this plant, than the astronomical harm caused by the poisons our Physicians prescribe everyday. Clearly the powerful corporations prefer you take their poisons for "health", and their wealth driven agenda often seems to trump the public's needs. Agencies that are meant to protect US are instead protecting the profits of pharma. Agencies that are meant to perform double blind placebo with a control studies instead provide research with outcomes befitting the corps who trickle \$ to their organizations. As a citizen watching this and more corruption, it makes me uneasy that the right decisions will be made in these cases. This plant that has safely been used for hundreds of years, has completely saved my life. I suffered with terrible pain for so long, and turned to so many harmful remedies before I discovered this miracle plant. For 8 years now, taking 2 tsp of kratom allows me to live happy and pain free with no negative side effects. I am an adult who responsibly consumes this plant and I think any agency attempting to limit that freedom has their priorities in the wrong place.

CommentID: 223028

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 10:07 pm

Against Schedule 1 of Kratom

This petition does not follow the science. Kratom is shown to be safe. This petition does not act with freedom in mind. Seeking only to criminalize disabled people.

I am a disabled citizen, and Kratom has helped me stay active in my community and participate in the work force again. I would not be as independent as I am without access to Kratom. Please keep your disabled citizens in mind. We want to work. This makes it possible. Do NOT classify Kratom a schedule 1.

CommentID: 223029

Commenter: Elizabeth Gardner, Esq.

6/3/24 10:07 pm

Criminal and Family lawyer sees proof of safety and helpfulness of kratom

I am a criminal and family law attorney. Approximately 90% of my criminal cases involve drug or alcohol abuse. I also have seen alcohol and drugs ruin family and lead to divorce or child custody issues. I have seen many clients become sober and improve their lives by having kratom tea as part of their new life pattern. Researching this plant for a case I learned how this plant is consumed in tea form in many countries in Asia. No one there has died from it. No one there has suffered any bodily harm from kratom tea. Why is it that only in America we have these claims. Not only did our government have a patent on this plant but so did Glaxo and they let it expire. It has been

researched in the US for 20 years or more. Those bad actors who sell garbage and synthetics in gas stations and head shops should be punished and regulated not the plant. The plant alone is safe. Science has proven it. Dr Scott Hemby at High Point University did a recent study supporting this. Please follow science.
CommentID: 223030

Commenter: Granite Stater

6/3/24 10:09 pm

Kratom Saves Lives

I have been using kratom since 2012, as needed for pain and anxiety. It is far less addictive than coffee (which I need daily). Opiates make me non-functional and I hate the feeling they give me. NSAIDs hurt my tummy, even with food. My husband suffers from chronic Lyme disease joint pain, it happens in flares that can last for weeks, kratom eases the pain, safely without the need for opiates. It has been a godsend for keeping us functioning and productive with no side effects, no dosage increases either in over a decade.

CommentID: 223031

Commenter: Jason

6/3/24 10:10 pm

Kratom helped me avoid disability and loss of work

Kratom has helped me return to work full-time and avoid filing for disability. I have severe Crohn's disease and multiple cancers. Kratom has allowed me to spend more time with my family and friends, work, enjoy life and avoid becoming a burden on society. Please, do not schedule Kratom it helps people like me.

CommentID: 223032

Commenter: Keeton Otto

6/3/24 10:10 pm

No schedule 1!

I urge you to not make kratom schedule 1. It allows me to treat my back pain with a natural plant rather than a highly addictive synthetic pain killer. It helps so many people on a daily basis in so many ways. It is also helpful to people detoxing from illegal narcotic opioids and to help them remain sober from opioids. I strongly urge you to keep this medicine available to the many people who need it.

CommentID: 223033

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 10:11 pm

Kratom

Kratom is a safe, natural and helpful alternative to dangerous pain medications. Please, follow the actual science and not the pharmaceutical companies bought "research." These companies just want to synthesize it and sell it. Honor the code to do no harm and let people have something safe!!!!

CommentID: 223034

58

Commenter: Matthew

6/3/24 10:11 pm

Kratom

Kratom is not heroin or cocaine. This bill is ridiculous and is on par with marijuana legalization which will be overturned. Please learn more about it and stop reading talking points. Tobacco and alcohol kill more people per year than anything on schedule 1 and yet they are legal.

CommentID: 223035

Commenter: Concerned Citizen

6/3/24 10:11 pm

No ban for kratom - it saves lives!

I show my support to the kratom community!

CommentID: 223036

Commenter: Cassandra Barrios

6/3/24 10:12 pm

Kratom is helping people! It's all natural and provided from Mother Earth, leave it alone!

Kratom is the only thing that helps me with my pain and anxiety. I don't like taking man made medicines that have added chemicals or whatever else might be added that isn't made known to humanity. Keep kratom legal!!!

CommentID: 223037

Commenter: Doris J Berube

6/3/24 10:12 pm

I am not a criminal...

I implore you to not criminalize Kratom. My husband (58) and I (62) both take Kratom to manage chronic pain issues. My husband was on opioids (hydrocodone) for many years. he was addicted to the PRESCRIBED and FDA-approved medication that in the end, was causing more pain than it was relieving. He was treated like an addict for wanting pain relief. He was dying from the side effects - with a heart rate over 100 bmp. We had to find something else. We found kratom powder about 9 years ago, via a friend. My husband has used kratom to stop taking prescription drugs and finally was able to work after 10 years of disability. Unlike the opioids that he HAD TO HAVE, he can control when he takes or does not take Kratom. Kratom saved his life and our marriage. Are we criminals for wanting pain relief that works? There are pros and cons to taking any product, natural or otherwise. BUT.. should using Kratom make me a criminal? Kratom provides relief that allows us to be productive and hold a job. We understand there is potential for abuse of this product, but that is true of any product. There are thousands of us who take this product responsibly. Turning those of us who use Kratom into criminals is an injustice. Again, I implore you to leave our affordable pain relief alone.

CommentID: 223038

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 10:13 pm

Do not ban kratom

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Kratom is the only thing that helps a family member with chronic migraines. It is a non addictive, alternative to drugs that don't work. Please do not ban something that is helping so many people.

CommentID: 223039

Commenter: Nancy Woodruff

Keep Kratom legal

I am a Mississippian who follows Kratom's legal journey. I used kratom for pain after a wrist surgery and found I did not need the narcotic Rx. I agree that it should be regulated as promoted by the American Kratom Association, but please do not make it illegal. We have to much opioid addiction in this country and people living in chronic pain.

CommentID: 223040

6/3/24 10:13 pm

Commenter: Jennifer L Devine

I do not support

I do not support the board pharmacy on making kratom schedule 1

CommentID: 223041

6/3/24 10:13 pm

Commenter: Andrew S

KRATOM DOES NOT KILL

To those who are making claims that "kratom killed xyz" post the information. Because you won't, it simply does not exist. Just fear mongering. Kratom is an herbal substance that needs regulation so people can get it safely. People can overdose on Tylenol but it's not banned or a schedule 1. This is all a ploy because pharmaceutical companies want to sell their own version, probably modify it to make it addictive so people will pay over and over for it.

CommentID: 223042

6/3/24 10:13 pm

Commenter: Anthony G

Daily Kratom Use since 2012, NO OPIATES FOR 12 YEARS (stop fentanyl!!)

I found kratom in 2012 from a friend who knew i was struggling with opiate addiction. I gave it a shot, and 12 years later, my life is the most stable it has ever been. My life would be turned upside down if the one medicine that works for me is taken away. I get blood tests done every year, and I am in legit peak health, weight is perfect. Please do not take away the number one defender against the Fentanyl and Opiate Epidemic!

CommentID: 223043

6/3/24 10:13 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom advocate

6/3/24 10:14 pm

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Please do not ban Kratom. Kratom has helped give me and so many others that I know our lives back.

CommentID: 223044

Commenter: Anonymous

DO NOT BAN KRATOM. it helps too many people. And it's safe!

DO NOT BAN KRATOM. It helps too many people. And it's safe!

CommentID: 223045

6/3/24 10:14 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Do not make a tree illegal

Kratom has improved my life in so many ways and the thought of it becoming illegal is madness. Regulation is the way- give responsible adults autonomy on how they manage their own health, and make available safe and tested products. A great way to do this is by passing a Kratom and Consumer Protection Act in every state. Please review all available literature on Kratom and compare its risk with almost any other ingestible compound. You will find that it can be used safely and is by millions of people.

CommentID: 223046

6/3/24 10:14 pm

Commenter: Jimi Kaufold

Kratom

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: 223047

6/3/24 10:15 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

No schedule 1 for kratom

Kratom was the only thing that kept me from having to use major pain medication after an accident. Please do not change it to a schedule 1 medication.

CommentID: 223048

6/3/24 10:15 pm

Commenter: AH

Kratom saves lives

Kratom saved my life and gave my children their mother back. After a 2 year sickness, several surgeries, I was relegated to a life of pain management. I was given narcotic pain killers that made me depressed, moody and tired. My children did not deserve that but im in pain, what am I to do? I researched, found kratom and it helped more than anything, it gave me my life back and made me a better mother. Scheduling it is so wrong. Most people who use kratom do so responsibly, don't punish the majority who benefit greatly from this tree.

6/3/24 10:16 pm

CommentID: 223049

Commenter: Justin Taylor

6/3/24 10:16 pm

Kratom gave me my life back

I've been taking Kratom for several years. I discovered it while looking for an alternative to opiate drugs to treat chronic pain. It has truly been a godsend that has helped me live a normal life, and it does so without any negative side effects or addiction problems. If you deprive people of this plant many will become addicted to opiates(both legal and illegal) and some will die. I'm not being dramatic-this is truly a matter of life and death. Please don't destroy people's lives or kill them at the behest of big pharma.

CommentID: 223050

Commenter: Misty Sowell

6/3/24 10:17 pm

Kratom-

It's helps me cope with the excruciating pain associated with rheumatoid arthritis, Psoriatic arthritis, fibromyalgia, and grade 2 SPONDYLOLISTHESIS among other things. Please consider decriminalizing this plant. Nobody gets a buzz from kratom

CommentID: 223051

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 10:18 pm

Stop regulating us.

I can walk into a store and buy liters of alcohol which is the worst thing I've ever put in my body (and affects every cell in the human body.) But you don't want people consuming a plant. That has legitimate good qualities. Even ibuprofen and Tylenol are dangerous if used properly give it a rest.

CommentID: 223052

Commenter: Eric

6/3/24 10:18 pm

Kratom saved my life, DO NOT SCHEDULE

After being on opioids for most of my life(20+years) because of a kidney problem, kratom gave me my life back. We are the only culture in history that has made nature illegal by outlawing certain plants. Kratom has been used in Southeast Asia for hundreds to thousands of years safely. We are supposed to be the "land of the free" but we've become the "land of laws". If the lawmakers who have stopped listening to the will of the people keep making things illegal, something far worse is going to come along. Look at the fentanyl problem we are facing. That only came about because of the vacuum created by the policing of other opioids. It happens every single time, without fail. It's time we did something different in this country. It's time to become the land of the free again. It's time to start letting the people have and keep their inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. If and individual is not causing harm to anyone else we should not care what that individual does. Please stop letting the big pharma lobbyists make the laws in this country!

CommentID: 223053

60**Commenter:** Teresa Bynum

6/3/24 10:18 pm

Comment re: Kratom Criminalization Petition

Hello. I am a 57-year-old woman who has had my fair share of struggles with addiction. I have been through both inpatient and outpatient programs and have frankly found little long-term success with either. It was only when I began using kratom in 2018 that I was able to successfully manage my addiction, avoid opioid use completely, and focus on my life goals. I have since finished my bachelor's degree at Western Illinois University and am one semester away from completing my master's at Michigan State University.

Kratom, when used responsibly, is life-changing. I do not experience a "high" when I use it, but have only gained a sense of control over any cravings. I currently take a low dosage for maintenance but have had no compulsion to turn back to opioids. Losing access to kratom could have a potentially devastating, life-altering impact on those individuals who have found freedom from addiction and new hope for their lives through its use. Please consider the science of kratom, not the provocative talking points coming from those who either have no true experience with it or pharmaceutical operatives who feel threatened by its availability to the public.

Sincerely,

Teresa Bynum

CommentID: 223054

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 10:19 pm

Criminal persecution

Leave Kratom alone! it is not dangerous! Does not even compare to alcohol,nicotine or the slew of pharmaceuticals that are pushed on the American public every day. Just admit it,you people do not care about peoples happiness or health. Don't worry, there will still be plenty of suffering even if people are using Kratom.

CommentID: 223055

Commenter: Cody

6/3/24 10:20 pm

Kratom

Leave it alone it's not meth coke or any hard drug mind your business and if people wanna do it let them do it stop sticking your nose and stuff you don't need to focus on fetalen

CommentID: 223056

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 10:21 pm

Kratom is a beneficial plant and any ban would be harmful

Kratom is a safe plant that has helped many people with a variety of health-related issues. I'm a Virginian who does NOT support this petition, or any proposed ban, that includes this plant.

Follow the research that illustrates the many benefits of kratom!

CommentID: 223057

Commenter: I am Dr Robert Buchla

Kratom

I am against restrictions on Kratom.
Honestly Advil and Tylenol are much more dangerous.
Let's stop this nonsense.

CommentID: 223058

6/3/24 10:21 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Please Consider

I urge caution against scheduling Kratom as a Schedule I drug. While the potential for abuse exists with any substance, placing Kratom in this category alongside dangerous drugs like heroin and LSD would be a misguided and ultimately harmful decision. This essay will explore the reasons why a Schedule I designation for Kratom would be detrimental to public health and patient well-being.

Schedule I drugs are characterized by a high potential for abuse and dependence, with no currently accepted medical use. While Kratom can produce opioid-like effects, research on its addictive properties remains inconclusive. Many users report successfully managing chronic pain and opioid withdrawal symptoms with Kratom, suggesting it may offer a valuable tool for those struggling with addiction. Scheduling it alongside drugs with demonstrably high dependence rates undermines this potential benefit.

The opioid crisis continues to devastate communities across the nation. Kratom, with its lower risk of overdose compared to opioids, could offer a safer alternative for pain management. While Kratom does have side effects, they are generally milder than those associated with prescription opioids. Denying patients access to a potentially safer option due to scheduling restrictions could have tragic consequences.

Scheduling Kratom would likely drive its use underground, hindering research and regulation efforts. Currently, information about Kratom's safety and efficacy is limited. Scheduling would make it even more difficult to conduct controlled studies and develop safe and standardized Kratom products. Furthermore, driving users to unregulated markets increases the risk of contamination and exposure to harmful adulterants.

A more constructive approach would be to implement harm reduction strategies for Kratom. Educational campaigns can raise awareness of potential risks and responsible use practices. Quality control measures can ensure the safety of Kratom products. Additionally, research efforts should be prioritized to definitively understand Kratom's properties and potential benefits.

As a healthcare provider, I am committed to offering my patients a variety of evidence-based treatment options. Kratom may not be a perfect solution, but for some individuals, it can be a valuable tool in managing pain and addiction. Scheduling it would remove this option from my toolbox, hindering my ability to provide individualized care.

The potential benefits of Kratom for pain management and addiction recovery warrant further exploration, not prohibition. Scheduling Kratom as a Schedule I drug would be a missed opportunity to explore its therapeutic potential and implement responsible regulations. Let us focus on harm reduction strategies, research, and education to ensure the safe and responsible use of Kratom, ultimately prioritizing the well-being of patients struggling with pain and addiction.

CommentID: 223059

6/3/24 10:21 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

A relatively safe alternative to life ending opioids

Kratom has many uses including and most commonly for chronic pain management. In the past people had to live in constant pain which robbed them of their quality. Many times people living in such conditions resorted to using highly addictive and dangerous prescribed opioids. Unlike those prescribed drugs Kratom does not impair and does not result in make people drugged up and out of control zombies who throw their lives away for their addiction. It is also common for these individuals to eventually turn to street drugs when cut off from the much more expensive big pharma prescribed drugs. Banning kratom is about Big Pharma money, not safety.

CommentID: 223060

6/3/24 10:21 pm

Commenter: Proud Virginian

Saved me and countless friends

Was on the path of being a non-productive citizen after being prescribed Oxycodone while I was in my 20's for stomach pain. I had no idea at the time what a horrible effect that would have on my life. Now I am 16 years past that thanks to Kratom saving my life! I know many people with sad but similar stories saved by Kratom. Please, save lives and keep Kratom legal.

CommentID: 223061

6/3/24 10:22 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Healthcare professional: do not make Kratom Schedule 1

I have an emergency health care provider, as well as a firefighter. In my time, I've seen my share of overdoses on substances, including some that were fatal. I've seen overdoses on heroin, painkillers, benzodiazepines, methamphetamine, and most of all, alcohol. I have never come across any emergency involving Kratom, let alone a life threatening overdose. I have seen and heard of people who have used Kratom for multiple ailments. The science and pharmacology on Kratom has shown it to be safe, far more safe than most prescription pain medications. Taking away a safe, legal alternative will only lead more people to seek out dangerous and illegal drugs.

CommentID: 223062

6/3/24 10:23 pm

Commenter: I am Dr Robert Buchla

Kratom is safe

I am against restrictions on Kratom.
Honestly Advil and Tylenol are much more dangerous.
Let's stop this nonsense.

CommentID: 223063

6/3/24 10:23 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom is safe

6/3/24 10:25 pm

Kratom is safe, don't ban this what the hell

CommentID: 223064

Commenter: Allison Nelson

6/3/24 10:25 pm

Kratom Advocates

My name is Allison and I am a critical care paramedic with a degree in biology. I am also a daily Kratom user. I have rheumatoid arthritis. Kratom has kept me off harmful pharmaceutical drugs for 12 years. There is absolutely no way I could function on an ambulance or fire department without the relief from pain and inflammation that Kratom provides. I tried using pharmaceuticals for years and they made me sicker and sicker. I chose to find a safer and natural alternative. By restricting Kratom, you are taking away the option to use a natural and proven treatment for patients like me. Not only am I a Kratom advocate, but I am a healthcare provider. I clearly understand the risks and benefits of pharmaceuticals. I choose to use a plant based therapy because it makes me feel my best.

CommentID: 223065

Commenter: Kent D

6/3/24 10:25 pm

This is an over reaction for a helpful supplement

It was take a scoop or two of this leaf per day, or get on narcotic/opioid back pills. I'm not at a need for surgery and this is the healthier and safer option than partaking in the opioid epidemic. Hopefully logic and clearer heads prevail instead of supporting big pharma at the cost of lives.

CommentID: 223066

Commenter: Danielle Betz

6/3/24 10:27 pm

Kratom saved my life and my family

I was heavily medicated for 16 years for pain and anxiety. I have Ehlers Danlos Syndrome and Stage 4 Endometriosis. Multiple surgeries. I was in bed for 2 straight years. Kratom absolutely got me up and back to work and I know hundreds of people who will say the same thing. Please don't take safe, natural Kratom away from people who have regained their lives. Thank you for your time!

CommentID: 223067

Commenter: Jenna

6/3/24 10:27 pm

Do not schedule kratom

I have chronic pain and Kratom helps me significantly in living a functional, productive life. Please don't schedule this natural drug.

CommentID: 223068



Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 10:28 pm

Kratom was a life saver when I was fighting cancer

- In 2018 I was diagnosed with CR cancer. I went through 3 major surgeries, radiation and chemo. Needless to say I was suffering and the pain medication I was prescribed caused so many other issues. A friend of mine recommend Kratom. I discussed it with my oncologist and he said he would do some research. He told me that he was neutral on the subject but his only main concern was that is was not tainted with impurities. I found a company that did testing on their product and I ordered 250 grams. It totally changed my life for the better throughout cancer treatment. I took it for a total of 2 years and eventually stopped. No withdrawals,no cravings. This natural herb was incredibly helpful to me. Please don't deny the ability of people you represent to be free in their decisions to take kratom.

CommentID: 223069

Commenter: Leon B

6/3/24 10:28 pm

Leave Kratom Alone

I do not support the ban. Kratom has helped countless people who were hooked on dangerous pain killers and those suffering from chronic pain. It has helped people curb dangerous drinking habits by giving them a safer alternative. Please leave Kratom alone. We already saw what making marijuana illegal has done to peoples lives.

CommentID: 223070

Commenter: Jack

6/3/24 10:28 pm

Kratom has been used safely for centuries

Please take the time to speak to folks with direct experience. Kratom is natural and safe. Any attempt to restrict its use is only serving prescription drug manufacturers and street opiate dealers. Kratom saved my life in 2018. I'm a single father of 2 children so I'm happy to be here.

CommentID: 223071

Commenter: Wait

6/3/24 10:29 pm

It's a safe plant keep it legal

Has helped so many people is not no drugs, but y'all can sell alcohol something way, way worse than kratom

CommentID: 223072

Commenter: Adam

6/3/24 10:29 pm

Kratom saved my life

The idea of Banning kratom is laughable to anyone who has put the time in to learn about the plant.

CommentID: 223073

Commenter: Chris Scott

6/3/24 10:29 pm

Kratom saved my life from opioids

Hello Sate of Virginia,

Please do not make Kratom illegal to use in your state as I fear the day when they try to make it illegal in my state of Florida. The only alternative I would have is a Methadone clinic which would most certainly shorten my life. I went through a botched back surgery and have degenerative disc disease. I am in constant pain. I went through 10 yrs of opioids through pain management until I realized I would die soon if I continued taking them. So many side effects I can't even list them. Please know that this natural plant's leaves of the Kratom tree (a member of the coffee tree family) has helped thousands of people dealing with pain and depression, by voting "NO" to make it illegal.

Once again, please don't ruin thousands of lives by voting to make Kratom illegal in your state.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this,

Chris Scott

CommentID: 223074

Commenter: Brandon Brock

6/3/24 10:29 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

As a CEO in charge of 100 employees I need to stay focused and that's what Kratom does for me. As an ex coffee drinker, I found Kratom as an excellent alternative after experiencing negative side effects with caffeine. I really see no reason to outlaw such a mild non intoxicating plant. Maybe regulate to 18+ if needed, but let responsible adults decide what to put in their bodies.

CommentID: 223075

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 10:29 pm

Kratom

Been using kratom for 7 years . It has helped with all my pain when needed. Keep kratom legal

CommentID: 223076

Commenter: Emma

6/3/24 10:30 pm

I do NOT support this petition

I do NOT support this petition to make kratom a Schedule I criminal substance. Kratom has numerously helped people and it is a significantly less dangerous consumable than alcohol. This petition will take away the possibilities of a leisurely environment with less tragedy, and restrict the possibility of educating ourselves by conducting further research on its effects on the human body. Please consider leaving the doors open to the voice of the people.

CommentID: 223077

63

Commenter: Kailey L

6/3/24 10:31 pm

Kratom saved my life.

I was a heroin addict for over 10 years. There was no limit to the destruction I left in my path. But, kratom helped me get my life back. My children. I have a job. I am a productive member of society now. Others that deserve the chance I got.. will never get it if you ban this plant. Kratom HELPS so many people. Bottom line.

CommentID: 223078

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 10:31 pm

Kratom had saved my life

After a bad car accident my spine was in bad shape and nothing the pain specialist could make a dent in my pain. I tried injections, pills you name it. Until I tried Kratom. It helps me live my daily life without pain. I do not get high from it, it does not impair my brain or judgement. It simply reduces my pain.

Banning Kratom will do more harm than good for the community. Do not ban it.

CommentID: 223079

Commenter: K. W

6/3/24 10:31 pm

Who benefits? Not us common folk

Kratom has been a wonderful plant that has helped me in more ways than any treatment or any "pharmaceutical" drug ever has. It's helped me stay off and not crave any harder drugs than nearly cost me my life on a number of occasions. I wouldn't be doing as well as I am today if it weren't for this substance. I can't think of a legitimate argument why it should be banned, it helps thousands if not 10s or 100s of thousands of people daily deal with addiction or pain or anxiety. It works for alot of people suffering. I can tell you anyone who submitted this for rescheduling doesn't know anything about it and is probley paid off by big pharma in one way or another. I will fight till my last days for kratom.

CommentID: 223080

Commenter: Dustin

6/3/24 10:32 pm

Virginia is eaten up with heroin, why make it worse?

This is a safe substitute to opiates, as well as other benefits. I mean, unless the state wants more heroin and methadone addicts because \$ then I guess I understand.

CommentID: 223081

Commenter: Angela

6/3/24 10:32 pm

Opposition

I oppose this move to amend to a sched-1. Banning Kratom will hurt thousands of Virginia's most vulnerable, no matter their socioeconomic status. Regulation is the key, and will help keeps our citizens safer.

CommentID: 223082

Commenter: Sharon Ahotseilola

82 year old woman Kratom is a lifesaver.

I am an 82 year old woman and have been taking Kratom for several years now. It is a lifesaver for me. I have been able to cut down on my regular pain meds and also I have had some depression after I had a stroke and could not take regular and I depressants because they did they scared me because they made me feel horrible anger. Kratom just gives a little sense of well-being that has no feeling of being drugged, which I hate. It's very natural. It helps my pain as well, and my energy. It is a shame that it is being castigated, probably for nefarious reasons. If I go without it for a few days I do not get the benefits but otherwise I don't notice any other problems.

CommentID: 223083

Commenter: Fawn Wiech

Kratom saved my life

Without kratom helping me quit drinking alcohol I would likely be dead right now from chronic pancreatitis. Not only have I not had a drink in 3.5 years but I am living a purposeful healthy fulfilling life with the help of kratom. When taken responsibly kratom can and is being used for the betterment of many lives. I will forever be grateful to this wonderful plant that gave me my life back.

CommentID: 223084

Commenter: Matthew Williams

Don't schedule 1 this natural plant from mother nature

I have been a consumer of kratom for a long time (10 years) it has helped out so much and it is not dangerous. You people should contact me and I can tell you my complete story. If kratom is banned it would hurt many people especially elderly and war veterans

CommentID: 223085

Commenter: Sara

Banning healthy options is unacceptable

Stop taking our choices away Ban Alcohol instead it's a much bigger issue and it hasn't made the chart yet Kratom schedule 1 is bit overboard Where Xanax is located on the chart is Suspicious The chart makes little sense and so does Kratom schedule 1

CommentID: 223086

Commenter: Fletcher

Kratom has saved me

Kratom has worked for my chronic pain for years now and has kept me off opioids. Saved my life

CommentID: 223087

Commenter: Anonymous

Keep Legal

Keep Kratom legal for adults!!

CommentID: 223088

Commenter: Lonnie Hansen

Keep kratom legal

This is such a helpful herbal it helps so many people everything from legal pain management to helping people with addiction issues. I've heard of many people who had problems with alcohol have a daily kratom tea and lose all desire for alcohol. With no wretched side effects

CommentID: 223089

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom Saves Lives - Keep it Legal

I've been using kratom for the past seven years. It's greatly improved my overall quality of life and mental and physical well-being, without any dangerous negative side-effects. Kratom has allowed me to lead a far more productive and engaging lifestyle. The freedom to use kratom has given millions of Americans their life back, and this liberty should continue to be respected by our elected officials. Scientific research that's been conducted over the past several years has repeatedly demonstrated the overall safety profile of unadulterated, natural plant kratom.

CommentID: 223090

Commenter: Anonymous

Seriously? Get your scheduling in check!

Kratom, at least for me at least, was something I bought at a convenience store that felt awesome, but had an icky taste. It is actually good for people trying to overcome an opioid addiction. Personally, I haven't had kratom in months but it's seriously not something that needs scheduling.

CommentID: 223091

Commenter: Andrew

Affects same opioid receptors as CHEESE. Should we regulate cheese?!

Most of these comments supporting are clueless. Speaking of smoking kratom right away you have no idea what you are talking about and you are just regurgitating something an alphabet agency told you was science, but you haven't taken the time to deeply educate yourself on the subject. When a plant leaf (similar to coffee or tea) that has been safely consumed for many years

is being demonized you have to look at the interests of the people involved. Just as I wouldn't take the word of a kratom salesman as gospel, I would hope people would realize there are agendas on the other side with more money and power. Boftom line... most of the world is lethargic and grumpy without their coffee and that is comparable (for me) to the dependence experienced from kratom. The "dangers" being spoken of are grossly exaggerated. Placing this plant leaf in the category with dangerous, addictive drugs is simply inaccurate at best and harmful to those dependant on it for anxiety, depression, and pain relief at worst.

CommentID: 223092

Commenter: Stevens

6/3/24 10:38 pm

Kratom is a natural supplement that has saved many lives!

I have consumed kratom for over 10years, for many health benefits. It helps me live a more productive life, lessens my pain, and allows me to participate in my business and family life again. I have many chronic illnesses that I will always have. I have had many failed treatments and surgeries. I have lost my pain specialist, due to the opioid epidemic. Thankfully, I had already found kratom to help reduce some of my pain, since physicians no longer help us, unless we are dying. Kratom is a natural leaf, that has safely been used for centuries. It is in the same family as coffee. There is so much uneducated info online. Please follow the science on kratom (there has been many studies by highly respected scientists proving kratom is safe and not addictive). There is no "high" with kratom and no bad side effects and most importantly you can't overdose on kratom. if you take too much the most that would happen, you would vomit. It does not cause respiratory depression. Unlike some of the medications I was on for so long, that overnight was refused to me. I'm 44 years old, I have a family and run a business. I can't lay in bed all day and suffer. I have found an herbal supplement that helps me better my health. Why would anyone take that right away from me? People consume kratom for many reasons, to help with pain, depression, PTSD, etc. Many chronic pain patients are now left suffering. We definitely need to keep kratom accessible for those who could benefit from it. So many chronic pain patients have turned to harder drugs to get a bit of relief from the pain. Yet, so many have turned to herbal supplements instead. I would much rather have people turn to natural supplements instead of drugs. My physicians support me taking a natural supplement, kratom. I get extensive lab work twice yearly. I've never had any bad side effects from consuming kratom. In fact my labs are better now than they were years ago. Please follow the science and keep kratom legal.

CommentID: 223093

Commenter: Dale Gould

6/3/24 10:38 pm

Kratom saves lives!

I having been taking kratom for 4 years now. I used it to get off prescription narcotics and found, but only did it get me through the awful withdrawals it also relieved my chronic pain due to Lyme disease. Kratom also lowers my blood pressure, I haven't had to take any blood pressure medicine since I started taking kratom. I believe that kratom, had saved me from a life of pain and misery. Please keep it legal.

CommentID: 223094

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 10:38 pm

Kratom has saved my and many others lives

Prior to finding this miracle of a plant. I was a mess. In chronic pain from numerous injuries and autoimmune disease. I couldn't function or work, without some sort of pain control. Well I got to a point where I couldn't work and I ended up addicted to pharmaceuticals. That almost destroyed my life, but when I found Kratom, I was able to take something that doesn't get me sick or high in any way, just felt good enough to live again and go back to work! Yes I went back to work when I was considered disabled! Now it's been 7 years, I have no adverse effects. I'm thriving, providing for family and excelling at work. I would not be here today, if it weren't for this plant. Please do not take away our plant medicine!

CommentID: 223095

Commenter: Jason

6/3/24 10:39 pm

I do not support a ban on Kratom

A ban on Kratom is disingenuous. If public safety is the concern, ban alcohol first. Kratom is safe and more innocuous than almost any "drug" out there. Kratom gave me my life back, whereas traditional opioids ruined it.

CommentID: 223096

Commenter: Brooks H.

6/3/24 10:39 pm

Kratom saved my life & helps me stay sober

When I began taking kratom, it was because i was in a bad place and looking to relieve some of my suffering..and while it did this; it's never been incapacitating. I started taking it more and wanted to use my drugs of choice less and less..Including cocaine--I'm a polyaddict with childhood trauma and was never taught coping mechanisms.

I'm learning these things now but I owe my life to kratom because it has an unexpected side effect of reducing cravings for hard drugs. So staying clean got easier and easier...the kratom manages my pain without any significant negative side effects. I dose before work and the only reason my coworkers know is because I've mentioned it before, in the context of 'this leaf saved my life'.

I was stable on Suboxone for a couple years but it began paralyzing my intestines and even when I reduced to 1/4 pill a day I was still unable to use the bathroom more than once a week. I had no other choice but to discontinue. And I relapsed as a result. Kratom could've saved me this relapse but I had forgotten then about it.

Kratom keeps pain patients clean and functioning, unimpaired when used responsibly

CommentID: 223097

Commenter: Taylor

6/3/24 10:39 pm

You're going backwards, not forwards.

The idea of making kratom SCHEDULE 1 is honestly insane. It's a natural plant that has saved thousands if not millions. It saved me.

This is not progress. Please side with the people. Not big pharma's lies.

I would be dead without kratom.

Sincerely a former slave to big pharma's legal heroin.

CommentID: 223098

Commenter: Anonymous

I do not support

I do not support this petition to make kratom consumers criminals if it is a Schedule I substance.

CommentID: 223099

6/3/24 10:40 pm

Commenter: Gregory Caldwell

Keep Kratom legal

I had hep C for many years which destroyed my energy level. Kratom allows me to perform normally. Keep it legal and save lives! Thank you.

CommentID: 223100

6/3/24 10:41 pm

Commenter: Deborah Tyler

I've taken Kratom for years to help with opiate intolerance, never had a problem!

You're absurd over regulating is KILLING AMERICANS! How many more are you hoping to kill off by taking Kratom away? This government will go down in history as being the most cruel heartless towards its own people. People dying in unbearable pain as a rule of law. They'll say how barbaric these last 30 years our government has been in treating suffering. I hope every name that hasss anything to do with making these regulations gets list in these history books as witch hunters they are. Americans don't need the government telling them what they can or cannot put in our own bodies! Thats worse than telling woman they have to have a baby they participated in making! Stay out of my healthcare!!

CommentID: 223101

6/3/24 10:41 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Please don't do this, it is helping many people and it needs to stay legal so it can be studied
furt

Please don't do this, it has and is helping many people. The fear of it is understandable because it needs to be studied further but I know firsthand the lives it has saved and is much safer than the opiates pharmaceutical companies are handing out like candies

CommentID: 223102

6/3/24 10:41 pm

Commenter: Sarah

Kratom

I support that Kratom should be legal and available to adults in Virginia because it is a great solution for people who suffer from chronic pain. The side effects of Kratom is minimal as well.

CommentID: 223103

6/3/24 10:42 pm

Commenter: Mary K Villaverde

Successful consumer of Kratom at 70 years old

I started taking Kratom for chronic pain about 10 years ago. I didn't know much about it but I took a risk because I could no longer get Rx pain meds, which had helped me with no problem for years. I also can't take NSAIDS or any anti-inflammatories (including topicals) because of chronic stomach ulcers.

I tried cannabis but I could not function in the foggy state in which it leaves me. I had heard about Kratom and a friend suggested I try it. FORTUNATELY I live in a state that does not prohibit it. (Prohibition results in creation of an unsafe supply-that happened with alcohol as well. Just look at HISTORY).
KRATOM EASES MY CHRONIC PAIN better than anything else. It does not require I live in a fog (that's just me!! I'm not criticizing anyone who is helped by cannabis). I'm alert and have been able to work while consuming Kratom. Virginia simply can't restrict folks from accessibility to this healing plant. ????

CommentID: 223104

6/3/24 10:42 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Keep it legal

Keep Kratom legal, it helps with my pain

CommentID: 223105

6/3/24 10:42 pm

Commenter: Kai Dechau

Hamr reduction and quality of life

It is absolutely alarming that you would consider a ban on kratom that has been proven to cause less bodily harm than opiates. Kratom has allowed me to go from unable to work bed ridden due to multiple debilitating chronic illness to have a fulltime job plus a six figure online retail company. I will forever be in debt to that tree and what it has done for me in the 13 years I have consumed the plant matter.

Please please please reconsider this ban, you are going to push people to street drugs to have quality of life which in turn will end up with fantasy laced overdoses and 100% preventable deaths on your shoulders. Again, please do more research other than just the fda, many top leading scientific insitutes have acknowledged its benefit and potential for harm reduction.

CommentID: 223106

6/3/24 10:43 pm

Commenter: Misty Tucker

6/3/24 10:44 pm

Don't turn those with chronic pain into criminals!

Doctors don't help with pain anymore, so what else are we supposed to do? There are a lot of folks out there they wouldn't be able to hold down a job or have any type of a quality of life without kratom.

CommentID: 223107

Commenter: Tracy C

6/3/24 10:44 pm

Kratom has given me, MY ENTIRE LIFE BACK!

Kratom has given me my entire life back in full, without any harmful side effects that prescription pain pills do! It has really been a blessing for myself & my family. Please save kratom! I wouldn't be here today to even send you this letter if it wasn't for kratom. Bonus of kratom is that I DO NOT drink any alcohol anymore.

CommentID: 223108

Commenter: Andrew Conticchio

6/3/24 10:44 pm

Keep kratom legal

I am disabled and have been able to use kratom on and off for pain and for sleep. This has been a significantly safer and less addictive option then going back to the pain doctor and what they prescribe me. Please listen to actual patients and not politicians. Thank you and be well,

Andrew Conticchio

CommentID: 223109

Commenter: Carol G

6/3/24 10:46 pm

I do not support this Petition

As a Virginia resident, I have been a consumer of kratom for 10 years to manage pain and have never had an adverse effect. Used responsibly, Kratom is safe and effective. Scheduling it is a bad idea.

CommentID: 223110

Commenter: Carter call forbush

6/3/24 10:46 pm

Safe, like Matcha tea

I've used kratom on and off for years. I use it as an alternative to caffeine, and relief from discomfort from my wrist surgery. I am proud to be able to deal with pain naturally.

CommentID: 223112

Commenter: Ornum

6/3/24 10:47 pm

67

It's not about safety it's all about making more money for the pharmaceutical companies !!

Really going after another plant. Y'all need to get your priorities and shat together. Always gotta take plants away to push everyone in to pharmaceuticals. Which might I add way more side effects then any plants by a long shot. Don't you all have better things to do. We all need to come together and take things over. The clock is ticking!

CommentID: 223113

Commenter: James Martin

6/3/24 10:47 pm

This is unethical

I believe that it's our right as Americans to be able to consume a naturally occurring plant and that banning it would just lead to a slippery slope of gradually taking away our constitutional rights, first it's our rights to consume a plant, next it's our guns and then it's our ability have and raise children! **Again if this ban is allowed we are letting the government start the process to strip us of our rights and completely controls us and that we can not stand for!**

CommentID: 223114

Commenter: Katie Stout

6/3/24 10:47 pm

Kratom is the best thing for me

I've been taking Kratom for 9 years now! It has chanced my life and helped in so many ways. I don't know what I would do without it.

CommentID: 223115

Commenter: Lance Lawson

6/3/24 10:47 pm

A poor decision

As a Kratom user for seven years I can attest that it is neither dangerous nor addicting. I use it daily to ease severe basal thumb arthritis in both hands. It works better than the more dangerous medications currently being prescribed.

CommentID: 223116

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 10:47 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS. This plant has changed my life for the better in MANY ways.

CommentID: 223117

Commenter: Nicholas

6/3/24 10:48 pm

The plant does not meet the criteria for a schedule 1 drug

First of all, the plant does not belong under the classification of a schedule 1 drug. The plant's leaves, which are consumed by chewing them, or mixing it in water after drying it, has been used

for hundreds if not thousands of years by natives of Southeast Asia without adverse effects. Even here, when it's consumed in it's pure state, there have been no documented deaths from it. One of the most recent safety studies that came out even confirmed there were only 2 people in the study who had 12 grams, which is not even a normal amount, had nausea and some vomiting. That's similar to if someone tries ingesting a bunch of cinnamon powder at once. Only 2 people had that much at once, which isn't even a normal amount that people typically consume to have a desired effect whether that be treating pain, decreasing inflammation, improving energy and mood, etc. It in fact does reduce inflammation and help take the edge off of pain. I used it myself while recovering from a bike accident and had terrible road rash. Kratom helped me feel like I could still function by decreasing pain and also managing the inflammation. Otherwise, my quality of living would have been worse. My mom has also been using it to help improve her quality of living so she can still exercise while dealing with a tear in the fascia under her foot in combination with plantar fasciatis. She would be limited otherwise and further making her depressed. It's improved her life for the better! To ban kratom is ignoring all the good that it's helped people and all the science and facts that prove it's really not what some parties of interest want you to think and do. Big pharma wants it banned because of the money. We all know that's true. If you ban kratom, then you're full of it, because there's tons of drugs on the shelves at the local pharmacy that are far worse and can cause death if misuses. If you ban kratom, you better ban caffeine, nicotine, alcohol, etc. If a person has a gram of caffeine, they're increasing the chance of a heart attack, increased blood pressure, etc. Making kratom a schedule 1 drug would cause the public to lose even more trust and respect from the public. You'd also be possibly cutting off people who could benefit from it. If you want to do the right thing - keep kratom protected and legal. Ensure pure kratom is on the shelves and/or let people grow it if they want. Please do the right thing! Thank you!!!

CommentID: 223118

Commenter: Cody Jackson

6/3/24 10:48 pm

The benefits heavily out way the negatives.

As an active user for over 5 years now, it is way more beneficial to my life than any prescription drug that you can offer. It makes me a calmer person without lab made chemicals.

CommentID: 223119

Commenter: Free American

6/3/24 10:49 pm

Keep Kratom legal

Kratom should be kept legal and available to those who need it

CommentID: 223120

Commenter: Lindsey

6/3/24 10:49 pm

I do NOT support this petition

Although i don't live in Virginia im originally from there and have friends who use kratom for therapeutic reasons; it has literally saved their lives. Please do not ban kratom in Virginia.

CommentID: 223121

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 10:49 pm

Do not support this petition!

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

12/7/750

I am a 68 year old retired woman. I have a chronic pain condition, as well as chronic leukemia , which is simply exhausting I was introduced to kratom about 5 years ago and I am a so grateful for this leaf. Kratom works well to relieve my pain. Please note, it does not get me high!! It's just wonderful to have something to relieve pain, that is not a narcotic. I urge you to find a satisfactory way to regulate kratom that doesn't interfere with the residents of Virginia 's access. Thank you.

CommentID: 223122

Commenter: Tony Kari

6/3/24 10:50 pm

Quality of LIFE

As a veteran that's lost his left arm & has all 5 of his Brachial plexus nerves tore up & severed in 6 different places I wouldn't be alive today if it wasn't for Kratom. My life after with prescribed Oxy was a living HELL. my PAIN & DEPRESSION was at 1000% thank GOD I FOUND KRATOM & IM ABLE TO BE A "NORMAL" PERSON & A HUSBAND & DAD TO MY KIDS. PLEASED DO NOT MAKE THIS NATURAL TEA LEAF INTO AN ILLEGAL DRUG BECAUSE U WILL DESTROY A LOT OF US CITIZENS THAT CANT FUNCTION WITHOUT KRATOMS NERVE PAIN RELIEF

CommentID: 223123

Commenter: Juan Miller

6/3/24 10:50 pm

Kratom is a miracle

This plant is more like coffee than a drug. Banning it will hurt more people that it would help. Please think about peoples well being.

CommentID: 223124

Commenter: Brad McMurray

6/3/24 10:50 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

It has been a God Send for my Auto-Immune Disease. Please do not turn a patient into a criminal. These Big Pharma underhanded tactics need to stop. People on this board need to be investigated into their ties vwith the companies funding these attempts to undermine the vwill of the people.

Nature cannot be patented so Big Pharma demonizes Kratom and promotes their products that have numerous inadvertent side effects that Kratom does not have.

Do the right thing and Protect Kratom like other states.

Sincerely,

Brad McMurray

CommentID: 223125

Commenter: Amber Durham

6/3/24 10:51 pm

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

128/750

Please don't criminalize a leaf that helps so many.

Kratom is an evergreen tree that grows in Southeast Asia and is in the coffee family. It contains alkaloids like chocolate and green tea. It is a natural option for discomfort, moods boosting, energy levels and overall well being. It has helped my life in more ways than one. Like everything, when used in moderation, is totally safe and effective. I have been using the plant for 7-8 years now and I have no health issues. It has helped me with daily pain from my L4 transverse process due to domestic assault from a previous marriage. It helped me to stop taking opioids and get my life back after a nasty divorce. It is all natural and should not be criminalized. It is a plant that God put here for a purpose. Please look past all of the bad publicity & and negativity surrounding the plant. Actually look at the science behind the plant and see how it really works and affects the body. I don't believe there has been one single Kratom reported cause of death where Kratom was the only substance in the blood. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter that will affect so many people.

CommentID: 223126

Commenter: MT

Do not ban

I have been using kratom for 7 years now and it helped me tremendously. We do not support this decision and it will only lead people down worse roads.

CommentID: 223127

6/3/24 10:52 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom makes it possible for me to have a life

Hi, my name is Noelle. Since I was 26, my health has rapidly deteriorated far beyond what could ever be construed as "normal" or even "excessive" for my age. The degeneration of my spine continues to worsen even after my first surgery at 29 years old. I am staring my next surgery in the face, and it will only snowball from here. I live with pain and numbness daily. There are days where the pain is so bad I can't get off the floor. My fatigue and exhaustion from the pain (and some other mysterious disease that we have yet to diagnose) so severe that it takes me hours to get out of bed and can't manage to even shower without using all my energy and needing to nap (even though I get at least 10 hrs sleep a night). I can barely take a walk around the grocery store, let alone participate in a fun physical activity that I used to love, like hiking, riding my mountain bike, and working out at the gym.

I have consistently tried to do my best to continue to live my life but I can honestly say that it would be impossible without kratom. Since I have had the option of using kratom, I have finally been able to manage my debilitating symptoms. I can go out and actually do things. It gives me energy so I feel normal. I can take my cat to the vet, I can go out shopping with my husband, I am not stuck lying on the floor or in bed when I'm in pain or too exhausted to move wondering why my life has to be this way.

Please don't take away the one thing that has given me my life back: the one thing that helps me forget how damaged my body is at such a young age. It does more for me than just give me an energy boost and manage my pain. It gives me hope. And I know I'm not alone. There are many people like me. Don't take our hope away, our ability to live our lives. We deserve quality of life as much as anyone.

CommentID: 223128



Commenter: Ian James

Kratom needs market oversight, not prohibition

Kratom itself, when not polluted/adulterated by other substances, or irresponsibly concentrated, is less deleterious to the body and mind than suboxone, and is also easier to eventually ween off of. If safety of constituency is truly the concern (and not the elimination of a market sector that stands to compete with major pharmaceutical corporations), then oversight of the Kratom market is truly what is called for - not finding another reason to send potential contributions to society to prison.

CommentID: 223129

6/3/24 10:53 pm

Commenter: Jeffrey Patterson

Kratom kept me safe and legal

Years ago, I found myself on probation for drinking and driving. OVWI was the charge. As a condition of the court, I was denied access to alcohol and illegal substances. To mitigate withdrawals from any, illegal substances, Kratom helped me quash my urges, and kept me out of trouble long enough to find my feet again.

CommentID: 223130

6/3/24 10:53 pm

Commenter: Peter C Cook, MD

Kratom brings comfort to those who are suffering

Kratom alleviates suffering.

It is generally safe. Overdose is almost unheard of. Withdrawal symptoms are mild.

Please do not make this a schedule one drug.

CommentID: 223131

6/3/24 10:53 pm

Commenter: Mark G

Kratom is lifesaving

To those in VA interested in keeping people safe and able to live productive lives, please do not allow criminalization of this plant that benefits a large segment of the population.

I have friends who have successfully survived serious addiction to opioids that are truly dangerous by taking kratom - people who were brought into that world through prescriptions for pain medication. Their lives were falling apart until they discovered kratom - change was still not easy for them, but they were able to turn their lives around. In addition to that, I take it for anxiety that was crippling for me. This has allowed me to excel in my life and career, enabling me to reach places I never believed possible. While this is not every person's story, and everyone has different needs- this is a tool that works very well for many.

If we truly believe we are a free nation of citizens able to pursue happiness without undue interference, then we need to stand against laws like what is being proposed here.

CommentID: 223132

6/3/24 10:54 pm

Commenter: Darian With Him Ministry Association

6/3/24 10:54 pm

Kratom saved my life.

Very few doctors can treat restless leg syndrome effectively. When they do get some success people are stuck on terrible pharmaceutical drugs with side effects and usually only work for a short time.

RLS is a terribly debilitating condition that makes sleep nearly impossible and ruins the quality of life of the sufferer.

Last year I was ready to quit. I was so exhausted I could barely function. I found kratom and it has changed my life.

please do not ruin it by criminalizing it.

CommentID: 223133

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 10:55 pm

Kratom has helped so many people! Keep it legal!

Do not ban kratom! It's saved so many people who struggled with addiction or chronic pain

CommentID: 223134

Commenter: Shelby

6/3/24 10:55 pm

Kratom saved my life

Kratom has saved mine and my mothers life

CommentID: 223135

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 10:56 pm

I do not support this petition

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: 223136

Commenter: J

6/3/24 10:56 pm

Please do not move forward with this bani!!

This is horrible to see. Please, if you feel the need to regulate this amazing plant, look into the Kratom consumer protection act (KCPA.)

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I think ALL citizens of Virginia who take Kratom on a regular basis do so as they would a cup of coffee as opposed to something much more nefarious. I am SURE they would be okay with an 18+/21+ age limit instead of making such an immediate and drastic change to schedule ONE of all places. Please think of the citizens you represent...
CommentID: 223137

Commenter: Beverly Stice

6/3/24 10:57 pm

Every other state in the US supports kratom usage

As someone who cannot consume alcohol, take OTC pain medication or smoke marijuana, due to physical and mental health conditions, kratom is my only source of relaxation and pain relief. I am 40 years old and there are not many other places for someone like myself, with the restrictions my conditions cause, to socialize and make friends. As most people can understand, making friends over the age of 30 is not easy. I currently live in Florida, the leading state in kratom and kava bars. However, I am planning to move to Virginia in the next 6 months or so. I chose Virginia, because the first kava bar opened and marijuana is legal (for my husband, who currently has his medical card). If kratom is criminalized, I may have to rethink where I will call home. With that being said, I can honestly say, you will undoubtedly be deterring people from moving to your state. Additionally, I do not understand how marijuana is completely legal in VA, and kratom is looking to be criminalized.

CommentID: 223138

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 10:57 pm

Kratom saved my life

Kratom saved my life! Kratom helps the pain with my back! I do not support what these pharmacists are doing!

CommentID: 223139

Commenter: Thomas S.

6/3/24 10:58 pm

I want from being homeless and strung out to making \$80,000 a year. and paying taxes.

Thank you for reading my comment. I would like to say that I used to be a heavy drug addict. and was hopelessly addicted to all kinds of substances Today I have over 10 years clean and sober. I drink two cups of tea a day. In addition I quit smoking cigarettes and I quit alcohol. The hardest one was the cigarettes. I have lost the desire to use because of kratom tea. It takes away my anxiety and makes me feel comfortable and normal. I think this is better than prescribed meds as well. I live life today less stressed and more productive. I have made a little over \$80,000 a year over the past ten years! This plant brought Balance back into my life but not just my life, but the lives of my family around me. You should be Hearing their testimony about my change. Even they can tell you the benefits that have come in this plant. Please consider bringing this plant to be regulated. Give it a chance. trust the science of doctors. Consider. what Tens of thousands of people have been positively saying about the plant. Trust the research. That's all I ask. Have a great blessed day.

CommentID: 223140

Commenter: Philip Palazzolo, Freemason of King Oscar Lodge #855 & Veteran

6/3/24 10:58 pm

Kratom Saves Lives. Keep it Legal

It's important to be educated. Dear board of Virginia: Kratom, derived from the leaf of the Mitragyna speciosa tree, is a plant native to Southeast Asia that has been traditionally used for medicinal and cultural purposes. Recent scientific research has suggested that Kratom can have therapeutic effects, particularly in assisting individuals with substance use disorders by reducing cravings and withdrawal symptoms.

For those struggling with substance use disorders, Kratom has demonstrated potential in aiding in the recovery process by providing a natural alternative to harder substances, potentially preventing individuals from resorting to more dangerous substances like heroin or fentanyl.

In this context, keeping Kratom legally accessible can be seen as important for both harm reduction and for providing individuals with a legal, natural, and potentially effective alternative that may help alleviate the symptoms associated with substance withdrawal and help them on the path to recovery.

CommentID: 223141

Commenter: Jamie Vaughan

6/3/24 10:58 pm

Keep kratom legal

Kratom has saved my life. I suffer from terrible anxiety and sleep problems and do not have insurance for medications and honestly I don't want to be on all different medications that will have terrible side effects. I've seen first hand with people who are on these meds and constantly have to change meds or increase dosages. I do not want that! A little kratom in the morning and night has done wonders for my anxiety and sleep issues. Please don't punish the kratom community because big pharma is losing people like me, and people like me are only profits in their eyes!

CommentID: 223142

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 10:59 pm

Kratom has given me so many benefits.

This plant helps me in so many ways I can't even describe. And countless others as well. Quit demonizing plants.

CommentID: 223143

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 10:59 pm

Don't be stupid

This is a terrible idea. I kicked an opiate addiction with kratom and now I use it regularly as an alternative to alcohol.

CommentID: 223144

Commenter: Robert F

6/3/24 11:00 pm

Kratom

Kratom has made it possible to participate in my life. No ban on kratom.

CommentID: 223145

Commenter: Robert Johnson

6/3/24 11:01 pm

Kratom

Kratom isn't a drug. It helps many people to live a better quality of life. Keep it legal.

CommentID: 223146

Commenter: Robert Paternostro

6/3/24 11:02 pm

Please keep Kratom legal

Kratom Has saved so many people from addiction. Making it illegal will only create more harm for the people who take it to help with their quality of life. Kratom is not a dangerous drug. PLEASE DO NOT SCHEDULE Kratom. Thank you for your time.

CommentID: 223147

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 11:02 pm

Works wonders

Works wonders with stress management and anxiety.

CommentID: 223148

Commenter: Scott H

6/3/24 11:02 pm

Kratom safety

I understand the concern but kratom is a safe herbal supplement. It may need regulatory procedures to ensure its safety. However, the government agencies would prefer to demonize it and prohibit its use for people who have found it useful to lead a healthy lifestyle. Making kratom illegal is not going to be a useful method of controlling it. Allow it to be safely obtained to responsible adults.

CommentID: 223149

Commenter: Daniel Amick

6/3/24 11:02 pm

KratomSaves

I do not believe that Kratom (mitragyna speciosa) or it's active compounds should be criminalized, banned, or outlawed in any way, shape, or form. It is a great alternative to caffeine, as well as an alternative to toxic nSAIDs, which I am personally allergic to. I do not believe that it is a dangerous plant. It does not alter my conscience, it does not cause me physical harm, and it does not negatively impact my work, social, or home life.

CommentID: 223150

Commenter: Ridiculous Waste of time

6/3/24 11:03 pm

IF YOU THINK SCHEDULING KRATOM IS A GOOD THINK YOU NEED HELP AND MEDIATION!!

AS I READ OVER THE PEOPLES COMMENTS. SAYING PEOPLE HAVE DIED FROM KRATOM YOU ARE VERY OUTTA TOUCH OF REALITY. IVE USED KRATOM FOR A QUARTER CENTURY. ID BE DEAD IF KRATOM WOULDNT OF BEEN ASSESSABLE. PEOPLE NEED TO TURN THE TELL-A-VISION OFF. QUIT WATCHING THE PROGRAMMING AND TALK WITH REAL PEOPLE WHO KNOW AND USE THE PLANT. LISTEN TO ANY DRUG COMMERCIAL ON THE TELL-A-VISION ALL THE EFFECTS OF THOSE'S DRUGS. BUT MOST OF YOU ALL SAYING TO SCHEDULE KRATOM ARE ON THOSE. THE COUNTRY NEEDS TO FOCUS ON FENTANYL BUT THATS FINE, OUR OWN GOVERNMENT BRINGS IT IN. WE LIVE IN UPSIDE DOWN WORLD.

CommentID: 223151

Commenter: Bryan White

6/3/24 11:04 pm

Please Do not schedule Kratom

I am one of millions of people in the USA who find great relief from several chronic ailments with kratom. I have been utilizing kratom for 10 years to help with back pain, neuropathy, and insomnia due to a congenital condition known as multiple lipomatosis. I have no medical treatments available to me other than surgical removal of the lipomas. The problem is that I have more than 100 lipomas in my body, so the task of removing all of the lipomas causing pain and other problems is not financial feasible to me. The only option I am left with is pain management and kratom does just enough to keep my pain at bay. Because of kratom, I can sleep, work, spend time with my family, etc. Please follow the actual science on kratom and make a decision based on that instead of because of unscientific pressure from the FDA or uninformed people.

Thank you,

Bryan

CommentID: 223152

Commenter: Eric clemensen

6/3/24 11:05 pm

Kratom saves lives

I'm a licensed alcohol and drug counselor, person in recovery from heroin and have a masters of public health. I work in Harm Reduction, and treatment centers for over 10 years. Kratom saves lives, I've seen it do wonders and turn people's lives around. Please don't criminalize it.

CommentID: 223153

Commenter: Roger

6/3/24 11:07 pm

Kratom saved my life

As an addict in recovery, and a sufferer of chronic pain and severe anxiety, which showed its face only after getting sober, kratom is the only thing keeping me alive. If kratom gets criminalized in VA, it's not a matter of time before other states try to do the same. I fear what kind of quality of life I will have if kratom becomes illegal. I can't go to bars to meet friends, the people I meet at kava and kratom bars understand and appreciate the struggle, as many of them are in the same boat. Please help save lives and deny the petition. People's lives are at stake.

72

CommentID: 223154

Commenter: JERRY HOWELL

6/3/24 11:08 pm

Kratom is a lifesaver

I have incurable bladder disease that disables me. Kratom is the only answer to my chronic pain that I have found. I live in Danville and would be very negatively affected by this law.

CommentID: 223155

Commenter: Angelina Mancuso

6/3/24 11:09 pm

Kratom saves lives

Do not schedule a plant to be a controlled substance

CommentID: 223156

Commenter: Jon

6/3/24 11:09 pm

Kratom helps many people.

Kratom is a safe and effective herbal remedy. This plant is used responsibly by many people. It does not merit any type of criminal classification. I would encourage the board to make a good faith review of the current scientific literature, and the testimonies of people helped by this plant. Thank you for your time.

CommentID: 223157

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 11:10 pm

Kratom saves lives!

Keep Kratom Legal!!

CommentID: 223158

Commenter: Margaret Higgins

6/3/24 11:11 pm

Kratom is not adrug

How about you stop the hard drugs that are in our society and giving the pipes to smoke Fentanyl? Kratom is not a hard drug it's a COFFEE plant that makes you feel like you drank a cup of coffee with a wonderful side effect of pain relief! The over the counter pain relief should be banned for there health destroying effects. Please educate yourself!

CommentID: 223159

Commenter: Julie Marquez

6/3/24 11:11 pm

Kratom is safe

Chronic pain after a car accident. Did not want to be on narcotics. Kratom is a safe plant that helps with pain. Please keep it legal. It saves lives.

CommentID: 223160

Commenter: Alexander James Karp

6/3/24 11:12 pm

Kratom is a miracle for my back pain.

I have suffered from a degenerating disc since high school. I used physical therapy, a healthy diet, exercise, and chiropractic care to manage this pain. Even with this routine, I would experience 4-7 days of extreme pain every 1-2 years. As I became older these periodic pain episodes became more frequent and lasted longer. During a particularly long 5-month pain episode I was not able to walk, sit, stand, or even lay down without mind-numbing pain. My doctor confirmed the pain was due to a worsening degenerating disc between my L5 and S1. I tried EVERY therapy. Physical therapy, muscle relaxers, inversion, stretching, but nothing seemed to help. And my only option was to manage the pain and consider 'surgery' even though the success rate is 50/50 or worse?! In order to manage the pain I had stopped playing all sports, I had stopped exercising, stopped going out with friends...this is when I started to get depressed, angry, and no longer envisioned a future I wanted to be a part. In Dec of 2016 I heard about and tried kratom for the first time. Kratom is the dried leaves of a tree that grows in Southeast Asia, and is most similar to coffee and tea.

In short, kratom was a miracle!!!

When I consume kratom, my pain is reduced from a 10 to a 2-3 and I am able to get my life back. Exercise, yoga, spending time with friends and family! Not only does kratom help with the pain immediately, but it has allowed me to heal my back. 3 years ago I used kratom 3 times per day. Now, as little as 3 times per month (depending on my pain levels).

Please follow the science of kratom. We need to help people in pain.

CommentID: 223161

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 11:12 pm

Please don't criminalize this life saving plant

Please keep this plant legal. It does wonderful things for a lot of people, allowing them to live normal lives.

CommentID: 223162

Commenter: John Seger

6/3/24 11:12 pm

Kratom saved my life.

I was addicted to Opiates for 15 years. I lost my job, car and apartment. Destroyed my life.

Thanks to Kratom I am now 9 years sober and clean from opiates. I found employment and finally got an apartment and a car. Kratom literally saved my life.

CommentID: 223163

Commenter: Aimee McDermott

6/3/24 11:13 pm

Save pain relief for chronic pain

I don't support making kratom illegal. As someone with chronic pain due to an autoimmune condition, I am concerned about limiting access to this very helpful plant. Cannabidiol does not work for my condition. Over the counter medications do not touch the pain. You will be forcing people to pursue street drugs for relief if you ban this plant.

CommentID: 223164

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 11:13 pm

Kratom saves lives and should remain legal and available to adults

Kratom should be available to purchase legally. It should not be difficult or dangerous to obtain as it saves lives. Scheduling it or making it difficult to get would only cause more harm.

CommentID: 223165

Commenter: Christian DeVere

6/3/24 11:14 pm

Re: kratom saves lives

Please do not outlaw natural plants. The only people who do not want consumers to have access to this miracle plant is big pharma. They can't stand people not using their poisonous pills that have killed so many over the years and causing the worst sustained opiate crisis the world has ever known. KRATOM is the only safe, natural, and effective plant to use to safely detox from harmful painkillers. The effects are mild but noticeable. Kratom does not cause overdoses or withdrawals, the science is clear on those points. Be a part of the solution and help keep kratom safe, legal, and available. Ask yourself, if kratom was dangerous, why have I not heard of it before? Where is the crisis? Look at what other states have done successfully and pass the Kratom Consumer Protection Act sponsored by the American Kratom Association. Thanks.

CommentID: 223166

Commenter: Joel Young

6/3/24 11:14 pm

Do not criminalize kratom

I'm asking that you please consider not scheduling the alkaloids in Kratom due to harm reduction potential and the safety of the public. It is siding in the fight to deter people from using more lethal substances.

CommentID: 223167

Commenter: Jesica

6/3/24 11:15 pm

Don't take this PLANT!!!!

Don't take this PLANT!! It's saved my life, and thousands of others!!!

CommentID: 223168

Commenter: Tammy

6/3/24 11:15 pm

UNETHICAL

If kratom of banned nothing good will come from it. It would be like going back in time. Please consider the many people it has helped. This plant is God sent for many. Regulation YES.. prohibition NO.

CommentID: 223169

Commenter: Juanita Mossbarger

6/3/24 11:16 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

I'm a 62 year old Ohio resident who has taken kratom for about 5 years now. I'm positive I would be totally incapacitated if not for kratom! Degenerative disc disease is so painful. I have also seen how kratom helps addicts get/stay clean!! That's huge! Friend of mine went from a case of beer a day to a 6 pack a week. The proof is there!
God gave us all the medicines we need!!! Kratom is one of those medicines.

CommentID: 223170

Commenter: Leif Sigstedt

6/3/24 11:17 pm

Kratom is a safe herb and shouldn't be criminalized

Please help us to keep this wonderful herb available to those who need it most. The science says it is safe and the WHO even concurred that there is no reason to further consider regulation let alone to schedule/ban it outright. Please look past the debunked anti-kratom propaganda and look at all the good that it's done. The cases of it actually causing harm are non-existent and it goes a long way to provide a normal existence for some of us who would otherwise quite possibly live in misery. Thanks for your time and consideration, I know you'll make the right decision if you just look at the facts!

CommentID: 223171

Commenter: Ryan Dawson

6/3/24 11:17 pm

Kratom scheduling

Hi, I am not a virginian but I have been made aware of the possible scheduling of kratom. I feel strongly enough about this I would like to give my testimony. I am a Kentucky resident who has used kratom for pain management for over 7 years. I am a very active member in my community and Masonic lodge as an officer. This plant has allowed me to avoid steroid shots and pain management pharmaceuticals. We all know how dangerous those drugs can be. Banning this resource will not only hurt law abiding citizens but will help grow the opioid epidemic. There is zero science that points to dangers in its use of it is third party tested and pure. Have we not learned our lessons from past prohibitions? I assume alcohol will remain available at the gas station to poison communities. This herbal remedy can bring a better quality of life to your citizens. You will do your state a sad disservice by scheduling this plant. Speak on the opioid epidemic and how terrible it is but this board would be contributing with this scheduling just as pharma has before. If there is question to my Masonic affiliation refer to Robinson-plumb #266 F&M.

Sincerely,

Ryan Dawson

CommentID: 223172

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 11:18 pm

This ban only helps pharmaceutical companies make more money and takes away the rights of the indivi

I want to use kratom and I should have the right to whether as a recreational drug or as a therapeutic; if that's what I say my experience is. There is no evidence out there to say it is any more harmful than tylenol and it is clearly much less harmful than oxy contin. I had leukemia as a teenager which resulted in having both right and left shoulders and right and left hips replaced. Last time I went to the doctor I was diagnosed with severe arthritis in my spine. I also work 40+ hours a week and receive no government assistance, so I am a contributor to this country's financial health. I know kratom has helped to keep my pain tolerable and I know that people have been taking it for more than 15 years in America without adverse health effects. Trying to ban it just takes away people's rights and gives them less options, when there has been research done and that research says that kratom is a very reasonable option for people. Banning kratom is simply about trying to control people and more so about controlling where the money goes. Using kratom is a choice that has no consequences on other people, therefore this ban is horribly unethical.

CommentID: 223173

Commenter: Piotr Reysner

6/3/24 11:19 pm

Keep kratom legal

10 years ago, I developed a debilitating migraine disorder. It got so bad that I was having upwards of 22 migraine days per month. I saw specialist after specialist and was in and out of doctor's offices every couple of weeks. When my neurologist declared victory after reducing the frequency to 5 days per month, and said that this was now my life, I began looking elsewhere. I happened to stumble upon kratom. And it has been a lifesaver. Now I get a migraine about once every other month, with the duration lasting only a few hours. I haven't seen a doctor in 7 years for a migraine. Without a doubt, kratom made my life worth living. The pain before kratom was too much for any person to bear. Kratom saved my life, as it has many others

Please do not ban this drug or turn it into a Class 1 drug. Let people live a life without pain. A life without dependence or addiction to pharmaceuticals.

CommentID: 223174

Commenter: Hovig Koltougian

6/3/24 11:19 pm

Kratom saved my life

Kratom saved my life and many others I know. I used Kratom to overcome my addiction to many drugs. It's also a great substitute for using pharmaceuticals drugs for antidepressants, anxiety, PTSD and more. Unlike harmful and very addictive pharmaceuticals, you can stop using kratom just like I did.

CommentID: 223175

Commenter: Twoscoops

6/3/24 11:19 pm

I do NOT support amendment 18VAC110-20-322

I do NOT support amendment 18VAC110-20-322 to drug schedule 1: kratom, natural form, or alkaloids mitragynine or 7-hydroxymitragynine
it needs to stay legalized and available, not only for research, testing, and scientific studies.
But also for the benefits of human life, quality of life, lessening chronic pain, pain management, those with addictions to actual hard drugs and especially for natural liberty.

CommentID: 223176

Commenter: Jason Guthrie

6/3/24 11:19 pm

Kratom is a lifesaver.

Kratom was instrumental in breaking my alcohol addiction. Others use it to alleviate pain and depression. There is no reason to make this substance illegal.

CommentID: 223177

Commenter: Randy

6/3/24 11:19 pm

I do not support this petition to make kratom consumers criminals if it is a Schedule I substance.

I've been taking kratom for 6 years for depression. I'm a recovering alcoholic with 8 years of sobriety and kratom has made a positive difference in my life.

CommentID: 223178

Commenter: Opioid survivor

6/3/24 11:19 pm

Absurd

it's sadly absurd that you who are supposed to help us and protect us in different rules of politics and lawmakers would think that taking something away that the VA themselves are using as a trial to see how well it works for veterans for pain relief as opposed to opiates. If you do a little research, you will see that they're doing very well and that the Kratom is faring amazingly well with no very little chance of addiction. No more addicting than a Coca-Cola. Quit giving into big Pharma because they are able to buy you wrong by sending their lobbyist to legally bribe you to get them what they want. Stop hurting people for once in your lives??????

CommentID: 223179

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 11:20 pm

Please keep Kratom legal!

Kratom has saved my life and kept me drug free for 8 years. I use Kratom responsibly everyday and work full time and take good care of my family. For once in my life I've been able to keep a job and be there for my children. If kratom is criminalized, it will be a very bad thing for alot of people. Please follow the science on Kratom and keep it legal!

CommentID: 223180

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 11:20 pm

do not ban kratom

Kratom is a life saver for some and is much more helpful and benign. Anything can be abused, what's next, ban chocolate?

CommentID: 223181

Commenter: Shane

6/3/24 11:22 pm

This plant has saved many lives

Please reconsider banning or making this God given plant illegal to use. It has saved countless lives . Many have gotten off fentanyl and other hard drugs thanks to this God given botanical . Outlawing this plant will cause more harm then good .

CommentID: 223182

Commenter: Ann Allen Shepherds Outrun Sheep farm

6/3/24 11:22 pm

Kratom should not be a scheduled drug.

I am a 55 year old female ~ I've known about and used kratom on and off For 15 years. I have farmer friends in Taiwan- I myself have a few trees.

It helps me fight the fatigue of Lyme disease. Kratom is a simple easy herb leaf that in no way is dangerous. It really maybe is the same "strength " as caffeine. Maybe less. It needs to stay legal and in the choice of the public. To let the pharmacy board make this a scheduled drug would be most corrupt and NOT what the people want. Don't forget you work for us- you do not rule us. Thank you for listening.

CommentID: 223183

Commenter: Jake

6/3/24 11:22 pm

Kratom classification petition

I do no support criminalizing kratom. Saves many lives when other ways couldn't, it's a beneficial plant produced by Mother Nature

CommentID: 223184

Commenter: Josh

6/3/24 11:22 pm

Don't ban kratom it saved my life

I'd still be addicted to opiates and honestly dead by now if not for kratom

CommentID: 223185

Commenter: Rhiannon

6/3/24 11:25 pm

Kratom helps chronic pain

Kratom helps chronic pain it is a natural plant that has a lot of antioxidants and good qualities for a person. It helps my mom function with her daily life and it helps with chronic pain, depression comment and anxiety. I do not believe it should become a scheduled one narcotic when it helps so many people. People are able to function with taking kratom it can help their activities of daily living great

CommentID: 223186

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 11:27 pm

Kratom saves lives

Kratom is not a drug, not an opiate, and not a synthetic substance. Natural kratom is a safe herbal supplement used by millions for pain management. Natural kratom comes from a tropical tree in Southeast Asia and has been used for centuries there. Now, it's been safely used in the United States for decades.

Many Americans are turning to kratom to help eliminate chronic pain or a drug dependency. Many say kratom saved their lives.

Unlike opioids, kratom does not suppress the respiratory system. Current studies do not support significant addiction liability.

Kratom is a possible solution to the opioid epidemic.

CommentID: 223187

Commenter: Lavada Guthrie

6/3/24 11:27 pm

Kratom, right substance wrong Schedule

Kratom has been life-changing for my husband's journey with sobriety. He wouldn't have been able to push through without the help of this plant. Kratom is not a dangerous substance to be made a Schedule 1.

CommentID: 223188

Commenter: Erin

6/3/24 11:27 pm

Kratom truly helps so many people

Please do not ban kratom because it truly helps so many people have a better quality of life. I take it for depression and menstrual cramps and it's the best thing I've found for both struggles. Please do not ban it but it does need to be regulated properly.

CommentID: 223189

76

Commenter: C.Nichol

6/3/24 11:28 pm

Chronic pain almost took my life. Kratom gave it back.

About 9 years ago I was diagnosed with Chronic Pain due to Fibromyalgia. I tried many of the doctor prescribed medications, and found either little-to-no relief, or bad side effects. Over the next year or so, my life was on a rapid downward trajectory. I had gone from being able to work full time, to struggling to work 20 hours a week delivering pizzas. I was unable to get out of bed on my days off. Unable to visit my family. Unable to see my friends. And I was taking 8,000-10,000mg of Ibuprofen and even then, still struggling with pain and fatigue. I was starting to think I couldn't do it anymore. I didn't want to do it anymore. I was tired of the pain.

Then my best friend told me about Kratom. He used to it break his addiction to pain killers, but informed me that people also use it for pain management. After much reading on chronic pain and fibromyalgia forums, I knew what I needed to order; Green Maeng Da Kratom. A little more time spent finding a trusted reseller, and I was on my way to a new life. Over the next 6-12 months, I carefully tested dosages and methods for taking the Kratom powder. Finally I found a dosage and schedule that I've stuck to for the last ~8 years. And in that time, I'm back to working full time (usually 50-60 hours a week) with a new career in IT making more than 4 times what I used to make and continuing my education. I'm able to be there for my father, sister, nephew, aunt, and elderly grandparents. I'm able to do not only the things I need to do, but I am now able to do the things that I want to do. I love my life now. And I truly don't know what I would do if I lost my safe, legal access to Kratom.

I'm really excited to see where my life goes, but I don't think I'll get there if my chronic pain comes back.

Work to towards quality control and industry certifications. Please do not limit my safe access.

CommentID: 223190

Commenter: Joni Meier

6/3/24 11:28 pm

Kratom saved my daughter

My daughter has been using Kratom for years now to keep her daily pain under control. With the DEA scaring physicians out of prescribing pain medication, kratom has been a life saver for so many people that live with chronic pain daily. It has helped many become a functional person and able to work again, which means less people relying on government help. Please keep kratom available to all.

Thank you,

Joni Meier

CommentID: 223191

Commenter: Jacob Jones

6/3/24 11:29 pm

Former Severe Alcoholic

I do NOT support this. Kratom has saved countless lives including my own. I used to be a severe alcoholic with my life heading straight for the abyss, but I was able to use kratom to quit drinking and haven't looked back. I have taken my life back and am a successful single parent living a happy quiet life free from the limitations of addiction to alcohol.

Making kratom a schedule 1 is not only criminal, it's an extremely unintelligible decision. The World Health Organization did extensive research on kratom when it was on their desk, and they chose NOT to condemn it for many reasons.

Please don't make the mistake of supporting regressive legislation that will inevitably harm civilians. Kratom is a miracle plant that should belong to the people.
CommentID: 223192

Commenter: Jennifer

Kratom saved my life.

I have been a chronic pain sufferer for 20 years. I have major depressive disorder and prescription medications led to suicide attempts. I was done with life until I found kratom. There is no high like pills or marijuana, and certainly not like alcohol (which I'm sure there's many bars in this town.) my life has been saved by this plant, and no one should be a criminal for finding an all natural remedy for pain and depression.
CommentID: 223193

Commenter: Anonymous

Strongly against the banning of kratom

So much safer than the bottomless pit of opioids ect.

CommentID: 223194

Commenter: Charles Kimmel

Do not criminalize Kratom

I'm against scheduling kratom. There is a lot of evidence that kratom has helped and saved many people. I'm again regulations that are controlling in general without serious evidence that it's going to be effective and not violate people's freedoms. Kratom has really helped a lot of people with anxiety, depression and pain. People need and have the right to alternatives other than pharmaceuticals. Please do not schedule or ban kratom.
CommentID: 223195

Commenter: Allan

Kratom gives a natural alternative to pharmaceuticals that are highly addictive and is a safer

Kratom is a natural alternative to man made chemicals and provide users with help that they need without having to see a doctor or have a prescription.

And is safer to the user

CommentID: 223196

Commenter: Anonymous

Keep Kratom Legal

I have had Lyme Disease for 15 years and Kratom has been a lifesaver!

CommentID: 223197

Commenter: Drew

Kratom saves

Stop stripping viable options for drug withdrawal/ Pain management away. It's a miracle for alot of people stop over reaching, theres enough for the FDA and DEA to do already

CommentID: 223198

Commenter: Jamie

Kratom

Although I am not in Virginia, id like to talk about how Kratom changed my life. I was an alcoholic, suffering from chronic pain syndrome. I have occipital neuralgia. I don't want to take pain pills and this saved me from both drinking and sleeping and pain pills. Completely changed my life.
CommentID: 223199

Commenter: Mark E

Kratom is great for pain

I love how big pharmaceuticals just try anything to make sure people stay attached to them even though all medications come with warnings of side effects that are worse than the actual disease yet they keep pushing it on everyone. Kratom is natural and have been used for decades to ease pain and help people. Both my wife and I have used it and it's far more effective than regular pain medications. Please don't take it away and give control to big pharmaceutical
CommentID: 223200

Commenter: Ben

Kratom gives me life

Kratom makes it so I can function during the day with no pain without having to be on pills

CommentID: 223201

Commenter: Anonymous

Keep Kratom Legal

I do NOT support amendment 18VAC110-20-322

I do NOT support amendment 18VAC110-20-322 to drug schedule 1: kratom, natural form, or alkaloids mitragynine or 7-hydroxymitragynine

it needs to stay legalized and available, not only for research, testing, and scientific studies.

But also for the benefits of human life, quality of life, lessening chronic pain, pain management, those with addictions to actual hard drugs and especially for natural liberty.

CommentID: 223202

Commenter: Cody macdade

6/3/24 11:36 pm

Kratom is why I live a normal life with my child

Kratom has allowed me to bare the daily life in chronic pain from a terrible accident. I would not have the ability to function daily without evil prescription painkillers and addiction if I did not have kratom. Finally, I have been drug and prescription free due to this healing tree. This tree is a medicine of the people and should not be tampered with by the government

CommentID: 223203

Commenter: Jared

6/3/24 11:36 pm

Keep kratom legal

The public should be able to access this plant that helps so many.

CommentID: 223204

Commenter: Cel Laynw

6/3/24 11:36 pm

Leave natural remedies alone

We should have the choice between natural treatment and pharmaceuticals. I have been taking this tea for 10 years with great results. Don't take that from me.

CommentID: 223205

Commenter: Jo Moretti

6/3/24 11:37 pm

Kratom

Kratom has been a lifesaver for my elderly mother who has severe rheumatoid arthritis. She is 88 yrs old and this works for her! I also use it for my chronic back pain. This works better and is safer than any pharmaceutical...Kratom provides relief for so many people. Please do not criminalize this plant that is helping so many. Thank you.

CommentID: 223206

788

Commenter: Michele

6/3/24 11:37 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

Kratom has given me my life back. I am a chronic pain patient and Kratom has given me a quality of life that I didn't have before. It's wonderful to be a functioning member of society again. Please keep Kratom safe for people like me and all others who choose to utilize it to better their lives.

CommentID: 223207

Commenter: Rev. William Vickers

6/3/24 11:37 pm

Please keep Kratom legal

I'm a migraine sufferer and would not have been able To be a productive member of society without Kratom.

CommentID: 223208

Commenter: Wesley Ballard

6/3/24 11:38 pm

RIS relief

Please don't take the Natural form of Kratom away by scheduling it. Big Parma will make it pill form with toxic ingredients and sell it to us at crazy high prices. I take it for RLS and it's affordable and works so I can sleep. It's been a God send!! Thankyou Wesley Ballard

CommentID: 223209

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 11:38 pm

People in Pain Aren't Criminals

I wanted to leave a comment about the proposal to criminalize kratom. Kratom is a safe painkiller that is controversial mainly because it can't be patented and doesn't make millions for a pharmaceutical company. People who use pain medication are not degenerate losers or lawless creeps. They're people who have pain. They're your parents, your children, your friends, and probably you in the future if not yet, given the rapid increase of chronic disease worldwide. Whether physical, mental or emotional, usually a combination of both, this pain's cause is rooted in a huge fortune of some industry that poisons the world for profit, whether food, chemicals, weapons, plastics, etc. In other words, modern life. But instead of regulating industries with money, power and lawyers, it is easier to punish kratom users who are simply trying to function and cope with their chronic pain. I get that it's easier, but is it fair or humane? How about stepping up to the plate and facing problems head on? Or is that too much to ask?

CommentID: 223210

Commenter: John

6/3/24 11:38 pm

Keep kratom legal

A lot of people find help and relief with kratom and it's far less destructive than a lot of other stuff that's out there legally. Keep kratom legal.

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

CommentID: 223211

Commenter: JT

6/3/24 11:38 pm

Don't sched kratom

As a business traveler to VA, I rely on the legality of kratom. Please don't inhibit my ability to pursue office work in VA.

CommentID: 223212

Commenter: Anthony

6/3/24 11:38 pm

no Kratom changes

Do not entertain any action through this mechanism

CommentID: 223213

Commenter: Justin

6/3/24 11:39 pm

Kratom saved my life and helps me to manage my severe pain and neuropathy

Kratom stopped my gabapentin withdrawal. The withdrawal from gabapentin is is very intense and long-lasting. I won't go into detail but kratom literally saved my life.

CommentID: 223214

Commenter: John Anderson

6/3/24 11:40 pm

Kratom poses serious health risks

The potential for addiction and severe health consequences from kratom use is alarming. As a concerned citizen, I believe it is essential to classify kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance to prevent widespread misuse and protect public health

CommentID: 223215

Commenter: Mary Thompson Health Advocate

6/3/24 11:40 pm

Kratom should be a Schedule I substance

Given its high potential for abuse and lack of accepted medical use, kratom must be classified as a Schedule I controlled substance. This classification will help mitigate the risks associated with its unregulated use and ensure the safety of our community

CommentID: 223216

Commenter: Emily

6/3/24 11:41 pm

Keep kratom legal!!!

79

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

149/750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

I used kratom to help with my everyday life, it keeps me off of prescription pain medication and is such a blessing to me. There is absolutely NO reason for kratom to be illegal! This is plant medicine and no one has the right to tell me what plants I can or cannot consume!
CommentID: 223217

Commenter: Michael Clark

6/3/24 11:41 pm

Medical Professional - Kratom is a public health threat

As a medical professional, I have seen the negative impact of kratom on patients. Its addictive properties and severe side effects justify its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance. This measure is crucial to prevent further harm and promote public health

CommentID: 223218

Commenter: Jennifer Walker

6/3/24 11:42 pm

Classify kratom as Schedule I

Kratom's opioid-like effects and high potential for abuse make it a significant public health concern. By classifying it as a Schedule I controlled substance, we can restrict its availability and reduce the risk of addiction and other adverse health outcome

CommentID: 223219

Commenter: David Harris

6/3/24 11:42 pm

Protect our children from kratom

As a parent, I am deeply concerned about the easy availability of kratom and its potential harm to young people. Classifying kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance is necessary to safeguard our children from its addictive and dangerous effect

CommentID: 223220

Commenter: Sarah Lewis

6/3/24 11:43 pm

Registered Nurse - Kratom is a health hazard

The severe health risks associated with kratom use, including addiction and physical dependency, warrant its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance. This action will help protect individuals from its harmful effects and promote overall public health

CommentID: 223221

Commenter: Tina Wall

6/3/24 11:43 pm

Keep kraton legal

Please do not take away this natural pain relief! Thanks to kraton, I had relief from cancer pain, it would be unnecessary cruelty to ban Kraton.

CommentID: 223222

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

150/750

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom

I am strongly opposed to any bans or laws against the use and/or distribution of Kratom, which helps all sorts of people, issues and ailments

CommentID: 223223

6/3/24 11:43 pm

Commenter: Jacob Stalder

All of nature should be legal, especially kratom which is a very safe and healthy herb!

Kratom is safe to use daily, as an herbal tea or supplement. It offers many health benefits and has a long history of safe traditional use in it's native region.

CommentID: 223224

6/3/24 11:43 pm

Commenter: Justin

Kratom has cured my Irritable bowel syndrome

I've suffered with IBS my whole life no pharmaceuticals work and no diet works. The only thing that has worked has been Kratom. It has basically cured my IBS, if you schedule this I will be in pain and be sick almost every day. This is literally my medicine. Please don't ban it.

CommentID: 223225

6/3/24 11:44 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom abuse is a growing problem

In our community, we have seen an increase in kratom abuse and its detrimental effects on individuals and families. Classifying kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance is a critical step in curbing this issue and ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents

CommentID: 223226

6/3/24 11:44 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Do not schedule Kratom.

Kratom is a life changing supplement for many of our citizens. Tobacco, booze, chew, all kill many Americans each year. Kratom has no confirmed deaths form use or exposure. Scheduling kratom is a knee-jerk reaction to a perceived issue that doesn't exist.

CommentID: 223227

6/3/24 11:44 pm

Commenter: Marcus

Kratom is not a drug



6/3/24 11:45 pm

I use kratom to have energy to be productive, it works better than coffee. It is a natural stimulant and a pain killer. I work in construction and need the energy to accomplish the day's work. Please do not make me a criminal. The plant does more good than you could do by criminalizing its use.

CommentID: 223228

Commenter: Anonymous

Pharmacist - Kratom lacks medical value

There is no substantial medical evidence to support the use of kratom for any health benefits. Its high potential for abuse and severe side effects make it necessary to classify it as a Schedule I controlled substance to protect public health and safety

CommentID: 223229

6/3/24 11:45 pm

Commenter: DG

Keep it legal

If you truly believe in American freedom this wouldn't even be a question. This is another way to arrest poor people and use them for cheap labor in prisons. I am absolutely against making kratom illegal at any level. I do not support this.

CommentID: 223230

6/3/24 11:45 pm

Commenter: Dave Noble

Natural Kratom is safe

Used for safety for thousands of years in the East. Keep Kratom legal. WHO studies confirmed it's safe. DEA said it's not harmful. No more nanny State.

CommentID: 223231

6/3/24 11:45 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Prevent kratom misuse among youth

As an educator, I am concerned about the impact of kratom on young people. Its easy availability and high abuse potential make it a significant risk. Classifying kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance will help prevent misuse and protect our youth

CommentID: 223232

6/3/24 11:45 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom endangers public safety

The risks to public safety from kratom are substantial. Its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance is necessary to prevent abuse, reduce health risks, and protect the well-being of our community

CommentID: 223233

6/3/24 11:46 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 11:47 pm

Kratom poses serious health risks

As a healthcare worker, I have witnessed the negative impact of kratom on individuals' health. Its addictive properties and potential for severe side effects justify its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance to protect public health

CommentID: 223234

Commenter: Jeremy

6/3/24 11:48 pm

Keep kratom legal

Kratom has helped countless people overcome opiate addiction and is a last resort for many with chronic pain. Making kratom illegal will only push more people to dangerous drugs and lead to even more countless drug overdose deaths. If you ban kratom you're complicit in pushing more to addiction and ultimately, death.

CommentID: 223235

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 11:48 pm

KEEP KRATOM LEGAL!!!! STOP MAKING EVERYONE CRIMINALS!!!!

Kratom, *mitragyna speciosa*, is an herb used as a natural opioid substitute. It is amongst the safest and least addictive/problematic of all alternatives. It does not cause death by respiratory depression like traditional opioids. In appropriate doses, it does not cause vomiting like buprenorphine does. Death involving kratom is very rare and often due to other factors.

I have used kratom for the past three years in order to help cope with a period of severe emotional turmoil. In my experience with various substances, kratom has been the least expensive, most sustainable, least intrusive/debilitating, and safest. It is like a cup of coffee. In fact, I have suffered more from caffeine withdrawal than kratom withdrawal, so why don't you ban coffee instead?! Oh, but you wouldn't want to do that now would you?! You're probably sipping on a Starbucks right now!

Maybe instead of listening to bourgeoisie doctors spouting elitist opinions from ivory towers, you should try listening to people who have real world experience!

Stop trying to find ways to make everyone criminals!!!! That is treacherous to the American cause of liberty!!!!

CommentID: 223236

Commenter: Shawn pitchford

6/3/24 11:48 pm

Do not let the pharmacy decide for me.

They rather us be on methadone or suboxone. If you look at the side effects of those drugs, they are lights years beyond anything kratom does. They lead to more deaths, and they cause your addiction levels to go way higher. They both cause 30 days plus withdrawal. Kratom is used by millions and the most they can make up is a handful of deaths that most likely were not caused by kratom.

CommentID: 223237

Commenter: Jessica King

6/3/24 11:48 pm

Kratom leads to dependency

The psychological and physical dependency associated with kratom use is alarming. As a mental health counselor, I strongly support its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance to prevent addiction and promote mental well-being

CommentID: 223238

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 11:49 pm

DO NOT BAN PLEASE READ

If you do this and control or ban kratom you are making sure there's another substance that goes to the black market criminal drug dealers who will lace the kratom with fentanyl and other harmful substances.

DO NOT CREATE ANOTHER BLACK MARKET PRODUCT

Do you want to see people who take kratom to move to REAL drugs????

STOP AND THINK FOR A MINUTE!!! This is not the way to go and will make many suffer. PLEASE DON'T DO THIS!

CommentID: 223239

Commenter: ET

6/3/24 11:50 pm

Scheduling Kratom will only cause harm.

I would like to start by saying I hold an Associate in Medical Assisting, and a Bachelor in Nursing Science, I worked in the medical field under many positions for around 10 years. I have since moved into an adjacent but very different field. I own a large 30+ year old Radon Mitigation company that does business in multiple states. I have also been taking Kratom for nearly 10 years as an alternative to opioid pain medication for my chronic back, hip, and ankle pain from a severe injury. I did a large amount of research before starting to take Kratom as an alternate to Opioid pain medicine, and there is far more information available now than there was 10 years ago. In all of my past and current research I have not been able to find one corroborated report that Kratom has caused a fatality or injury. Nor have I found Kratom to be habit forming. I know multiple other long time users of Kratom and neither I or any of them have had an issue stopping Kratom or taking a break. The only negative from ceasing kratom for me and them is that we no longer have an aid for our chronic pain. Schedule I would mean that Kratom has no medicinal use, and would stop current research and prevent further research. It would also cause people who use Kratom for medicinal purposes to turn to more dangerous medications or in some cases illicit substances. This would not help anyone. We already have a massive Opioid epidemic, and this would make it worse in addition to preventing people from using Kratom to get off of illicit substances that have a potential to kill them. Scheduling Kratom is a lose lose situation for the great State of Virginia, and the great people that reside there. In addition to this I would no longer be legally allowed to travel

to the Great State of Virginia (with Kratom), along with many others. This will impact mine and other businesses that have owners or workers that take Kratom. We will no longer be able to the state with our pain medication (Kratom), causing many to rethink their business dealings in Virginia. Thank you for taking these words into consideration.

Kind regards,

ET

CommentID: 223240

Commenter: Scarlotte Kilgore

6/3/24 11:51 pm

Do real research from Univ of Fla - Kratom is helpful NOT harmful

<https://pharmacy.ufl.edu/2024/02/19/third-international-kratom-symposium-draws-experts-from-across-the-globe/>

<https://nihrecord.nih.gov/2022/06/24/mccurdy-studies-whether-kratom-can-reduce-opioid-withdrawal-ease-pain>

it would be a crime to take something that allows patients to treat their own pain to simply push them back into medical treatment dependency.

Kratom has a "ceiling" - meaning that even when taken in large doses - it stops working on opioid receptors. I.e. - you can't get high and die from respiratory distress. It's almost impossible.

Please do actual research...not just rely on the loudest voice in the public discourse to make a medical decision.

CommentID: 223241

Commenter: Chronic pain patient

6/3/24 11:51 pm

Kratom doesn't cause a "high"

I have been a chronic pain patient for over 20 years. In that time I have been prescribed a variety of opioids, including Oxycotin, morphine, Dilaudid, and fentanyl. Without pain medication, I am confined to my bed in severe pain.

Due to changing laws, it has become more difficult to access opioids. Despite a PERFECT history and zero symptoms of addiction, many pharmacies will refuse to fill the prescription written by my doctor. I've had the same doctor for the entire 20+ years. My chart and PDMP shows perfect compliance with all regulations. Doesn't matter. Pharmacists are often "uncomfortable" filling a prescription for even the lowest dosage of fentanyl patches or extended release morphine.

Therefore, at the recommendation of my pain management physician, I have started to use kratom instead. Kratom helps my pain immensely, with zero feelings of being "high". No dizziness or fuzzy brain feelings, no lightheadedness. Just pain relief.

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Being able to use kratom stops my suicidal ideation due to pain. No one should be living in misery and unable to complete the daily activities of living such as making food for oneself or taking a shower. I cannot do these tasks without pain relief, and due to extreme dea oversight and pharmacist fears of filling my valid, legal, and safe prescription for fentanyl patches I rely on kratom to help me through each day.

I could understand making it illegal if people were using it to get high or if people were overdosing, but it does not cause any high feeling whatsoever even when taking it in large doses. I feel more lightheaded smoking a tobacco cigarette than I do from taking 20 grams of kratom.

Keep kratom legal and accessible at least until the war against opioid medications is over. Patients need SOMETHING for severe chronic pain.

CommentID: 223242

Commenter: Linda Scott

6/3/24 11:51 pm

Kratom lacks medical evidence

There is no substantial medical evidence to support the use of kratom for health benefits. Its high potential for abuse and severe side effects make it necessary to classify it as a Schedule I controlled substance to protect public health

CommentID: 223243

Commenter: Charles Green

6/3/24 11:52 pm

Kratom is a public health concern.

I have seen the negative impact of kratom on individuals. Its addictive properties and severe side effects justify its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance to prevent further harm and promote public health.

CommentID: 223244

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 11:53 pm

KRATOM IS SAVING LIVE, DURING THIS FENTANYL & OPIATE EPIDEMIC!! DO NOT BAN!!

Kratom has just recently saved my best friend's life!! He was struggling with a crippling HEROIN addiction and OD'd (on Heroin, laced with Fentanyl)...I introduced him to Kratom. I am SO PROUD TO SAY...that my best friend...is now 1 month clean for the FIRST time, since he was 15years old, when the Doctor and Big Pharma got him hooked on <pain pills>, after an accident!! He finally has HIS life back, which was stolen from him by Big Pharma!!

He also says that, "it doesn't even get [him] "high", and have had absolutely NO side effects....only peace of mind that [he] may actually be capable of living a normal life....one [he's] never been able to have thus far!!!" The man uses it, as a simple tool....a tool in which he's never been given before....and you want to take that away from this man??? A tool that's practically just a simply tea?!

He actually called me the other night....crying...thanking me, just for introducing him to this life saving herb "KRATOM", and said he couldn't even remember the last time he hasn't had cravings for ANY drugs....not since he was a teenager...! He described it as a "MIRACLE PLANT", in which

GOD himself had placed in the palms of [his] hands, as a beacon of hope....in that maybe...just maybe... [his] life DOESN'T have to end up as simply another statistic"!

To sum this up-for ANYONE looking to support this ban on kratom....I want you to ask yourselves this: Does this really sound like another one of these "dangerous & deadly" Schedule 1 Narcotics to you?? Just think of how many people's deaths you'll have on YOUR hands?! ...Is the problem here really kratom and its users....or should we be focusing on the real problems at hand here.....if we're going to put an end to this epidemic, and TRULY make a difference here, to SAVE LIVES....lets first start by aiming at where they are originating from..... Please.....don't take this away from people like my friend here....

thank-you

CommentID: 223245

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 11:53 pm

Keep kratom LEGAL!!

I DON'T SUPPORT Board of Pharmacy Petition "Addition of kratom to Schedule I" (CRIMINALIZE KRATOM)

It has helped COUNTLESS friends get off opioids and getting healthy naturally. The key is education!! people are scared about what they don't know! To rob this from the people will make the opioid crisis so much worse!

CommentID: 223246

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 11:53 pm

Protect families from kratom.

As a family member, I am deeply concerned about the impact of kratom on our loved ones. Classifying kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance is necessary to safeguard families from its addictive and dangerous effects

CommentID: 223247

Commenter: Misty Brown

6/3/24 11:54 pm

If you're medical professionals and have nothing to hide, why post up anonymously?

Who's paying you? Why is Kratom a threat to you? What's really happening? Kids don't consume Kratom. Why aren't you worried about kids consuming alcohol from their parents liquor cabinet or smoking cigarettes from the ashtrays? What about the kids consuming Red Bull's and Monster Energy drinks? What about the kids becoming obese from the FDA approved foods? Why the lies?

CommentID: 223248

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 11:54 pm

Kratom needs strict regulation.

To address the public health risks associated with kratom, it is essential to classify it as a Schedule I controlled substance. This measure will help mitigate its misuse and protect the community from its harmful effects

CommentID: 223249

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 11:55 pm

Saved my life and my moms

Kratom has been life changing for me in a positive way. It's helped me with my behavioral health and got me off of more harmful medicine.

CommentID: 223250

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 11:56 pm

Protect students from kratom

I am concerned about the impact of kratom on students. Its easy availability and high abuse potential make it a significant risk. Classifying kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance will help prevent misuse and protect our youth

CommentID: 223251

Commenter: Kyle

6/3/24 11:56 pm

Natural Kratom is safe

Please always use data to base policy off of. The data is telling us it's safe. Agencies like the DEA are using false positives but this is a natural plant. As is, the sellers are taxed and people like myself can educate ourselves on the dosages to administer. It is helpful for the inflammation I get in my 30s.

CommentID: 223252

Commenter: Kristin Burkhardt

6/3/24 11:56 pm

Educate people on safe use, keep it legal!

I DON'T SUPPORT Board of Pharmacy Petition "Addition of kratom to Schedule I" (CRIMINALIZE KRATOM)

CommentID: 223253

Commenter: Anonymous

6/3/24 11:57 pm

Kratom abuse is a serious issue.

I have seen the detrimental effects of kratom abuse on individuals and families. Classifying kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance is a crucial step in curbing this issue and ensuring the safety and well-being of our community

CommentID: 223254

Commenter: Michelle Thompson

6/3/24 11:58 pm

Kratom leads to addiction

The high potential for kratom addiction is alarming. As an addiction specialist, I strongly support its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance to prevent addiction and promote public health.

CommentID: 223255

Commenter: Cora Harris

6/3/24 11:58 pm

Are u serious?

So, you take pain meds away from the veterans first. Then you take it away from people on SSI. Then you take it away from people on Medicare and that are disabled and sick. Kratom helps some people. It's an extremely weak pain medication but stronger than taking Acetaminophen and ibuprofen mixed. But now you are here TRYING to make it a scheduled drug & therefore EVEN MORE PEOPLE WILL LOSE their pain care?!?! Are you serious? And then you wonder why in this country we have so many people committing suicide or turning to the streets & getting poisoned from China and Mexico w/ street drugs!! You have got to be smarter than this!! What do you honestly expect to happen?! Unless you just want us all dead?! If that's the case, we would have WAY MORE RESPECT if you just came out & said that to us! PLEASE THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE TRYING TO DO & NOT BE SO IGNORANT?! For the love of God... it's a plant in the coffee family. Why don't you actually do something to help everyone in pain instead of trying to kill all of us? Let the people that are suffering terribly take the medications & plants God put on this earth to help us! Because guess what? You or someone you love are only one second away from getting into an accident or getting a extremely painful disease... and there will be no help for you. We are in a 3rd world country at this point when it comes to this & but no one is immune... you'll be WISHING you had something to help you to live. To eat. To sleep. To spend time with yr loved ones. You'll be WISHING you weren't living in a bed 23.75/7, holding yr breath & yr pee because its so hard to get out of bed. PLEASE BE SMART w/ the decisions you're about to make? Have a heart & soul. God bless you. ??????????????

CommentID: 223256

Commenter: Minaz

6/3/24 11:59 pm

Do not make Kratom illegal

Do not make Kratom illegal. Many people rely on this as a natural plant that helps their daily lives.

CommentID: 223257

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:00 am

Kratom is a health hazard

To safeguard public health, it is essential to classify kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance. Its high potential for abuse and lack of accepted medical use make this classification necessary to protect our community

CommentID: 223258

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:00 am

objection to kratom criminalization

I am writing concerning kratom and would like to share why it matters to me and encourage you to not criminalize it and those who incorporate it into their wellness plans should it wrongly be placed as a Schedule 1 drug.

For years, I was suffering daily from unmitigated, untreatable chronic pain and mainstream medicine was at the end of options for me. This was ten years ago, and I was likely going to die if I hadn't introduced kratom into my wellness regimen.

I can attest that this particular herbal medicine can and does hold great value for society and people individually. It is able to be safe, more effective, and is less invasive than many other medical interventions. It can also serve to complement mainstream medicine and improve outcomes in conjunction as it does for me.

Please protect this option for wellness that already helps so many people, including myself, and holds promise to those who someday may have use for it.

CommentID: 223259

Commenter: Mark Evans

6/4/24 12:01 am

A new twist to Reefer Madness. Kratom is safer than alcohol and pot and many more health benefits.

Kratom is the answer to ending the opioid epidemic. But Big Pharma doesn't want to lose the billions they are making. They can't patent plants

CommentID: 223260

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:02 am

Kratom needs regulation

I have seen the negative impact of kratom on individuals and families. Classifying kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance is necessary to prevent its misuse and protect public health.

CommentID: 223261

Commenter: Scott Rubin

6/4/24 12:02 am

SCHEDULE ONE!?!? SO YOU WANT TO PUNISH PEOPLE FOR LIVING BETTER LIVES!?

There is absolutely no reason to schedule this plant at all... There is no scientific backing for it... You are making an incredibly erroneous decision... That will undoubtedly hurt and kill people.. If you want the fentanyl epidemic to win well then go ahead.. if you want chronic pain patients to suffer well then go ahead.. If you want to hurt veterans police and the like that use this for PTSD.. if you all want those people to suffer then go ahead... This is taxation without representation.. Because this plant is so Safe most of the consumers in The state have no idea that this was even going on.. It's as ridiculous as somebody having to worry about coffee they are just going about their daily lives living the life that this plant allows people... And then you're gonna make them felons overnight You guys just need to do better.. This helps people.. Until getting help as easy as it is to go out on the street and find Help for pain or People that have been gripped by this epidemic that has been allowed

to go on by our government... You're going to take a tool away that is helping this?? This is ridiculous... You're bored of pharmacy is obviously bias in some manner because any person that has any back You are simply going to punish people that are already in pain and using this to make a better life... That's ridiculous I shouldn't even have to say this you guys shouldn't know ground in pharmacology would know that this planet is not dangerous it's not going to hurt people.. And in fact is impossible to kill anybody from it... And they should know that... There is an agenda behind this as usual probably money motivated...

CommentID: 223262

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:02 am

Kratom is a health risk

The severe health risks associated with kratom use, including addiction and physical dependency, justify its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance. This action will help protect individuals from its harmful effects and promote overall public health

CommentID: 223263

Commenter: Russell, Disabled US Navy Veteran

6/4/24 12:03 am

Education and Consideration

I am recently a disabled veteran. I served almost eleven years in the US Navy, much of the time on naval warships and deployed across the world. Recently, I have become a disabled veteran, and honorably left the Navy with ailments I've endured during my service to this country. My wife and I deal with chronic pain every day of our lives. This plant, in raw form, has shown a great deal of impact in the betterment of our lives. Prohibition is not a solution and would negatively impact over 1 million users nationwide.

I do not support the Board of Pharmacy Petition "Addition of kratom to Schedule I."

CommentID: 223264

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:04 am

Kratom endangers public safety

The risks to public safety from kratom are significant. Classifying it as a Schedule I controlled substance is necessary to prevent abuse, reduce health risks, and protect the well-being of our state

CommentID: 223265

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:04 am

With the state of US healthcare, this ground leaf needs to be available

Kratom is an important resource against the opioid crisis. So many have used it to stop abusing prescription opioids, heroin, and even fentanyl. In order to receive help getting off of these drugs, one must find a doctor, deal with insurance or lack thereof, be prescribed one of the substitution therapies (Methadone or suboxone), if methadone they must go to the clinic EVERY AM, if suboxone they must keep up with appointments every month in order to get refills, inform jobs of

08
05

why they may fail drug tests for these substances, inform family who may see their rx bottle at some point, etc. Kratom being available over the counter gives everyone a chance, whether or not they have insurance or a ride to a clinic/pharmacy they can still pass a drug test, etc. There are barriers to care that will keep our most vulnerable hooked on fentanyl and dying instead of having to admit their use to docs and family and deal with the lifelong consequences. Kratom gives them a chance to wean down their use and quit completely, or, as with the other substitution therapies, they should be encouraged to continue as long as needed (lifelong even) to prevent relapse. It allows them to maybe feel good enough to go to work while quitting when they would be in the worst pain of their lives for a few weeks from withdrawal without it and maybe lose their job. It allows them some non intoxicating relief when life with nothing is too hard and the alternative is hard drugs. It is helping so many and necessary for those who don't have consistent medical care and can't take 90 days off work to go to rehab without losing their housing and all they own, cant just go stay with parents for awhile. Those who dont see those obstacles are showing their privilege and taking for granted their blessings. The most vulnerable in society need this option. It is a ground up leaf off of a plant whose closest relative is the coffee plant. Please don't take it away.

CommentID: 223266

Commenter: Tammy

6/4/24 12:04 am

Keep Kratom unscheduled

Kratom has saved me in so many ways, I also know many others it has helped as well. Please reconsider scheduling this remarkable herb!

CommentID: 223267

Commenter: Concerned Professional in Fairfax

6/4/24 12:04 am

Community professional who has seen firsthand the benefits of kratom

I have served thousands of clients in a legal capacity in Northern Virginia for over a decade. Kratom has helped countless people, including my fentanyl and heroin addicted clients, come off of ...and stay off of prescription opioids and fentanyl. Banning kratom will only lead to more people without an option, and they will turn to more dangerous alternatives. Banning kratom will lead to more deaths.

I myself suffer from chronic pancreatitis, and neuropathy. I have been prescribed numerous addicting medications over the years, such as oxycodone and tramadol...but kratom has been the only thing that truly allows me to live a life free of pain, without feeling buzzed, addicted, intoxicated, or sleepy. I have stopped many times over the years, with zero ill effects (unlike the legally prescribed medications).

Banning Kratom, I am 100% confident, will make the fentanyl epidemic worse.

CommentID: 223268

Commenter: Erick Sirico

6/4/24 12:05 am

PLEASE FOLLOW THE SCIENCE!!!!

Like so many before you once you actually read the science behind this plant you will change your mind completely.

This really should not be considered a BIG ASK.

Erick

CommentID: 223269

Commenter: Johanna Trahan

Kratom

I'm a veteran, a mom, a volunteer, and a kratom user. When my arthritis acts up, I'd rather take a few capsules of a powdered leaf than pain med which can damage my liver, or even be impossible to get, even for just a few days a year.

Please don't start another war on a simple natural plant.

Thank you for your time,

Johanna Trahan

6/4/24 12:05 am

CommentID: 223270

Commenter: Anonymous

Protect our children from kratom

As a parent advocate, I am deeply concerned about the impact of kratom on our children. Its easy availability and high potential for abuse make it a significant risk. Classifying kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance will help prevent misuse and ensure the safety of our youth

6/4/24 12:06 am

CommentID: 223271

Commenter: Gina

Life saving

Kratom saved my son's life. He was hopelessly addicted to opioid pills and had just about died from an overdose. Rehabs didn't work. He found Kratom over 20 years ago and has not touched an opiate pill since, has been at the same job for many years with no problems. He takes Kratom daily. He would be dead were it not for Kratom. Please do not ban this life saving plant.

6/4/24 12:06 am

CommentID: 223272

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom poses serious health risks

I have witnessed firsthand the negative health effects of kratom on individuals. Its addictive properties and severe side effects justify its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance to protect public health and safety

6/4/24 12:06 am

CommentID: 223273

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom needs strict regulation

Given kratom's high potential for abuse and lack of accepted medical use, it should be classified as a Schedule I controlled substance. This classification is necessary to mitigate the risks associated with its unregulated use and to protect public health

CommentID: 223274

6/4/24 12:08 am

Commenter: Michelle Waymire

Keep kratom legal

I found kratom a week into withdrawal from methadone, was on methadone for almost 10 yrs. I suffer with chronic pain from a car accident, since I found kratom I'm actually living again, participating in my kids lives an helping raise my grandbaby. Please follow the science an keep kratom legal. I grew up in Virginia an still visit. Thank you!

CommentID: 223275

6/4/24 12:09 am

Commenter: Tyler

Kratom saves lives

Kratom has saved me and others from alcoholism and prescription drug addiction. Why jail Virginians who are living their best possible life? Why perpetuate the opioid crisis when there are better avenues for pain management and harm reduction?

CommentID: 223276

6/4/24 12:09 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom is a public health risk.

The significant health risks posed by kratom justify its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance. This measure will help prevent its misuse and ensure the safety and well-being of our community

CommentID: 223277

6/4/24 12:11 am

Commenter: Josh D

Do not support criminalizing kratom

I've been a long-time kratom user and it's wrong to criminalize kratom as a Schedule 1 substance. Many thousands of Americans use kratom responsibly for pain treatment or for well-being. Many Americans prefer kratom as a safer and natural alternative to prescription pain killers, which by the way are contributing to the opiate epidemic in the US. I personally know someone who used kratom to quit their heroin addiction. There is so much misinformation out there about this plant; the best way to educate yourself about kratom is by visiting the American Kratom Association's website. <https://www.americankratom.org/>

6/4/24 12:12 am

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

CommentID: 223278

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom needs regulation

Classifying kratom as a Schedule I substance will help protect public health by reducing its availability and preventing misuse. The health risks associated with kratom use are too significant to ignore

CommentID: 223279

6/4/24 12:13 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom leads to dependency.

The potential for severe psychological dependency from kratom use is alarming. As a mental health advocate, I strongly support its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance to prevent addiction and promote mental well-being

CommentID: 223280

6/4/24 12:13 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom is highly addictive.

To prevent addiction and its harmful effects, kratom should be classified as a Schedule I controlled substance. Its high potential for abuse and severe side effects make this classification necessary to protect public health.

CommentID: 223281

6/4/24 12:13 am

Commenter: Tina Brooks

Keep kratom legal

This is getting crazy. Dont fear what you dont understand. Kratom does not make you high. It works like a mild pain reliever. I have suffered from Fibromyalgia for years. Nothing had really helped. The type of pharmaceuticals available for the treatment of fibromyalgia has lots of side affects. I looked for years for something I could take more natural that could help me battle my pain. This has been a blessing. I feel like I have a portion of my life back- it got me off the couch and out of bed because I could move around with less pain. Atleast manageable pain. I dont like anything that makes me feel "off" or "woozy" and I certainly dont like anything habit forming. I have taken Kratom off and on since 2018. As long as you take it correctly there are zero issues. Any problems people may have is mixing with illegal drugs. Of course you can have adverse reactions mixing any drug. Dont hurt the ones taking it correctly over a few dumbheads. Heck if they are gonna be that stupid I consider that cleaning up the gene pool. They would have done it sooner or later, one way or another. I am so sick of the attempted power grabs and dictatorships happening across the US. What happened to my body, my choice? Its that only for the Liberals killing babies???!

CommentID: 223282

6/4/24 12:17 am

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Commenter: David

Kratom saved my life.

If it wasn't for Kratom I wouldn't be alive. It helped me get off addictive pharmaceutical and street drugs. Even though I no longer use it on a daily basis it helps me stay sober.

CommentID: 223283

6/4/24 12:19 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom is a health risk

The documented health risks of kratom, including addiction and severe side effects, support its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance. This measure is essential to protect public health and safety

CommentID: 223284

6/4/24 12:20 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom abuse is a serious issue.

Kratom's high potential for abuse necessitates its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance. This action will help curb its misuse and protect individuals from its harmful effects

CommentID: 223285

6/4/24 12:21 am

Commenter: Jorge Platas

Kratom saves lives

Kratom saves lives!

CommentID: 223286

6/4/24 12:21 am

Commenter: Baylen Greever

No

The criminalization of God's creations is unethical and immoral.

CommentID: 223287

6/4/24 12:21 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Protect students from kratom.

I am concerned about the impact of kratom on students. Its easy availability and high abuse potential make it a significant risk. Classifying kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance will help prevent misuse and protect our youth

CommentID: 223288

6/4/24 12:22 am

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

CommentID: 223278

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom needs regulation

Classifying kratom as a Schedule I substance will help protect public health by reducing its availability and preventing misuse. The health risks associated with kratom use are too significant to ignore

CommentID: 223279

6/4/24 12:13 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom leads to dependency.

The potential for severe psychological dependency from kratom use is alarming. As a mental health advocate, I strongly support its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance to prevent addiction and promote mental well-being

CommentID: 223280

6/4/24 12:13 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom is highly addictive.

To prevent addiction and its harmful effects, kratom should be classified as a Schedule I controlled substance. Its high potential for abuse and severe side effects make this classification necessary to protect public health.

CommentID: 223281

6/4/24 12:13 am

Commenter: Tina Brooks

Keep kratom legal

This is getting crazy. Dont fear what you dont understand. Kratom does not make you high. It works like a mild pain reliever. I have suffered from Fibromyalgia for years. Nothing had really helped. The type of pharmaceuticals available for the treatment of fibromyalgia has lots of side affects. I looked for years for something I could take more natural that could help me battle my pain. This has been a blessing. I feel like I have a portion of my life back- it got me off the couch and out of bed because I could move around with less pain. Atleast manageable pain. I dont like anything that makes me feel "off" or "woozy" and I certainly dont like anything habit forming. I have taken Kratom off and on since 2018. As long as you take it correctly there are zero issues. Any problems people may have is mixing with illegal drugs. Of course you can have adverse reactions mixing any drug. Dont hurt the ones taking it correctly over a few dumbheads. Heck if they are gonna be that stupid I consider that cleaning up the gene pool. They would have done it sooner or later, one way or another. I am so sick of the attempted power grabs and dictatorships happening across the US. What happened to my body, my choice? Its that only for the Liberals killing babies???!

CommentID: 223282

6/4/24 12:17 am

Commenter: Jonathan

6/4/24 12:23 am

Kratom saves lives and helps people have a better quality of life . Relief from arthritis and IBS .

Kratom has many benefits . I have personally obtained relief from arthritis and IBS. Do NOT cave in to big pharma.

CommentID: 223289

Commenter: Glenn J DeBoard

6/4/24 12:25 am

Kratom is the best pain medication out there.

I was on opiates for years. They almost killed me. Pain pills are the devil Kratom can be used and not close to the side effects of other meds. I have to have something for my back pain it is unbearable. Kratom works . It really isn't something to be abused all it dose if you od is make you throw up.

CommentID: 223290

Commenter: Sarah Benton

6/4/24 12:25 am

Kratom saved my life

I found Kratom, a cousin of coffee, in 2017. I had been prescribed opiates for menstrual pain and chronic pain. At the time I found Kratom I had been taking the opiates daily for well over 10 years. My dosage had increased 5 times over in 10 years. I knew I was at risk of becoming a statistic. I was scared to keep going and scared to get off the opiates, but I knew I had to. Kratom came up on my radar after a local health food store began selling it. I researched it for a couple months before I decided to give it a try. The rest is history. I had next to zero opiate withdrawal symptoms. I wasn't fuzzy headed and numb anymore. I've been taking the same small amount of Kratom daily without need to increase the amount. I take 1.5 teaspoons every 12 hours. Kratom allows me to live my life fully and joyfully pain free. Kratom doesn't give a high or intoxicated feeling. I have a commercial driver license and can do my job without feeling altered. I can do my job pain free. I can do my job. On opiates I was limited to only taking them when I wasn't on the clock....and they still left me fuzzy all the time.

I believe Kratom needs to be protected, not scheduled and criminalized. A bit of oversight to make sure people are getting unadulterated, clean, toxin-free Kratom would be nice, maybe? I've been with the same company for the last 4 years. They lab test for impurities and alkaline percentages. I believe I would be dead already if I had not quit the opiates. I believe I would have eventually OD'd because my therapeutic dose began to have a higher and higher ceiling. I never would have met and married my spouse. I never would have become an Auntie to my beautiful nieces. I never would have climbed the professional ladder and experienced so much satisfaction in my work. I never would have co-created a homestead with my spouse, traveled, loved, LIVED. Kratom saved my life and I know it has saved many, many more.

Wherever Kratom is legal, there are lives saved. Wherever Kratom becomes illegal, there will be lives lost to opiates. Please, keep and protect Kratom for your constituents. It is not an opiate. It does not cause respiratory depression or slowed heart rate.



Your efforts would be much better served dealing with the fentanyl crisis in your state. Or the meth problems. Those two things destroy and kill. Kratom saves.
CommentID: 223291

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:26 am

significant risk to public health

The unregulated nature of kratom use poses a significant risk to public health, warranting its classification as a Schedule I substance

CommentID: 223292

Commenter: Ronnie

6/4/24 12:26 am

The DEA needs another way to confiscate your house and other property.

They want their paychecks and military equipment

CommentID: 223293

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:27 am

Kratom's similarity to opioids

Kratom's similarity to opioids in terms of effects and potential for addiction justifies its inclusion as a Schedule I controlled substance.

CommentID: 223294

Commenter: Dr. Tim Dean

6/4/24 12:27 am

Kratom is a helpful plant. Not a narcotic.

I implore you to reconsider banning kratom. It has been a very helpful plant for my inflammation and body pains. It is simply a leaf that is ground up into a tea. It's far less harmful for me than all the prescription drugs or the alcohol and many people use to manage the same issues. Please consider regulating kratom rather than banning it entirely. It's just a plant. We have come too far as a species to keep outlawing plants. With the opiate crisis out of control we need healthier alternatives. Kratom is part of the solutions not the problem.

CommentID: 223295

Commenter: Laura Schaeck

6/4/24 12:27 am

Keep kratom legal!

There's is too much misinformation regarding kratom. After experiencing terrible reactions to gabapentin, Cymbalta and Lyrica, for my spinal stenosis. After discovering kratom, I was able to finally function with minimal pain.

And now I am vacationing in a country where kratom is not legal. There isn't an OTC that can take the edge of the pain. Also note, I am NOT going thru any kind of withdrawal. My back hurts a lot and for the first time in years I need my cane to walk.

Why not regulate kratom to make sure the product is safe and not cut with dangerous additives. Keep it legal. Tax it, similarly what's been done with the legalization of Marijuana. And stop listening to big pharma because they certainly don't want an affordable option to take away from their mega profits. And stop with the fear mongering already.

CommentID: 223296

Commenter: Traci Payne

6/4/24 12:27 am

Kratom saved my life

10 years ago I was on a very dangerous path in the depths of alcoholism, and I truly believe that had I not found kratom when I did, I would not be here to tell my story today. Kratom completely took my alcoholism and obliterated it. I was a very heavy whiskey drinker and today I am 100% living sober, and it is all thanks to kratom. I have been taking kratom for over 10 years and I am proof that it is not dangerous when taken responsibly. Don't take a better way of living away from thousands of people who have already fought the hardest battle and won.

CommentID: 223297

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:28 am

lack of scientific evidence supporting kratom's medical use

The lack of scientific evidence supporting kratom's medical use supports its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance

CommentID: 223298

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:29 am

Wait for the research support

At this time Kratom research has shown potential positives, while also showing some potential negatives. Please follow the WHO and DEA and wait for research to become available that solidly points in one direction over another before making such a profound research limiting type of decision. Regulation at this point would be a great way to move forward while awaiting more information (ie the government funded abuse potential studies currently underway).

CommentID: 223299

Commenter: Maggie

6/4/24 12:29 am

Kratom saves lives

As a person who has watched opioid destroy lives. I have watched people recover and use this plant to help instead of chemicals by big pharma.

CommentID: 223300

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:30 am

Kratom is highly addictive.



Evidence from case reports and user surveys indicates that kratom can lead to addiction and dependency. A study published in the Journal of Addiction Medicine found that 9% of kratom users met the DSM-5 criteria for a substance use disorder, highlighting its addictive potential

CommentID: 223301

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:31 am

Kratom has no accepted medical use.

Despite anecdotal claims, there is no substantial scientific evidence supporting kratom's efficacy for any medical condition. The FDA has consistently stated that kratom has not been proven safe or effective for any medical use

CommentID: 223302

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:33 am

Kratom can cause psychosis

Case reports in medical literature have documented instances of psychosis linked to kratom use, including hallucinations and delusions. These symptoms underscore the drug's potential to cause severe mental health disturbances

CommentID: 223303

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:34 am

Kratom is linked to numerous deaths.

The FDA has identified at least 44 deaths associated with kratom use, often involving the presence of other substances. This highlights the lethal potential of kratom, especially when combined with other drugs

CommentID: 223304

Commenter: Ralph Brasington

6/4/24 12:35 am

I strongly disagree with banning Kratom.

Many years ago when I found kratom, it changed my life for the better. In all this time it has never caused me harm. I don't believe there is any strong science to suggest that kratom is dangerous or would qualify under schedule 1.

Adults in Virginia should be able to make decisions for themselves with their doctor. A ban would also harm many small businesses in Virginia.

I'm shocked to see this happening in Virginia. I would legitimately consider moving if Virginia bans kratom.

CommentID: 223305

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:35 am

Kratom is linked to numerous deaths.

<https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/data-research/facts-stats/sudors-dashboard-fatal-overdose-data.html>

53 deaths involving kratom in Virginia in 2022

CommentID: 223306

Commenter: Lalo

6/4/24 12:36 am

Kratom helps people get off opioids

Kratom should be kept legal because they can actually help people get off prescription opioids (which contribute to the epidemic that turns legitimate patients into street drug users). Making kratom illegal would only make more street drug deaths occur. There should be federal legalization and regulation to make sure the kratom supply is consistent and clean, not tainted with other substances. Regulations can (if properly instituted) keep people safe. Testing purity and potency of chemical compounds is a good thing. Please keep kratom legal. Keeping kratom legal will reduce harm to a vulnerable population.

CommentID: 223307

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:36 am

SUDORS Dashboard: Fatal Drug Overdose Data

53 deaths in Virginia linked to kratom

<https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/data-research/facts-stats/sudors-dashboard-fatal-overdose-data.html>

CommentID: 223308

Commenter: Dana Browning

6/4/24 12:37 am

Keep kratom legal!

In this age of people in pain turning to dangerous illegal drugs, why on earth would you ban a safe effective plant? Don't let big pharma fool you, kratom saves lives, it definitely saved mine!

CommentID: 223309

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:38 am

FDA Import Alert 54-15

Import Alert Name:

ATTENTION WITHOUT PHYSICAL EXAMINATION OF DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS AND BULK DIETARY INGREDIENTS THAT ARE OR CONTAIN MITRAGYNA SPECIOSA OR KRATOM

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

171750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

It shouldn't even be in America!

https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/cms_ial/impportalert_1137.html
CommentID: 223310

Commenter: Wayne Brault

6/4/24 12:39 am

Banning Kratom Would Be RIDICULOUS!!

If you are thinking about banning kratom, it's because you are misinformed about it and its plethora of incredible natural usages. I've been taken kratom LITERALLY DAILY, for the last decade. I stop and feel fine, no side effects of any kind, ever. I use it for anxiety, chronic pain, and energy/mood enhancement. This being banned would solely be due to lack of true knowledge of its benefits, and would be an ABSOLUTE shame for the users in your state!

CommentID: 223311

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:39 am

Kratom can cause severe withdrawal symptoms

Users who abruptly stop taking kratom often experience withdrawal symptoms similar to those of opioids, including irritability, insomnia, and muscle aches. This similarity in withdrawal patterns further supports its addictive nature

CommentID: 223312

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:39 am

Kratom's active compounds are opioids

Kratom contains mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine, which act on opioid receptors in the brain, producing effects similar to opioids like morphine. This pharmacological similarity justifies the need for strict control

CommentID: 223313

Commenter: C. K.

6/4/24 12:40 am

Using kratom responsibly has allowed to manage my debilitating pain

I suffered many broken bones 5 years ago. Since then I have safely and responsibly used kratom rather than taking awful opiate prescriptions. It has allowed me to continue to live a normal life. Without kratom I would be in debilitating pain every day, my quality of life would reduce dramatically, and my ability to provide for my family would be reduced to an unmanageable state.

This has prevented me from being subjected to the many many side effects of those horrible prescription medications. Kratom is perfectly safe when used responsibly, like the overwhelming majority of us do.

The American Kratom Association tried to introduce the Kratom Consumer Protection Act in Virginia which would have strictly regulated this natural medicine. Instead the bill eas shot down.

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

172750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Yet now those who shot down that very bill that would have safely regulated this plant would rather ban it completely and leave many chronic pain patients without any safe aid.

We do NOT want to be subjected to extremely harmful prescription medications when we can instead use a perfectly safe and natural plant.

There have been ZERO deaths attributed to kratom solely!! Every single case has been proven to have some other cause linked with it. Usually the true cause turns out to be some harmful medication that remains perfectly legal and uncontested.

Please do not turn your backs on us. We asked for help regulating with the KPCA and it was declined. Depriving us completely is inhumane and irresponsible.

I trust you will make the responsible decision and let kratom remain legal. Thank you for your time and have a good day.
CommentID: 223314

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:41 am

Kratom is marketed irresponsibly

Kratom products are often sold with unverified claims of health benefits, misleading consumers. The lack of standardized dosing and purity increases the risk of adverse effects and overdose

CommentID: 223315

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:41 am

Kratom abuse is increasing

Surveys and poison control data indicate a rise in kratom abuse, particularly among individuals seeking alternatives to opioids. This trend underscores the need for regulatory measures to prevent widespread misuse

CommentID: 223316

Commenter: Lalo

6/4/24 12:41 am

Every Anonymous post is a bot

All the negative responses are anonymous posts. I challenge the arbiter of this board to challenge this. Every pro kratom post at least has a name. This is a farce. Kratom saves lives and kratom doesn't have lobbyists. Big pharma has interests in keeping their drugs on the market and hooking users.

CommentID: 223317



Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:42 am

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Kratom can impair cognitive function.

Studies suggest that regular kratom use can impair cognitive abilities such as attention, memory, and executive function. These cognitive impairments can have significant negative impacts on daily life and safety

CommentID: 223318

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:42 am

Kratom lacks quality control.

Many kratom products are contaminated with heavy metals and harmful pathogens due to poor manufacturing practices. This poses an additional risk to consumers and highlights the need for regulatory oversight

CommentID: 223319

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:43 am

Kratom can cause severe gastrointestinal issues.

Users often report gastrointestinal problems such as constipation, nausea, and vomiting. These adverse effects can lead to severe dehydration and other health complications

CommentID: 223320

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:43 am

Kratom poses a risk of contamination.

Studies have found kratom products contaminated with salmonella, leading to several outbreaks of foodborne illness. The lack of regulation allows unsafe products to reach consumers

CommentID: 223321

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:45 am

Salmonella with Kratom!!

Apr 2, 2018 — Numerous brands of kratom-containing products have been linked to a *multi-state outbreak* of salmonellosis from multiple strains of salmonella.

CommentID: 223322

Commenter: Kreaatha Snead

6/4/24 12:45 am

Please keep Kratom legal and leave it alone and allow it to help the chronically ill

I have severe SLE lupus, Sjögren's syndrome, and stage 2 emphysema. Kratom has been a life saver as no, and I mean no doctor has done anything to help me. Without Kratom I fear what may happen to me. Life is hard living with three different diseases and Kratom makes it bearable. I'm 51 and I have taken Kratom for 3-4 years. Before I started taking Kratom I just wanted to die because these disease were killing me and my spirit. When I started Kratom it was a life changer. I hate that

people keep trying to take it away and make the people it helps go back to the way I use to be. Let it help people and please don't destroy that or kill peoples hope for a better life. On another note, I think it does need to stay out of the hand of children. Gas station kratom is very questionable. I have ordered my kratom from the same vendor all these year. I know this is virgin and I'm not a resident of your beautiful state but please take what I say as a positive to help keep kratom legal. I know they are people that abuse kratom, I just don't want to see me and all the others it helps made to suffer because a few choose to be rambunctious and make terrible decisions. Thanks, kreahta snead.

CommentID: 223323

Commenter: Case Baker

6/4/24 12:46 am

7 year user. Great plant

Been using it 7 years off and on and have yet to find any serious side effects. Been drinking alcohol alcohol for 30 and can name numerous side effects. Kratom is a great plant that needs to stay legal.

CommentID: 223324

Commenter: John billards

6/4/24 12:46 am

The PEOPLE POSTING NEGATIVE STUFF HERE ARE "JUST SPECULATING"! READ MORE →

I've been taking kratom capsules daily for 10 years. I stop when I want to, ZERO SIDE EFFECTS! It's not a drug like people negatively try to describe here lol. Safe, helps with anxiety, depression, and is a mild pain reliever. Its all natural and is derived the the coffee tree family!! No ADDITIVES!! You should be more worried about ALCOHOL!!

CommentID: 223325

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:47 am

FDA kratom warning

FDA has warned the public when certain kratom products were contaminated with Salmonella and/or concerning levels of heavy metals.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/public-health-focus/fda-and-kratom#:~:text=FDA%20has%20warned%20the%20public,result%20in%20numerous%20documented%20illnesses.>

CommentID: 223326

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:48 am

Kratom use can lead to polysubstance abuse.

Kratom users often mix it with other substances, increasing the risk of harmful interactions. This practice can lead to more severe health consequences and complicates treatment effort

CommentID: 223327

Commenter: Jillian Benson

6/4/24 12:51 am

Hey "ANONYMOUS" posters, why don't you post who you really are?

Sure seems like insiders posting ridiculous stuff about kratom. Get a life! Throw out your liquor and wine stash, a much MUCH WORSE habit and problem in society!

CommentID: 223328

Commenter: Jared

6/4/24 12:51 am

keep kratom legal

To whom it may concern,

I am writing you to ask that you do not help to make kratom illegal. Kratom has helped me in so many ways in my life. Please keep this herbal tea available to use. This plant has helped so many people in many ways. No one is out robbing for it or walking around like zombie's. The real problem is the street drugs not kratom. Kratom doesn't get me high buy instead keeps me focus and energetic throughout the day. Please don't vote on making it illegal.

CommentID: 223329

Commenter: Daniel Joyce

6/4/24 12:52 am

Kratom is a valuable harm reduction tool which has outstanding state legislation already.

Kratom is a valuable harm reduction tool which has sensible state legislation already..

Thank you,

Daniel Joyce

CommentID: 223330

Commenter: Greg Denvelson

6/4/24 12:54 am

Big Pharma hates competition...

That's what this is really about. The pharmaceutical industry relies on people staying hooked on "their" man made chemicals that rarely cure anything. Instead, keep you filling subscriptions every months for the rest of your existence! What a great business model! They hate seeing anything natural, that actually may help people! And that is OTC!!

CommentID: 223331

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:55 am

reported number of kratom?related accidental death reports was 63?fold greater than expected

Li X, Ndungu P, Taneja SB, Chapin MR, Egbert SB, Akenapalli K, Paine MF, Kane-Gill SL, Boyce RD. An evaluation of adverse drug reactions and outcomes attributed to kratom in the US Food and Drug Administration Adverse Event Reporting System from January 2004 through September 2021. Clin Transl Sci. 2023 Jun;16(6):1002-1011. doi: 10.1111/cts.13505. Epub 2023 Mar 20. PMID: 36861661; PMCID: PMC10264943.

CommentID: 223332

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:56 am

Most of the concerns around Kratom are speculation and not widely proven.

There are some valid concerns around Kratom, specifically contamination. However the scheduling suggested here is such an overreaction it is almost comical. Somehow the United States has not yet figured out that we fought the war on drugs and we got our butts kicked. If you actually want to deal with the problem of people getting addicted to substances, the answer is education and regulation to help supply remain pure of contaminants and the consumers to know what they are buying.

The same people here who advocate for Kratom being banned probably are fine with marijuana being legal, and certainly are for alcohol. Has no one learned their lesson? Telling people "hey don't take this substance, it's illegal" has never worked, and will never work. Imagine living in this day and age and being PRO war on drugs, disgraceful.

CommentID: 223333

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:56 am

Kratom must remain legal

Kratom has helped me recover from prescription opioid addiction. Helps with my aching back and improves sleep quality. I have used Kratom for over 5 years now. I don't take it everyday and don't have a need for it like I did for opioids. Kratom is a wonderful herbal medicine and should remain available to those that benefit from it. Thank you.

CommentID: 223334

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:57 am

Support kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance

Classifying kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance will help curb its widespread misuse and protect public safety

CommentID: 223335

Commenter: Kelly wells

6/4/24 12:58 am

I am not in support of this ban. This ban could cause more harm than good

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- This ban could cause more harm than good. Regulations are needed but not outright bans. As a chronic pain patient who can not access nor use prescription pain medication, kratom has been a life saver. It is what allows me to be productive and be with my family. My pain levels are reduced, and I'm therefore happier. There is a lot of misinformation and propaganda regarding this TEA! It is directly related to coffee. Would we ban coffee? No, we wouldn't. Alcohol and tobacco are far more dangerous! Please do your due diligence and research this plant first. Not thru Google as it is full of misinformation and extremely biased. You want regulation, not a ban! Please don't take this from your citizens who so desperately need this. You would be altering peoples lives and not for the better. Thank you for your time.

CommentID: 223336

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:58 am

potential for severe health consequences

The potential for severe health consequences from kratom use underscores the need for its Schedule I classification.

CommentID: 223337

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:58 am

kratom's opioid-like effects and high abuse potential

Given kratom's opioid-like effects and high abuse potential, its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance is justified.

CommentID: 223338

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:59 am

prevent addiction

To prevent addiction and related health problems, kratom should be classified as a Schedule I controlled substance

CommentID: 223339

Commenter: Sandy Contright

6/4/24 12:59 am

Keep kratom legal!

Kratom has saved my life. I urge you to keep it LEGAL.

As a bonus it helps with my ibs. I have pain (burning sensation of my skin) that it takes care of 110% I know I would be addicted to narcotics without kratom. Please keep it legal!

CommentID: 223340

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:59 am

public health risks posed by kratom are substantial

The public health risks posed by kratom are substantial, supporting its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance.

CommentID: 223341

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:00 am

additive properties and associated health risks

Kratom's additive properties and associated health risks necessitate its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance.

CommentID: 223342

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:00 am

kratom should be classified as a Schedule I controlled substance

To align with expert recommendations, kratom should be classified as a Schedule I controlled substance.

CommentID: 223343

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:00 am

absence of accepted medical use

The absence of accepted medical use for kratom and its high potential for abuse justify its Schedule I classification.

CommentID: 223344

Commenter: Paul R

6/4/24 1:00 am

All natural

Kratom is a natural remedy that is helping a lot of people. With poison like alcohol, cigarettes and prescription opiates flooding our country, kratom is a true all natural blessing not owned by big money corporations.

CommentID: 223345

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:01 am

adverse effects of kratom

The documented adverse effects of kratom use highlight the urgent need for its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance

CommentID: 223346

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:01 am

kratom poses significant risks

Health experts agree that kratom poses significant risks. Schedule I classification is necessary to protect the public.

CommentID: 223347

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:02 am

kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance

Classifying kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance will help prevent its misuse and reduce public health risks.

CommentID: 223348

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:02 am

Bots posting as ANONYMOUS and ANTI KRATOM BIG PHARMA REPS

Kratom is a god send. Stop with your BS!!

CommentID: 223349

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:02 am

significant potential for kratom abuse

The significant potential for kratom abuse supports its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance.

CommentID: 223350

Commenter: William N

6/4/24 1:02 am

Stop doing bidding of drug companies

Kratom is effective for a number of common issues from pain relief to anxiety to energy depending on dosage. It has also been used to detox from stronger drugs such as heroin & fentanyl. It is a natural herb that has been used for centuries. Please leave it alone, do not do the bidding of the drug companies, please leave kratom alone.

CommentID: 223351

Commenter: Joe S.

6/4/24 1:03 am

Follow the science

Kratom can be very beneficial to certain people. It has shown progress in slowing down chemical dependency for Opioids. This is where the actual changes and laws need to go into effect. Regulating the drugs, and the opioids. Not regulating a plant that is not changed or processed. No

chemicals are added to this to make it something else, it is literally a plant that is related to the coffee plant. It has little chance for addiction, if someone takes too much it just makes them nauseas, it doesn't interact negatively to medications. doesn't affect someone who is driving, it helps with ADHD, depression, and chemical dependency. Do the research, and you will also see the facts.

CommentID: 223352

Commenter: Kats Botanicals

6/4/24 1:03 am

It's not a coincidence every anonymous post is negative.

Nothing good will come out of banning this, it's a coffee plant that's an herb that stops substance abuse.

plus we can just drive to West Virginia to buy it.

CommentID: 223353

Commenter: Bob Drues

6/4/24 1:03 am

Kratom should not be a schedule 1 drug

The effect of Keaton is about the same as a cup of coffee. There are truly dangerous drugs out there, but kratom is not one of them. Outlawing kratom is a Good example of government overreach at best, or possibly caving to a vocal minority

CommentID: 223354

Commenter: Anonymous
lack of medical value

6/4/24 1:03 am

Kratom's lack of medical value and high risk of addiction warrant its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance.

CommentID: 223355

Commenter: Anonymous
public health risks

6/4/24 1:04 am

To mitigate public health risks, kratom should be classified as a Schedule I controlled substance

CommentID: 223356

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:04 am

Kratom saves lives

Kratom saves countless lives who have suffered under the hands of pharmaceutical companies. I can living proof that this plant is not addictive and works to treat individuals suffering from opioid addiction. It is less harmful than the pills and prescriptions being pushed every day by

95

pharmaceutical companies. They want CUSTOMERS not CURES because there is no profit in curing people.

CommentID: 223357

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:04 am

severe health risks associated with kratom

The severe health risks associated with kratom use justify its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance.

CommentID: 223358

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:05 am

Stop demonizing plants. People are sick of government overreach

More demonizing of miracle plants when our officials wanna fill up the jails and prisons. The Virginian people are sick of government trying to demonize plants. The adverse effects are grossly exaggerated. This plant should remain legal!!

CommentID: 223359

Commenter: Anonymous
dangers of kratom

6/4/24 1:05 am

Health authorities have highlighted the dangers of kratom. Its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance is necessary

CommentID: 223360

Commenter: Anonymous
This plant is not addictive

6/4/24 1:05 am

this plant is less harmful than alcohol. This plant is not addictive.

CommentID: 223361

Commenter: Anonymous
harmful effects

6/4/24 1:05 am

Classifying kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance will help protect vulnerable populations from its harmful effects.

CommentID: 223362

Commenter: Anonymous
The high potential for abuse

6/4/24 1:06 am

The high potential for abuse and addiction associated with kratom supports its Schedule I classification

CommentID: 223363

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:06 am

prevent a public health crisis

To prevent a public health crisis, kratom should be classified as a Schedule I controlled substance

CommentID: 223364

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:06 am

This plant is not harmful

This plant has been used for thousands of years as a medicinal herb in Asian countries. It has incredible healing properties and is not addictive

CommentID: 223365

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:07 am

Kratom's psychoactive properties

Kratom's psychoactive properties and addiction potential justify its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance

CommentID: 223366

Commenter: Jacob Walker

6/4/24 1:07 am

KRATOM IS A NATURAL UNPROCESSED MIRACLE LEAF

My father who is a MEDICAL DOCTOR discovered Kratom and recommended I try it for my spinal pain. He personally started incorporating it into his diet in order to quit taking prescribed benzodiazepines, with great success.

Banning Kratom would solidify VIRGINIA as a state that cares not about the well-being of its residents, but bows down to the greedy hands of the PHARMACEUTICAL industry. the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA has always been and forever will be a nation founded on principles of religious freedom and a strong-willed people. We URGE LAWMAKERS to use COMMON SENSE. While alcohol and DANGEROUS pharmaceuticals are permitted to be consumed by the masses, a ban on Kratom would PROVE BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT that the interests of citizens is nonexistent, and that LAWMAKERS are either vastly INCOMPETENT, or are blatantly and obviously interested in increasing profits of multi-billion dollar companies.

CommentID: 223367

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:07 am

Kratom is a safe and beneficial supplement.

Please keep Kratom safe and legal, do not allow it to be scheduled. Kratom has helped my life immensely. I suffer from an autoimmune disease that would otherwise not allow me to work or be a functional member of society. Kratom provides me relief and I take it alongside other supplements such as Turmeric, ginseng. Kratom has been used safely for centuries in its native land despite constant efforts to ban it. Please keep Kratom safe and legal so people like myself can continue to find relief for chronic conditions which are difficult to manage. Thank you.

CommentID: 223368

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:07 am

kratom-related health issues

The documented cases of kratom-related health issues underscore the need for Schedule I classification.

CommentID: 223369

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:08 am

protect public health

To protect public health, it is crucial to classify kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance.

CommentID: 223370

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:08 am

Safer than tylenol

This plant is far safer than most over the counter medicines.

CommentID: 223371

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:08 am

prevent its misuse

Classifying kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance will help prevent its misuse and protect individuals from addiction

CommentID: 223372

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:09 am

absence of accepted medical use

The absence of accepted medical use and high abuse potential of kratom justify its Schedule I classification.

CommentID: 223373

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:09 am

No overdoses ever from kratom

There have been zero recorded overdoses from kratom. Any date regarding an overdose and kratom had other substances credited to overdose.

CommentID: 223374

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:10 am

Don't make decent people criminals

Alcohol destroys families and kills people. That is a fact, though alcohol is perfectly legal and acceptable. Put an age restriction on kratom to protect the youth. Let adults make their own decisions the same as they do with alcohol. At least kratom holds medicinal value.

CommentID: 223375

Commenter: BEA Botanical Education Alliance

6/4/24 1:10 am

PLEASE READ, Kratom is Safe!

Kratom is a natural plant that has many beneficial properties and has been used safely and effectively for centuries in Southeast Asia. It is not addictive and has a low potential for abuse. Kratom has been shown to have anti-inflammatory and analgesic properties, and it has been used to manage symptoms of pain, anxiety, and depression. Therefore, Kratom should not be banned and should continue to be available for those who choose to use it as an alternative to traditional medications.

It is also apparent and disgusting that there are paid anonymous ads being posted here to discredit a perfectly helpful plant. Kava Kava is way more "addictive" and you can buy it at Whole Foods. So I'm not quite sure as to why this particular species of plant is being demonized. I suggest some botanists get on board to set the record straight. Kratom is perfect safe and helpful. We the people will no longer allow paid votes in any election to rig our democracy including this.

Sincerely,

Botanical Education Alliance

CommentID: 223376

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:10 am

No psychoactive properties

This plant has no psychoactive properties

CommentID: 223377

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:11 am

completely safe

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

185/750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

This plant is completely safe and does not require a schedule 1 classification

CommentID: 223378

Commenter: Sean Zamorano

6/4/24 1:11 am

Please Keep Kratom Legal

Hello, my name is Sean's amaranzo. I have been consuming kratom for the past 10 years. Over this time my life has improved drastically. I went from being a ward of the state to now running my own successful business and being there for my family. I am finally trusted and a productive member of society. I don't think any of this would be possible if I did not find kratom. The FDA has already completed human trials on people who consume kratom. The results were that Kratom is very safe. The FDA is now moving on to doing studies of Kratom extracts. The World Health Organization and the DEA also find Kratom not to be a drug of concern. Please hold out on any rash decisions while research is still being done on this amazing

CommentID: 223379

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:11 am

adverse effects of kratom

The documented adverse effects of kratom use support its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance

CommentID: 223380

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:11 am

Not an opioid

This plant is not an opioid and is not addictive.

CommentID: 223381

Commenter: Col Riley, Johnson

6/4/24 1:12 am

Safe and never an issue or side effects ever in 15 years of use

This stuff is safe and works wonders for pain and anxiety from PTSD. No adverse side effects, and go to work daily and function perfectly.

CommentID: 223382

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:12 am

mitigate public health risks

Health authorities recommend classifying kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance to mitigate public health risks

CommentID: 223383

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

186/750

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:12 am

This plant is related to the coffee plant

Kratom is actually more closely related to coffee plants than it is any other species of plants. We consider coffee to be safe and widely adored.

CommentID: 223384

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:12 am

Kratom has helped many people

Kratom helps people get off of harmful and dangerous illicit and prescription opioids.

CommentID: 223385

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:12 am

prevent a public health crisis,

To prevent a public health crisis, kratom's classification as a Schedule I controlled substance is necessary.

CommentID: 223386

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:13 am

Stop the rescheduling of kratom!!!!

Stop the attack on this plant. This is a miracle plant that drs don't control so they want it banned

CommentID: 223387

Commenter: Daniel

6/4/24 1:13 am

Do not ban this

Kratom has literally changed my life for the better. I have take. it for years now please do not ban this substance.Also the amount of obvious bot posts saying to ban kratom is gross, seriously.

CommentID: 223388

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:14 am

Health authorities are paid to say its unsafe

Pharmaceutical companies have spent billions lobbying against this plant because it threatens their profit margins. There is no profit in curing addiction.

CommentID: 223389

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:15 am

Statement from FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, M.D.

"we feel confident in calling compounds found in kratom, opioids"

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/statement-fda-commissioner-scott-gottlieb-md-agencys-scientific-evidence-presence-opioid-compounds>

CommentID: 223390

Commenter: Shaun jr

6/4/24 1:16 am

Stop banning something that has no health risks

This plant has saved so many lives. And I feel with the legalization of cannabis to reschedule a plant that's been legal so long with no restrictions or public health concerns it is a gross abuse of power

CommentID: 223391

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:16 am

Addiction specialists agree this plant saves lives

Working in addiction treatment for over 10 years I have witnessed many people get their life back because of this plant. I have seen people go from homeless heroin addicts to happy, healthy, productive members of society in a matter of a few short months. It is a miracle plant.

CommentID: 223392

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:17 am

The plant is safe

This plant is safe and has helped thousands of people.

CommentID: 223393

Commenter: Mike L

6/4/24 1:18 am

Keep Kratom Legal!!!

Kratom is a very therapeutic MEDICINE. It helps a lot of people with pain management and anxiety. I've been taking Kratom for years for both and I'm completely healthy, a father, and a business owner. I say this because, there is nothing harmful about Kratom! It's simply ignorance of the plant, please research Kratom extensively and its many benefits.

CommentID: 223394

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:18 am

The FDA has killed millions with prescriptions

The FDA is responsible for approving such drugs as OxyContin and fentanyl. They should not be the trusted source of information on this topic. They are paid to push pills by pharmaceutical lobbyists. This plant is far safer than any of those prescriptions and saves lives instead of ending them.

CommentID: 223395

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:19 am

deaths involving the use of kratom

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/statement-fda-commissioner-scott-gottlieb-md-agencys-scientific-evidence-presence-opioid-compounds>

CommentID: 223396

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:19 am

Stop unelected officials from trying to ban things the American people want legally obtainable

What our current administration is doing is unconstitutional

fda and big pharmaceutical companies are trying to get laws passed when people do not grant those authorizations to them. It would be a gross infringement and injustice to ban such a beneficial plant!!!!

CommentID: 223397

Commenter: Megan Zamorano

6/4/24 1:20 am

Please think regulation instead of this

I am a 40 year old female who was diagnosed with endometriosis and poly cystic ovarian syndrome at 23 which came with pain and medication. Also came with me not being able to have children the depression of my life long dream of being a mom taken away and the pain the medication became my friend. Soon the opiates were running out before I was ready for a refill and I was buying them off the street. I was a bad person stealing from my parents for my next escape from my problems which were the opiates. This went on for 10 long years until I was tired and wanted to live a normal life. I went the suboxone route and I still continued to use drugs. Finally I looked into natural ways to get off opiates and deal with my pain I found kratom in 2015 since then I have consumed the same amount daily I do not obsess over it like opiates, I have my parents who now allow me to run their buiness cleaning banks which never would have happened years ago. I am married, pay taxes, own a new car, have a beautiful home with my husband and 2 cats. None of this would have been possible if I did not find kratom. It allowed me to change the way I think I no longer want to use to numb myself. I am happy with the life I was given. I am lucky to be alive with the route I was on. So please before you think of a ban think of all the lives like mine you can save to keep it legal. Respectfully Megan Zamorano

CommentID: 223398

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:20 am

Not an opioid

This plant is less of an opioid than IMMODIUM. Because it's not an opioid. Alkaloids are not opioids and these compounds are more closely related to caffeine.

CommentID: 223399

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:20 am

Kratom's potential for severe health consequence

Kratom's potential for severe health consequences warrants its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance.

CommentID: 223400

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:21 am

Classify kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance

Classifying kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance will help protect public health and safety

CommentID: 223401

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:22 am

Kratom can cause severe withdrawal symptoms.

Users who abruptly stop taking kratom often experience withdrawal symptoms similar to those of opioids, including irritability, insomnia, and muscle aches. This similarity in withdrawal patterns further supports its addictive nature

CommentID: 223402

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:22 am

Kratom's safety profile is poorly understood.

There is a lack of comprehensive research on the long-term effects of kratom use. The unpredictable and potentially dangerous interactions with other drugs and health conditions make its regulation critical .

CommentID: 223403

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:23 am

Kratom's active compounds are opioids.

Kratom contains mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine, which act on opioid receptors in the brain, producing effects similar to opioids like morphine. This pharmacological similarity justifies the need for strict control .

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/statement-fda-commissioner-scott-gottlieb-md-agencys-scientific-evidence-presence-opioid-compounds>
CommentID: 223404

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:23 am

Kratom is safe

Kratom is a miracle plant. It helped my grandmother get off debilitating pain medicines that stole her life from her. She is now healthier and more active than she was 10 years ago. She is 83.

CommentID: 223405

Commenter: David

6/4/24 1:23 am

Kratom poses no great risk to our community and actually provides more benefits

Down with criminalization!!

CommentID: 223406

Commenter: James

6/4/24 1:24 am

The science behind kratom does not warrant a ban

Even the FDA admitted under oath that they have not yet determined if it is dangerous. There are numerous 8-factor analyses that support it being relatively safe and a potential reduction of harm tool. There are many people who rely on its availability currently. Do your homework, and listen to the science before you consider a ban on this plant.

CommentID: 223407

Commenter: Andrew Oliva

6/4/24 1:24 am

Kratom saves lives

Hi I am writing to speak against making Kratom illegal.I used to use dangerous pharmaceutical painkillers and couldn't stop until I found Kratom.Kratom Does not cause respiratory depression, is not neurotoxic,can help people recover from dangerous pharmaceuticals,and is not a opioid,please don't restrict the people's right to use supplements to help with their health,and the FDA and other anti Kratom advocates lie, trying to protect pharmaceutical company profits.Kratom saved my life and made it better please don't make it illegal.

CommentID: 223408

Commenter: Timothy

6/4/24 1:24 am

Disabled Military Veteran (please read)

Both my dad and I are military veterans, when the doctor said that my dad had to have his hip replaced a second time because of how bad it was, they never gave him any opioid pain medicine to him it because of fear of handing out opioids in the opioid epidemic.

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

191750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

People off of the street can get it all day long, but a disabled veteran with a broken hip was not allowed to have access to it.

Kratom isn't just an effective pain medicine but many many people have used it to get off of alcohol, drugs, even heroin.

To make this illegal would be foolish and would not have the best interest of the citizens at heart.

Yes kratom does cause withdrawals, but so cigarettes, alcohol, and many other pharmaceutical drugs.

The people who want to make this illegal are the same who want to sell more opioids, not to disabled people who need it, but apparently anyone else.

I've personally taken kratom and I personally quit taking kratom several months later.

After seeing the benefits and also the success stories of others using this to overcome more serious addictions, I personally can not see any reason that kratom shouldn't remain available to those th
at need it.

CommentID: 223409

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:25 am

Kratom has been used for thousands of years

Kratom has been used and widely accepted as a medicinal herb for thousands of years in east Asia. It is very well understood and studied. Do not believe the propaganda that is being pushed.

CommentID: 223410

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:25 am

Keep Kratom legal

I use Kratom for chronic pain (I have severe abdominal adhesions that cause horrible abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, and bowel obstructions) along with endometriosis and fibromyalgia. Kratom keeps me out of the hospital and able to live my life. I take it like medicine (2.95grams every 8 hours) and I don't take more than I need to. Please don't ban it. It's helping so many people

CommentID: 223411

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

192750

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:26 am

Kratom is a product that if used properly could save many children

Are youth are becoming fentanyl addicts and we're taking away a chance at freedom
 CommentID: 223412

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:26 am

Kratom Consumer Protection

I do not support this petition. If anything, it is more harmful than good. You will be turning innocent people who consume kratom into criminals. There are other things more dangerous that these resources should be spent on.
 CommentID: 223413

Commenter: Ron

6/4/24 1:26 am

Kratom literally saved my life

Began taking kratom, 500mg to 2grams in 2014. I successfully cured my addiction to alcohol, took up fitness, lost dangerous weight and prevented what I am certain would've been an early death. And I unequivocally without any doubt attribute this achievement to kratom. The herb helped me curb addiction and helps me cope with depression. A tremendous alternative to pharmaceutical interventions. Please consider carefully the comments presented here from real human beings with no agenda and please read the science. Kratom is no more toxic than acetaminophen which is linked to hundreds of deaths each year in the United States. But why no frenzied push to ban that drug??
 CommentID: 223414

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:26 am

Active compounds are not opioids

These compounds may bind to opioid receptors but it does not make them opioids. The chemistry is more nuanced than that. Lots of things bind to dopamine receptors but it does not make them all drugs. Please use some critical thinking.
 CommentID: 223415

Commenter: Jill McAnally

6/4/24 1:27 am

Life saver

My husband has chronic pain in his back & fibromyalgia and
 Kratom saves him from pain meds so he has some quality
 of life.
 CommentID: 223416

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:27 am

In opposition to the ban on kratom

This plant has saved many lives and is a benefit to all walks of life. It would be an injustice to ban something with such positivity on those who study and or use this plant!! it has helped people in more ways then can be listed in a short comment. But this plant needs to remain legal
 CommentID: 223417

Commenter: Brian Gibson

6/4/24 1:27 am

Kratom ban hurt Seniors

Hello,
 I've been using Kratom since 2013. I'm 52 a former National Guardsman and Firefighter. Due to going over the handlebars on a motorcycle 25 years ago my mobility as I've aged has dwindled because of the mentioned accident. In order to not fall into the opioid addiction I researched for a year trying to find something affordable, safe as well as a natural supplement after trying \$30-\$50 over the counter store bought bottles of daily vitamins and minerals and not one would suffice. Especially at \$30. I tried the Kratom capsules twice a day, morning with coffee and mid afternoon. Quite frankly a lot of Seniors will lose a part of living the best life they can without the help of this supplement. Which will be compounded by the costs associated with going another direction especially in a troubling economy. Instead of a ban put in place a set of standards for selling the product so the pre-elderly can continue to afford as well as continue working to continue to support of their families. Thank you for reading my comment.
 CommentID: 223418

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:28 am

Board of pharmacy is abusing their position

Stop the kratom ban
 CommentID: 223419

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:29 am

Fentanyl is the problem

By making this plant illegal you are sentencing addicts to death. They will have no chance at helping themselves out of addiction, especially considering that treatment is nonexistent in most southern states due to lack of funding and public policies to help those in need of services. Harm reduction is one of the most important things you can do.

CommentID: 223420

Commenter: Somer

6/4/24 1:29 am

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/public-health-focus/fda-and-kratom>
CommentID: 223431

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:41 am

Kratom gave me hope again

Please don't make me a criminal. I just want to feel ok. I want to be able to love my life like everyone else. I'm tired. I'm tired of having to act like I'm ok. This plant is the only thing that gets me through. God wouldn't want this.

CommentID: 223432

Commenter: ryan i.

6/4/24 1:42 am

NOPE I do not support adding "kratom" to Schedule 1!

this is a terrible idea, you have virginians that used or are using kratom as an alternative to narcotics derived from opium. you have people addicted to opioid narcotics that use kratom to control cravings, likewise heroin addicts that use kratom to not die. it is so shortsighted to think of doing something like this i am certain you would have an order of magnitude more people dying from not having access to kratom in NoVA than the united states had reported negative side effects nevermind actual injury or death. Give me a break why not give out overdoses of fentanyl. so disappointed.

CommentID: 223433

Commenter: Abraham Arnold

6/4/24 1:43 am

Please, do not schedule kratom

While I do not live in Virginia, Kratom has been a very helpful tool for me as someone who suffers from RLS and chronic pain. Kratom makes an affordable and safe alternative to pharmaceutical painkillers, as well as a tool to stop addiction to Opioids. I would be very sad for the people of Virginia if this plant were outlawed.

CommentID: 223434

Commenter: Jean Kucharski

6/4/24 1:43 am

Keep kratom legal

Please keep kratom legal! This leaf saved me from a life of being a slave to prescription medication, without it I barely had a life because of the pain. Since I started taking kratom I am an active participant in the lives of my children and grandchildren! If you take it away many people will lose their quality of life!

CommentID: 223435

Commenter: Jennifer Hatfield

6/4/24 1:43 am

Don't Support Making Kratom A Schedule 1! Kratom Saved Me!!

I'm writing to let you know that Kratom has changed my life so much. I've had 2 neck surgeries within the past 5 years. I was on Oxycodone, Lyrica, depression and anxiety meds. I was just laying around the house in pain all day. Kratom has helped me get my life back. I have been able to get off all of my prescription meds except for thyroid medicine. My husband and I adopted my sister's baby 3 years ago and I'm able to keep up with her and play on the floor with her. I have a 17 year old and a 14 year old who have both told me they love that I found something that actually helps me so I'm not just sleeping all day and not in pain all the time. Please support the KCPA. It truly has saved so many lives.

Thank you for your time.

Jennifer Hatfield

CommentID: 223436

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:45 am

FDA will continue to warn the public against the use of kratom for medical treatment

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/public-health-focus/fda-and-kratom>

CommentID: 223437

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:46 am

DEA has listed kratom as a Drug and Chemical of Concern

"Several cases of psychosis resulting from use of kratom have been reported"

https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/Kratom-2020_0.pdf

CommentID: 223438

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:47 am

DEA has listed kratom as a Drug and Chemical of Concern

"Kratom consumption can lead to addiction"

https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/Kratom-2020_0.pdf

CommentID: 223439

Commenter: Sarah Holcomb

6/4/24 1:48 am

Save Kratom

Kratom has been a miracle in my life. It has given me a chance to quit drinking myself to death. I have not touched alcohol for many years due to kratom. Kratom does not get you high or alter your state of perception. It has helped me with getting off all meds that were addictive. Please give it a chance. So many lives can be changed due to this plant.

CommentID: 223440

Commenter: Anonymous

kratom is illegal in Alabama

Lets follow Alabama's example

CommentID: 223441

6/4/24 1:50 am

Commenter: Anonymous

kratom is illegal in Arkansas

Kratom is illegal to buy, sell and use in all parts of Arkansas

CommentID: 223442

6/4/24 1:52 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom is illegal Rhode Island

Kratom is illegal to buy, sell and use in all parts of Rhode Island

CommentID: 223443

6/4/24 1:53 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom is illegal in Indiana

Kratom is illegal to buy, sell and use in all parts of Indiana

CommentID: 223444

6/4/24 1:53 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom is illegal in Wisconsin

Kratom is illegal to buy, sell and use in all parts of Wisconsin

CommentID: 223445

6/4/24 1:54 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom is illegal in Vermont - Make Virginia #71

Kratom is illegal to buy, sell and use in all parts of Vermont

CommentID: 223446

6/4/24 1:55 am

Commenter: Brandon Howell

Kratom is a life saver that has changed my life,it's also in the coffee family.

https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409

199/750

I have been using kratom since late 2007, and it has given me my life back. For ten years prior to discovering kratom, I was dealing with pain that affected my daily life. Doctors prescribed me hydrocodone and later oxycodone, along with the powerful narcotic muscle relaxer Soma. While these medications helped ease the pain, I became dependent on them and required increasingly higher doses to avoid withdrawal symptoms. I eventually found myself in full-blown addiction, needing more pills just to avoid feeling sick.

In late 2007, I learned about kratom, an herbal tea from the coffee family. I decided to give it a try and was amazed by the results. I felt better without the foggy, nodding high feeling that came with narcotics. This was a game-changer for me, as I no longer sought out narcotics and no longer lived in a daily blur.

Please reconsider the ban on kratom. This natural tea tastes much like green tea and provides an early morning boost similar to coffee. Since finding kratom, my life has improved significantly. I am now an active father of three, have progressed from a line-cook to a CEO, and can support my family without the need for pharmaceutical pills. I no longer take ibuprofen or Tylenol. My health and yearly blood tests have been excellent for a 40-year-old male, and my doctor supports my kratom routine, encouraging me to continue with it.

Please consider the many people who have found kratom and escaped opioid addiction. Many fear losing access to this natural remedy. For those who cannot afford healthcare, turning to street drugs is a dangerous alternative. Seeking substances on the street is a 50/50 gamble, and many people risk their lives simply trying to manage their pain and provide for their families. Kratom has been a lifesaver for many, including myself.

CommentID: 223447

Commenter: Paul Malasanjas Jr.

Sure let the pharmaceuticals take over.

Please do your research before amending anything! This is ridiculous and pompous!

CommentID: 223448

6/4/24 1:56 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom saved my life

I was addicted to opiates. I had irregular periods and severe cramps and started taking opiates to push thru that and then I just liked the way they made me feel. I would take 20-40 pills a day. I developed erosive gastritis and could quite literally feel myself dying. My life was falling apart. I was ashamed and embarrassed and I prayed to God daily. I then found out about Kratom and it SAVED MY LIFE! It reversed my gastritis and helped me get clean. From 20-40 pills a day to a few Kratom! A tea! I don't get high from Kratom I just get by from Kratom. Please, please don't take away the one thing that could help addicts.

CommentID: 223449

6/4/24 1:57 am

https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409

200/750

6/4/24 1:58 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom changed my life

DO NOT BAN IT!!!!

CommentID: 223450

6/4/24 1:58 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Washington Post - They take kratom to ease pain or anxiety. Sometimes, death follows

"The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found kratom was a cause of death in 91 overdose cases in 27 states from July 2016 through December 2017"

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2024/02/20/kratom-deaths/>

CommentID: 223451

6/4/24 1:59 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratum is a traditional medicine

it should be legal.

CommentID: 223452

6/4/24 2:00 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom has not been DIRECTLY linked to death

Kratom is safe

CommentID: 223453

6/4/24 2:00 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom is demonized

Kratom has made my life a lot easier

CommentID: 223454

6/4/24 2:01 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom should not be schedule 1

Don't do this

CommentID: 223455

6/4/24 2:01 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Do not support banning kratom

Kratom has helped a lot of people, including myself, have better quality of life. It is no more addictive than coffee.

CommentID: 223456

6/4/24 2:01 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Tampa Times Article - DEADLY DOSE.

PART 1: Hundreds died using kratom in Florida. It was touted as safe.

<https://project.tampabay.com/investigations/deadly-dose/kratom-overdose-deaths-florida-mitragynine-testing/>

"A Tampa Bay Times investigation found that more than 580 people in Florida have died from kratom-related overdoses during the past decade "

CommentID: 223457

6/4/24 2:02 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Keep Kratom legal

Kratom poses no risk to the community. The government has all but outlawed opioids. Kratom helps chronic pain. Without Kratom alot of people with intractable pain will commit suicide. Is that what you want? Kratom is related to the coffee plant, does not reduce breathing and cannot cause overdoses. The only overdoses where when the person wad on multidrug. Don't hurt chronic pain patients more than has already been done. Please.

CommentID: 223458

6/4/24 2:02 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom was linked to salmonella once ,BUT SO HAVE PRODUCT FROM THE GROCERY STORE YOU SHOP AT

REGULATION IS KEY

CommentID: 223459

6/4/24 2:03 am

Commenter: Anonymous

more than 2,000 fatal kratom-related overdoses since 2021

"Public health officials have recorded more than 2,000 fatal kratom-related overdoses since 2021, according to data collected from 40 states and Washington, D.C. Federal authorities have said there's no evidence to establish the safety of kratom and have issued an import alert for the herb, meaning arriving shipments could be refused entry onto U.S. soil. "

Tampa Bay Times - DEADLY DOSE

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

<https://project.tampabay.com/investigations/deadly-dose/kratom-overdose-deaths-florida-mitragynine-testing/>
CommentID: 223460

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:04 am

Kratom is keeping me off heroin

Without Kratom I would still be trapped in a depressing circle of drug abuse and chronic pain please help make a difference

CommentID: 223461

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:05 am

FDA releases test results identifying dangerous levels of heavy metals in certain kratom products

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/fda-brief/fda-releases-test-results-identifying-dangerous-levels-heavy-metals-certain-kratom#:~:text=The%20FDA%20first%20warned%20of,than%20the%20safe%20daily%20exposure.>

CommentID: 223462

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:05 am

Kratom helped my Dad with chronic pain

If it has potential why should we jump to ban it?

CommentID: 223463

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:06 am

Please don't ban

Kratom saved my life

CommentID: 223464

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:06 am

Keep it legal

Title says it all!

CommentID: 223465

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:07 am

Public Health Implications - Lead (Pb) as a Contaminant

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

"The results of the studies described in the present report indicate that many kratom products being sold in the USA contain levels of Pb that could pose a significant health risk to kratom consumers."

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9320411/>

CommentID: 223466

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:07 am

saved my life do NOT schedule

Kratom is a amazing plant and should be considered a dietary supplement

CommentID: 223467

Commenter: Dan Smith Jr

6/4/24 2:08 am

Do not schedule this plant.

To whom it may concern, Kratom has saved my life, and the lives of many others. It does not have any more potential for abuse than caffeine does. Alcohol and Cigarettes are far worse for your health than this plant ever could be. And yet I don't see you calling for their active components to be scheduled as a schedule 1 drugs. Even though those are in common use too.

Funny how the majority of people here calling for a ban, are "Anonymous" pharmacists.

Lets be real here, the attempts to ban this plant, and schedule it, are not due to the inherent dangers of kratom. No, its about control! You don't control how its dispensed, even though its in common use now; and so if you can't call the shots over it, you want to criminalize and ban it. Its about Control, and Money! No more, no less. The so called dangers are nothing but a false but convenient excuse. That or you've been listening to unfounded government propaganda, because they don't financially control its distribution either.

This plant material, and its natural innate constituents, have saved the lives of millions of legal consumers. It has saved people from the effects of horrific chronic pain, disabling joint conditions, serious debilitating health conditions, extreme anxiety, and countless other issues that the medical establishment has failed people on. Its allowed them to take back their lives, and reclaim some semblance of control back over their lives. And allowed them to take back some degree of quality of life. And now, you would try to take that away from them. "That is both despicable, and cruel!"

And that ends in one place for many of these people with no alternatives. 1. You make them criminals, and they have even less quality controls over what they do get. Potentially forcing them to settle for black market products, that could be tainted with anything. Forcing them to risk their health on one hand, or becoming criminals if caught, even felons, for using the one medicinal herb that gives them any relief from their suffering. Or 2. you leave them no choice but to accept their cursed fates, as you've already failed most of them repeatedly; and then no alternative for them but to commit suicide to get away from their suffering.

Oh you'd surely have a health crisis on your hands then. For a short amount of time anyway. Then you'd just have a lot fewer citizens. Because many of them found kratom after seeking anything to ease their suffering, after the medical community already repeatedly failed them!

Like it or not, Kratom is in common use, and even if you try to schedule it, you will ultimately fail to end its use among people you know. All you'll end up doing is driving that use underground. Or turning your neighbors into felons. If they survive your intrusion into their private health matters at



all. We've all seen where intrusions into peoples private health matters against there will, ends up. And no good can come of it. They are Adults, and can make their own decisions.

The kratom community can manage its own community just fine. The shops that are put forward as quality sources by the community, test their own products, with certified labs. Not a cheap process, but they do it to protect the community. They give help to others in the community who need guidance, so they are not just guessing what may or may not help them. Something that would be far easier if not for excessive attempts by the federal government to criminalize any mention of dosage, as claiming it can "treat or cure a disease." They aren't claiming any such thing, but they do know what's helped others, and what amounts of kratom powder are generally safe places to start ones kratom journey. And the kratom community takes great care not to hurt anyone, or lead them wrong so that anyone gets hurt unintentionally. Its a community of support and caring, trying to help others who are in the same boat.

The fact that there are some people out there that can become addicted to anything, no matter how innocuous, does not make it that things fault. let alone this harmless herbs fault. And does not make it dangerous, or harmful to anyone but those who would abuse anything legal, to their own detriment. No matter how safe.

Leave the plant alone please. And leave our communities people alone too. They aren't asking for you to ride in on your white horses and save them from their own choices. They have their own, justified reasons for choosing to take advantage of Kratom and its many benefits. And your will does not trump theirs, just because you paid more to go to school. If your not going to try to contribute something of benefit to our community, then leave our community alone please. Let people live their own lives, with the herbs they need to manage their own health. Without harassment if you would please.

If there are individuals who can not handle this herb, that has been proven by science to be no more addictive than a cup of coffee; then feel free to help those individuals who request it. But do not then try and use that as an excuse to then try and take control over the herb that millions upon millions of people are using safely for their own benefit and quality of life every day. Its not only disingenuous and cruel, but dangerous to their ultimate wellbeing. Despite what you may think, western medicine, can't solve all problems, and can't always help these people. Most of the time for them, your attempts at controlling their choices does nothing but harm in their lives. The side effects, and drug interactions alone from the drugs western medicine prescribes, can make many peoples lives a living hell. If they can gain relief from this legal and harm reducing plant, then leave them alone, to gain what relief they can. They have certainly been through enough, in your medical system.

Respectfully but Realistic,

Dan.

CommentID: 223468

Commenter: Anonymous

Analysis of heavy metals content in commercially available kratom products in Richmond, Virginia

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S2468170923000103>

The presence of toxic metals in kratom products is a public health concern

CommentID: 223469

Commenter: Anonymous

With proper legislation Kratom can be regulated and used as a tool to combat many problems don't ban

Why rush to ban something that could save people and has saved people like myself
CommentID: 223470

Commenter: Paul

Kratom use

Dear sirs,

I have been alcohol free for over 7 years in part because I use Kratom daily. I started using it because of Nегging Back Pain which was reduced greatly and I ALSO noticed my desire for alcohol diminished over time. I was a functional weekend drunk. I am over 60 years old. Please re-think any change to the law as it stands.

Thank you.

CommentID: 223471

Commenter: Kevin whitehead

Help

Please don't ban. This saved me!

CommentID: 223472

Commenter: Anonymous

Do not support

Do not support

CommentID: 223473

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom is sent by God

He gave us this plant and only he should be able to take it away

CommentID: 223474

Commenter: Anonymous

Virginia's kratom supply arrives under false pretenses

tons of kratom passes through customs, despite a federal import alert, because it is labeled "not for human consumption" or called seaweed or fertilizer like the 30 tons that passed through the

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

port in Norfolk Virginia in November 2023

CommentID: 223475

Commenter: Allan T Dinegar

6/4/24 2:13 am

About making the alkaloids and Kratom schedule one

I am 69 years old and spent many years on pharmaceutical opiate/opioid pain medication's, which ultimately put me in rehab for two months and almost killed me. I have substantial pain because of a number of physical conditions and when I stopped doing the opiates and opioids, I became depressed because I was in pain all the time and didn't have anything to take that would help. That is, until I discovered an herb in the coffee, family called Mitragyna Speciosa-KRATOM.

Also, before I discovered Kratom, my doctor gave me Suboxone as pain management and I thought it might be helpful, but I developed severe iron deficiency anemia after being on Suboxone for a couple years. This is when I discovered Kratom and it has literally save my life! Please don't take away the one thing that helps with my pain and enables me to function every day. If Kratom becomes outlawed, I will have no place to go to help with my pain because I can never go back on opiates or opioids again.

i most humbly ask that you allow Kratom to remain accessible to everyone.

CommentID: 223476

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:13 am

Please don't ban ketum use it's a traditional medicine from SE Asia

It has helped my chronic pain massively

CommentID: 223477

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:15 am

I do not support the criminalization

Please don't take this away from us.

CommentID: 223478

Commenter: PlantsRPower

6/4/24 2:18 am

One word: Alcohol

I understand liquor and alcohol, if used responsibly is ok, but, until you admit that alcohol is one of the worst, if not the worst legal substanc, you can NOT schedule KRATOM or make it out to be anything bad! It is and will continue to save MANY more lives than it will negatively impact. ONLY reason it is being looked at bad is because it is a direct threat to Big Pharma and the racket they control. The thought of some "magical" plant coming along and derailling pills- the next worst thing to alcohol and actually helping people just drives the medical industry crazy!

Who ever is speaking of salmonella fails to realize that it is not the plant itself but either poor handling or the soil is was grown in is bad. it can get it just like any other vegetable if not grown

https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409

2077750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

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correctly or transferred properly. The plant itself does not just produce it. Not saying that is a good excuse and is ok but more info needs to be looked at case by case for the matter and not taking it all out on the plant as a WHOLE!

CommentID: 223479

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:20 am

Kratom has done more good than harm!

Kratom has done more food than harm

CommentID: 223480

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:20 am

kratom saved my life

please don't ban kratom, it's the safest opioid, it's impossible to overdose on it alone and it has an unprecedented amount of medical potential

CommentID: 223481

Commenter: Somer

6/4/24 2:20 am

Kratom saves lives

It would be a mistake banning kratom. There are so many benefits to this plant and it has literally given me my life back

CommentID: 223482

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:21 am

I do not support this

No support

CommentID: 223483

Commenter: OutlawRacer

6/4/24 2:22 am

Do not schedule Kratom

Do not schedule Kratom, it saved my life.

CommentID: 223484

Commenter: Sky Guinn

6/4/24 2:25 am

Kratom allows me to work!

https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409

208/750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

I take Kratom so I can stretch and exercise. Without it I would be in pain, and the quality of my life would degrade. I'm also depressed, and when it take I feel neutral and sometimes slightly optimistic. Kratom is a good thing and very important to my life.
CommentID: 223485

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:25 am

Do not criminalize

Kratom has helped me live a fruitful life with a 6 figure career, able to manage my pain without impaired function. Im in th e best shape of my life and now pursuing my masters degree. This plant has saved my life!!
CommentID: 223486

Commenter: Anon

6/4/24 2:27 am

Kratom saved my life

Kratom helped me quit hard drugs and saved my life
CommentID: 223487

Commenter: Addie

6/4/24 2:27 am

Kratom saved my life

Kratom helps my anxiety and mt pain that I don't want to take pain pills.
CommentID: 223488

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:28 am

DEADLY DOSE - Kratom's path across the US is marked by deception and secrets

Tampa Bay Times
<https://project.tampabay.com/investigations/deadly-dose/kratom-industry-opms-supply-chain-indonesia-florida/>
CommentID: 223489

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:30 am

DEADLY DOSE - Not for human consumption. FDA Import Alert 54-15

<https://project.tampabay.com/investigations/deadly-dose/kratom-industry-opms-supply-chain-indonesia-florida/>
CommentID: 223490

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:31 am

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

209/750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

I do not support
Keep it legal
CommentID: 223491

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:32 am

I do not agree with criminalizing this plant

Keep Kratom legal for the people that need it
CommentID: 223492

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:32 am

Please don't ruin the lives of people suffering in terrible pain. Kratom helps tremendously

Please don't take my lifeline away. I am I. Unbearable pain and I need this to survive. Lori S
CommentID: 223493

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:33 am

Health freedom for all

Kratom has helped me get my life back and reduce drastically the amount of opioids I was taking for my chronic pain.
Chronic pain has taken over my life, my sleep, my mental and physical health. As soon as I woke up in the morning I was angry that I was still alive. Because of this pain I felt like a prisoner of war being tortured every single day.
All I wanted was for my life to end so the pain could stop. I had planned several different ways of doing it, I was just waiting for my only child to finish school.
I had lost my business, my home, my ability to work or even socialise, I lost my will to live and with it also my marriage.
Then I was introduced to kratom. It changed my life again but this time for the better. I still have pain sometimes but I can at least work part time and see my family and friends. I'm so grateful to still be here for my daughter. If it wasn't for kratom mine would have been a very different story.
Please don't take that choice away from people. It's our right to have a say in what we put in our body. An age limit will be fair but not making it illegal!
I don't drink, smoke or gamble (which are all legal and truly damaging), yet if you take away my right to use kratom (or make it illegal) as a health supplement my life would have been over by now. This is a great supplement to use when used correctly. Much, much better than alcohol. It should be my choice what I put in my own body legally.
CommentID: 223494

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:33 am

Kratom saved me from suice**

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE don't ban this substance or it's alkaloids.

CommentID: 223495

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

210/750

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:33 am

Helped me

kratom has helped me immensely . It has alleviated urges to use opiates and has greatly improved my mood.

CommentID: 223496

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:34 am

DEADLY DOSE - The Tampa Bay Times tested 20 kratom products

A scientist compared one to "legal morphine."

<https://www.tampabay.com/investigations/2023/12/09/tampa-bay-times-tested-20-kratom-products-heres-what-we-found/>

CommentID: 223497

Commenter: Lynn

6/4/24 2:36 am

Keep Kratom legal

Please keep Kratom legal. Quality of life is essential and Kratom provides that for so many.

CommentID: 223498

Commenter: LDA

6/4/24 2:36 am

ER doctor has witnessed kratom saved lives!

As an ER physician, I have seen countless heroin and fentanyl addicts in and out of the ER... and I've seen so many patients who have kicked the illicit opioids by having access to pure, safe kratom. If the government, spearheaded by the unscrupulous, lying FDA, makes it illegal to obtain safe, pure kratom leaf, countless patients will not have a safe harbor and will almost certainly fall back into either illicit street opioids or into the clutches of big pharma, who literally only care about making profits.

Kratom must be kept safe and legal, accessible and available.

Support the kratom consumer protection act!

KCPA will save so many lives and help so many to keep moving forward with functional, productive lives.

CommentID: 223499

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:39 am

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Due to Maternal Kratom Use

<https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/142/6/e20181839/37470/Neonatal-Abstinence-Syndrome-Due-to-Maternal?autologincheck=redirected>

CommentID: 223500

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:40 am

"She drank kratom tea while pregnant. Then her newborn went into withdrawal"

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/11/07/health/kratom-tea-neonatal-abstinence-syndrome-study/index.html>

Sold in Virginia with no pregnancy warnings

CommentID: 223501

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:41 am

Stop trying to ban Kratom!

This plant has saved my life! Please stop trying to ban it. More research is what we need, not to add it as a schedule 1 substance. The Kratom Consumer Protection Act is the way to go. This plant has helped far too many people for this nonsense to continue happening.

CommentID: 223502

Commenter: Lisa Hall

6/4/24 2:43 am

Please don't ban this wonderful gift of nature

Please do not ban kratom. It helped me with a 6 year opioid addiction. Its a very harmless substance.

CommentID: 223503

Commenter: Robert Klepper

6/4/24 2:48 am

Schedule.

Kratom has helped me, in so many ways, over the years. It is not the problem. These deaths are not from Kratom, but all the other stuff that was in the system of individuals that have passed. It is not a dangerous plant. Pharma is made that its not their pill!

CommentID: 223504

Commenter: Michael Russo

6/4/24 2:48 am

Please use Science and Common Sense here

I currently live in Indiana, which unfortunately criminalized Kratom without any scientific research or due diligence. Please don't make the same mistake in VA.

I suffer from chronic moderate/severe pain, and my doctor has prescribed over three years 120

5mg hydrocodone per month! (Not to mention Celebrex, Mirtzapine, and high doses of gabapentin. The Vicodin (generic) drug is highly addictive and was ruining my life and actually *increasing* my pain.

Ironically, this process was totally "legal" and quickly put me on the road to addiction to synthetic narcotic garbage. However, it is a big seller for "big pharma," which hates Kratom, as it considers it a "competitor."

I stopped taking this drug (Vicodin) and the others of my own accord and was able to take a low dose of Kratom twice per day. This natural supplement - it is plant-based and not a synthetic drug - enabled me to function without continuing to risk heavy opioioid addiction. I still have pain, but it allows me the ability to work and function.

Please follow the FDA's decision to do the research before putting people in jail for possessing a supplement on par with melatonin.

I am a Christian, for what that means to you, and I will not lie.

Sincerely,

Mike Russo

CommentID: 223505

Commenter: Anonymous

Midlothian man shares battle with kratom addiction

<https://www.wric.com/health/its-almost-uncontrollable-and-not-worth-it-midlothian-man-shares-battle-with-kratom-addiction/>

"It was very, very similar to opiates. It made everything else feel a little better at the time."

CommentID: 223506

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom helps many peoplew

We can't go around banning everything that can be misused! People will abuse anything. We don't ever talk about banning cough medicine. People OD on Tylenol! Kratom has improved my life tremendously. I am 2 years clean from hard drugs and sober from alcohol.

CommentID: 223507

Commenter: Annoyed American

A poor attempt to divert from the main problem!

We are in the midst of a Fentanyl and xylazine epidemic thanks to the extreme pandering the DEA and CDC created when they turned chronic pain patients to the streets when their doctors were made into criminals. Congratulations, opiate deaths have INCREASED since the crackdown and it's all Fentanyl! It's safer to use heroin. Let that sink in. Addicts are safer finding heroin and using that. Except it's all Fentanyl! Everything is Fentanyl! . Maybe do something that will actually have a

large impact on the health and safety of American, and put this effort and funding into ending the war on drugs and if you can't flush out the Chinese and Mexican Fent (you can't) then consider what you're left American with to self medicate bc the healthcare system is BROKEN with the current regulations. You want to schedule Kratom?! Schedule cigarettes or alcohol. What's the fatality rate there?? Unbelievable what the DEA and CDC get away with. They've caused the new opiate epidemic. **Why don't you care about making them answer for this?!**

CommentID: 223508

Commenter: April Hiltabidle

Keep kratom legal!

Mitragyna speciosa (kratom) is a plant indigenous to Southeast Asia and has been used by natives for hundreds of years to reduce pain, increase work performance, help reduce symptoms of opiate withdrawal, among other uses. It's a relative to the coffee plant and according to available research, is no more harmful or addictive than it's coffee cousin. It's made up of many different alkaloids and their functions make the plant an atypical opioioid because it contains both opioioid receptor agonists and antagonists. This combination helps block the typical high people get from opiates, while still providing pain relief. Scientists have also proven that kratom does not cause respiratory depression, the common killer from pharmaceutical opiates, because of signaling the beta-protein pathway which is entirely different from the way normal opioids work (by signaling the beta-arrestin pathway). The kratom associated deaths reported by the FDA have all been debunked. These cases included 9 deaths from Sweden that were caused by an adulterated product called Krypton which was laced with a synthetic compound akin to but more potent than tramadol, a gunshot victim, a man who fell out of a window yet refused treatment, a suicide, a car accident, and multiple poly drug use cases. Even if they had been caused by kratom, there is a greater risk of death by falling out of bed or drinking too much water if you run the perspective numbers over the course of the last decade and hundreds of people die every year from complications related to Tylenol.

I've been a responsible kratom consumer for more than 7 years now and at 37 feel and function better than I did a decade ago. I'm a better wife, mother, and caregiver in my full time role as a direct supports professional assisting adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This plant doesn't get you high, if anything it helps to quicken response time. Personally I compare it to the relief one feels when Excedrin taken for a headache finally stars to kick in.

Today I respectfully request that you support and pass the Kratom Consumer Protection Act rather than adding kratom's key components to the list of banned substances.. This law establishes useful guidelines to protect consumers from adulterated kratom products, makes sure that the product is thoroughly tested and clearly labeled, and establishes age restrictions, all of which advocates can agree are beneficial to the industry and consumers. I lost my broiher to a heroin/fentanyl overdose in November 2018 and I promise you I wouldn't be fighting to keep kratom accessible if I thought it could cause harm. This plant has actually helped people get away from dangerous opiates.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter! As a resident of Pennsylvania, I come to and through the state of Virginia multiple times a year and would hate to see myself and Virginia residents unfairly criminalized based on a rushed decision without scientific backing.

CommentID: 223509

Commenter: William H Hildreth

Kratom helps

Kratom helps me in ways that my VA meds do not. It makes me functional.

6/4/24 3:20 am

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

CommentID: 223510

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 3:21 am

An affront to the legislative process. Undemocratic and Unamerican.

Kratom is legal in Virginia, and regulated under the Kratom Consumer Protection Act, an act passed by the bipartisan legislature and signed by the governor. This act was done in 2023 there is no ambiguity that the intent of the law is to have a regulated marketplace for this product for adults to use at their discretion.

The tools exist for the state to pursue cases against adulterated products and those who sell contrary to the law. If changes need to be made, or should be made, the proper authority to do so is a duly elected legislature.

No matter what anyone believes about kratom good or bad, safe or unsafe, for an unelected board to try to contravene the elected legislature is undemocratic and shameful. It has no place in American government.

It is shameful to propose, and would be shameful for a board to indulge.

CommentID: 223511

Commenter: Rob

6/4/24 3:22 am

Are you insane?!

Kratom saved my life! I was addicted to oxyodone and meth. I was able to taper down and stop completely. It is a wonder drug and the people that want this banned are either ignorant or actively wanting to push suboxone or other chems. Why in gods name would you ban a lead that can stop opioid addiction?!?! It's insanity!!

CommentID: 223512

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 3:23 am

The American Kratom Association (AKA) is misleading the public about the safety of kratom products

The American Kratom Association (AKA) has consistently misled the public about the safety of kratom products. Despite numerous reports of adverse effects, including addiction, seizures, and deaths, the AKA continues to promote kratom as a safe alternative to opioids. This is not only irresponsible but also dangerous, as it gives consumers a false sense of security about a product that can have serious health consequences

CommentID: 223513

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 3:24 am

Please do not ban more natural substances that help people with opioid addiction.

Kratom is a plant that helps people. Please stop wasting government resources and allow people to have actual freedom. America needs to actually live up to the morals it purports to have.

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

215/750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

CommentID: 223514

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 3:27 am

Keep Kratom Legal

Kratom has been used since time immemorial, and by itself has not and cannot cause lethal overdoses. There are many (synthetic) drugs that can do infinitely more damage than kratom. And as far as abuse goes, there will always be people that can find a way to misuse anything.

CommentID: 223515

Commenter: Kelly McDonald

6/4/24 3:28 am

Kratom serves to allow me to be a functioning member of my community

Kratom has been an absolute blessing to me, and I thank God every day for creating this herb that helps me manage my chronic pain and mental health. Before I was recommended this product by my physician, I could not get out of bed due to crippling pain and overwhelming depression. This product is a miracle. I was prescribed heavy doses of narcotics before that dangerous and destroying my liver. You can not ban this substance in good conscience.

CommentID: 223516

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 3:31 am

kratom can lead to addiction

Evidence from case reports and user surveys indicates that kratom can lead to addiction and dependency. A study published in the Journal of Addiction Medicine found that 9% of kratom users met the DSM-5 criteria for a substance use disorder, highlighting its addictive potential

CommentID: 223517

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 3:32 am

liver toxicity, seizures, and respiratory depression

Research shows that kratom use can result in serious health issues such as liver toxicity, seizures, and respiratory depression.

CommentID: 223518

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 3:33 am

Prioritizing Profits Over Safety

The AKA's lobbying efforts prioritize industry profits over consumer safety. The association has fought against regulations that would require proper labeling, testing, and quality control for kratom products. This focus on protecting industry interests at the expense of consumer safety is deeply troubling and highlights the need for independent regulatory oversight

CommentID: 223519

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

216/750

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 3:33 am

Proliferation of Unsafe Products

The AKA's actions have led to the proliferation of unsafe kratom products in the market. Without proper regulation and oversight, many kratom products are sold without adequate labeling, testing, or quality control. This has resulted in numerous cases of poisoning and other health issues, underscoring the need

CommentID: 223520

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 3:36 am

mothers and newborns to prenatal exposure to kratom

"Maternal and infant withdrawal from kratom exposure was described in each case, resulting in pharmacologic treatment for both mothers and infants"

Wright, M.E., Ginsberg, C., Parkison, A.M. *et al.* Outcomes of mothers and newborns to prenatal exposure to kratom: a systematic review. *J Perinatol* 41, 1236–1243 (2021).
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41372-021-00952-8>

CommentID: 223521

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 3:37 am

protect individuals from addiction

Classifying kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance will help prevent its misuse and protect individuals from addiction

CommentID: 223522

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 3:38 am

severe health risks

Given the severe health risks and high potential for addiction, kratom should be classified as a Schedule I controlled substance

CommentID: 223523

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 3:38 am

Kratom lacks quality control

* Many kratom products are contaminated with heavy metals and harmful pathogens due to poor manufacturing practices. This poses an additional risk to consumers and highlights the need for regulatory oversight

CommentID: 223524



Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 3:39 am

severe gastrointestinal issues

Users often report gastrointestinal problems such as constipation, nausea, and vomiting. These adverse effects can lead to severe dehydration and other health complications

CommentID: 223525

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 3:40 am

Causes False Positive Urine Drug Screening Results for Methadone

https://academic.oup.com/ajcp/article/154/Supplement_1/S19/5942516

CommentID: 223526

Commenter: Andrew Sarrels

6/4/24 3:40 am

Regarding Board of Pharmacy Petition "Addition of kratom to Schedule I"

I am commenting on behalf of myself, my loved ones and many friends that have had nothing but great experiences with Kratom against the scheduling of Kratom as Schedule 1 in your area.

I am a 12 year Kratom advocate who has not only safely and effectively utilized Kratom in my life, but has witnessed Kratom positively impact the lives of countless individuals over the course of those 12 years. There is immense amounts of evidence to support that Kratom is a much safer and healthier alternative to several other substances when utilized properly. I work to help spread awareness and information backed by studies and science so that other individuals can be given the same opportunity to change their lives the way I have through my discovery of Kratom.

Scheduling Kratom would not only make many people who rely on Kratom criminals for bettering their lives via a plant, but it would drive all of the people who have used it to help their chronic pain, anxiety, and sleeplessness naturally to resort to more harmful and unnatural substances, which would inevitably drive the crime and overdose rate up. Overdose rates are higher than ever and only continuing to rise. Scheduling Kratom would only be adding to an already overwhelming problem. I guarantee that no one in your area that is recommending to schedule Kratom has ever used it. Please consider the account of someone with more than a decade's worth of experience. Thank you for your time.

CommentID: 223527

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 3:41 am

Kratom has has qualities

Kratom is organic, not pharmaceutical in inorganic manner. I use to help with not taking so much ibuprofen to not kill liver. Knowing full well kratom is non addictive. No need to make it a scheduled 1 or illegal at all, it has healing properties more than people know.

CommentID: 223528

Commenter: Rebecca W

6/4/24 3:46 am

Please leave kratom alone!

I have been a kratom consumer for 6 years& it has given me my life back as it has so many others. I do not agree with banning it&believe if it is then it would be devastating to so many lives. It's a natural plant &it's benefits far outweigh risks. Please keep it legal.

CommentID: 223529

Commenter: Benjamin Winsor

6/4/24 3:51 am

Kratom is Healthy

I much enjoy my Kratom in the American Commonwealth of Massachusetts!

To criminalize Kratom is an abuse of the trust the people of Virginia are putting in you.

Walk circumspectly.

Warmly,

Ben

CommentID: 223530

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 3:52 am

increase the risk of accidents and injuries

Impaired motor skills and cognitive function due to kratom use can increase the risk of accidents and injuries, posing a threat to public safety, particularly on roads and in workplaces

CommentID: 223531

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 3:53 am

AKA Failure to Address Adulteration

The AKA has failed to address the significant issue of adulterated kratom products. Many kratom products on the market are contaminated with harmful substances, yet the AKA has not taken adequate steps to ensure that only pure, unadulterated kratom is sold. This negligence has resulted in numerous cases of poisoning and other health issues, highlighting the need for stricter regulation and oversight

CommentID: 223532

Commenter: ALAN NEAL

6/4/24 3:53 am

Don't ban kratom

I'm from Mississippi please don't ban kratom it has saved my life you take this away alot of people will be lost without out it

CommentID: 223533

114

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 3:54 am

Contradicting Scientific Evidence

claims about kratom's safety are contradicted by scientific evidence and numerous lawsuits. Studies have shown that kratom can cause serious health issues, including liver damage, seizures, and death, particularly when used in high doses or combined with other substances. The AKA's refusal to acknowledge these findings is a disservice to consumers and public health

CommentID: 223534

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 3:55 am

numerous lawsuits following DEATH

\$2.5 million—Cowlitz County, Washington
Wrongful death of a 39-year-old man with chronic back pain

\$11 million—Palm Beach County, Florida
Wrongful death of a 39-year-old mother of four

Potential Claim—New York City, New York
Death of a 27-year-old schoolteacher caused by fatal seizure from overdose

<https://www.neumannlawgroup.com/practice-areas/personal-injury/product-liability/dangerous-drugs/kratom-overdose-lawsuits/>

CommentID: 223535

Commenter: Jonathon Luther

6/4/24 3:57 am

Kratom is safe natural medicine

Kratom is a very helpful natural medicine for many different ailments. It helps my severe stomach problems, and it also kills my desire to drink alcohol. I used to drink regularly. Now, if I get the urge to drink, I take a small dose of kratom and that desire completely disappears. There is absolutely no reason why responsible adults shouldn't have access to natural medicine. Didn't we already learn that banning plants is ridiculous?

CommentID: 223536

Commenter: Alvaro Alegria

6/4/24 3:57 am

I do not support this petition to make Kratom a controlled substance

I do not support this petition to make Kratom a controlled substance.

CommentID: 223537

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:01 am

Please don't do this!

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Kratom has saved my life.

CommentID: 223538

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:03 am

From the FDA - it's an opioid!

The FDA further notes: "The data from the PHASE model shows us that kratom compounds are predicted to affect the body just like opioids. Based on the scientific information in the literature and further supported by our computational modeling and the reports of its adverse effects in humans, we feel confident in calling compounds found in kratom, opioids."

CommentID: 223539

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:04 am

full agonists mu-opioid receptor

mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine are selective and full agonists of the mu-opioid receptor. The receptor agonist effect of kratom alkaloids is antagonized by the opioid receptor antagonist naloxone

CommentID: 223540

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:06 am

Kratom is a controlled substance in Thailand and Malaysia where it is found naturally

Kratom is a controlled substance in 16 countries, including Thailand and Malaysia where it is found naturally

CommentID: 223541

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:07 am

no evidence to indicate that kratom is safe or effective for any medical use

The FDA through their Public Health Assessment via Structural Evaluation (PHASE) methodology found that there is no evidence to indicate that kratom is safe or effective for any medical use. The compounds in kratom were found to bind to mu-opioid receptors similar to other opioids.

CommentID: 223542

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:09 am

Keep kratom legal

Kratom has been used for 1000's of years. It helps with many things, including addiction and withdrawals. Why would you ban it? Kratom alone cannot cause overdose or death. But as with anything, some people will find a way to misuse it. There are much bigger problems that you should be worried about, most of all getting actual dangerous drugs off the street. Kratom saves lives.

115

https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409

221750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

CommentID: 223543

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:10 am

lacks accepted safety for use in treatment under medical supervision

concerns regarding the conditions under which the drug is produced

CommentID: 223544

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:13 am

mixing kratom with other opioids = death

According to FDA, mixing kratom with other opioids is a serious concern because the activity of kratom at opioid receptors. Yet no warnings on the package

CommentID: 223545

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:15 am

The AKA's opposition to FDA regulation of kratom is reckless and harmful.

The AKA's claims about kratom's safety are contradicted by scientific evidence and numerous lawsuits. Studies have shown that kratom can cause serious health issues, including liver damage, seizures, and death, particularly when used in high doses or combined with other substances. The AKA's refusal to acknowledge these findings is a disservice to consumers and public health

CommentID: 223546

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:16 am

I do not support the criminalization of Kratom.

I do not support the petition that adds Kratom to the schedule 1 list of drugs.

CommentID: 223547

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:17 am

diservice to consumers

The AKA's refusal to acknowledge the risks of kratom is a disservice to consumers. By promoting kratom as a safe and effective supplement without adequate warnings about its potential dangers, the AKA is putting consumers at risk. This lack of transparency and accountability is unacceptable and highlights the need for more stringent regulatory measures

Trial Lawyers and American Kratom Association Reach Agreement ... https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffirm.com%2Ftrial-lawyers-and-american-kratom-association-reach-agreement-on-something%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cjennifer_brandt%40bshsi.org%7Cdcdb7d849d4b242296c9708dc8466f17c%7Cbb84eccd9a5141eb880c178c5153d561%7C0%7C0%7C638530825385927102%

https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409

222750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

7CUnknown%7CTWFPbGZsb3d8eyJWJjoiMC4wLjAwMDA1LjCjOjoiV2luMzJiLjCjBTi6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=VC9nmNM5TMu0H3DU6bLptkT6ihvN6yLwI%2BYxhZmMva0%3D&reserved=0
CommentID: 223548

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:18 am

Herbal supplement kratom targeted by lawsuits after a string of deaths

<https://www.npr.org/2023/07/08/1186514144/kratom-herbal-supplement-lawsuits-deaths-fda>
CommentID: 223549

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:18 am

Herbal supplement kratom targeted by lawsuits after a string of deaths

<https://www.npr.org/2023/07/08/1186514144/kratom-herbal-supplement-lawsuits-deaths-fda>
CommentID: 223550

Commenter: Kristen Evans

6/4/24 4:20 am

Kratom saved and continues to save my life

Without kratom, I wouldn't be here. I have severe, and I mean SEVERE, restless leg syndrome. I would go weeks on end with no sleep. I'd sit up all night bouncing my legs, or walking around the neighborhood at 2 and 3am because they wouldn't relax. Doctor's don't care if you can't sleep. They won't prescribe the medicine that actually helps. If not for kratom, I would have committed suicide. You can't live without sleep. Kratom is a safe, natural, substance. I have been taking kratom every night since 2017, and not only has it never harmed me, I'm only still here because of it. Please, don't make it hard or impossible for people to get a safe plant to use as an alternative to pharmaceuticals.

CommentID: 223551

Commenter: Bruce Hempel

6/4/24 4:22 am

I oppose Virginia's proposed criminalization of kratom

As someone who has suffered from chronic pain for many years, I have found kratom to be a God-send. The first time I took it, I cried tears of joy because I had not had such good pain relief in years. In the past year, my wife has begun taking kratom for relief from back and leg pain caused by osteoarthritis of the hips and the sacro-iliac joint. It has given her better pain relief than NSAIDS, and it has fewer negative side effects. I am very grateful that kratom is legal and available to each of us.

CommentID: 223552

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:23 am

Kratom gave me my life back

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Do not schedule Kratom in its natural form. Because of this tea leaf I was able to become a better member of the community.

CommentID: 223553

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:23 am

Kratom can exacerbate mental health issue

For individuals with pre-existing mental health conditions, kratom use can worsen symptoms and interfere with treatment. This exacerbation of mental health issues necessitates stricter control.
CommentID: 223554

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:24 am

Kratom should be a Schedule I substance

Given its high potential for abuse and lack of accepted medical use, kratom must be classified as a Schedule I controlled substance. This classification will help mitigate the risks associated with its unregulated use and ensure the safety of our community.
CommentID: 223555

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:25 am

Kratom is a public health threat. I support this

Kratom's opioid-like effects and high potential for abuse make it a significant public health concern. By classifying it as a Schedule I controlled substance, we can restrict its availability and reduce the risk of addiction and other adverse health outcomes.
CommentID: 223556

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:26 am

support its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance.

The adverse health effects of kratom, including addiction and severe side effects, support its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance. This measure is essential to protect public health.
CommentID: 223557

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:26 am

Harm reduction

I'm gonna keep this brief and simple. A ton of addicts have used kratom to get off heroin. What you are proposing will push them back to a substance that will cause a quick death. You will put drug dealers back in business. This whole thing is just a business move by the pharmaceutical industry.

CommentID: 223558

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:28 am

The American Kratom Association's (AKA) lack of transparency

The American Kratom Association's (AKA) lack of transparency about the risks associated with kratom use is alarming. Despite numerous reports of adverse effects, the AKA continues to promote kratom without adequately informing the public about its potential dangers. This lack of transparency undermines consumer trust and puts public health at risk

CommentID: 223559

Commenter: Chris Brooks

6/4/24 4:28 am

Kratom

I suffer from myalgic encephalomyelitis. I have found kratom to be one of the things that has helped me greatly as I testified in front of a panel of senators and congresspeople in Georgia in 2017. Kratom, a cousin to the coffee plant has many beneficial properties that has helped people for many different ailments, pain, mood, energy, sleep, chromes, IBS and many other amazing ways to help people. It makes zero sense that a cousin to the coffee plant would be any schedule which is why the DEA decided not to schedule it in 2016 after hearing from the public how beneficial it is.

Instead of scheduling it you should follow the science and pass a Kratom Consumer Protection Act as Georgia did so people can safely take this supplement without having to worry what else is in it besides kratom.

Please do not hurt the people of your state by making this very poor decision without looking at all the evidence.

This helps people, it does not hurt people. I believe I read a study where they tried to kill a mouse by giving it 200 times the normal dose a number of years back and, of course, the mouse didn't die.

This is safe, effective, inexpensive, natural and we don't need government oversight to take supplements especially a cousin to the coffee plant.

Follow the science not the fake news. Please do the right thing for the people this time.

CommentID: 223560

Commenter: Cindy Glasco

6/4/24 4:29 am

Kratom Saves Lives

This wonderful Plant has saved me from a life of pain, I am now able to play with my grandkids ??

CommentID: 223561

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:29 am

Ignoring Potential for Abuse

1 promotion of kratom as a 'natural' remedy ignores its potential for abuse and addiction. Kratom contains alkaloids that can produce opioid-like effects, leading to dependency and withdrawal symptoms.

CommentID: 223562

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:32 am

Classify as a schedule I controlled substance

The AKA's resistance to scientific research on kratom's effects is deeply concerning. Instead of supporting independent studies to better understand kratom's safety and efficacy, the AKA often dismisses scientific findings that highlight the risks associated with its use. This resistance to evidence-based research hinders efforts to ensure consumer safety.

CommentID: 223563

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:33 am

Downplaying Kratom-Related Deaths

downplaying of kratom-related deaths is irresponsible and dangerous. There have been numerous reports of fatalities linked to kratom use, yet the AKA continues to minimize these incidents. This approach not only disrespects the victims and their families but also misleads the public about the true risks of kratom

CommentID: 223564

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:34 am

Disregard for FDA Warning

The AKA's disregard for FDA warnings about kratom is reckless. The FDA has issued multiple warnings about the potential dangers of kratom, including its risk of addiction and adverse health effects. The AKA's failure to heed these warnings and inform the public accordingly is a serious lapse in responsibility

CommentID: 223565

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:36 am

Classify as a schedule I controlled substance - we are allowing unsafe products to proliferate

Kratom proponents advocacy lacks accountability and endangers consumers. By promoting kratom without adequate regulatory oversight, we are allowing unsafe products to proliferate. This lack of accountability is unacceptable and highlights the need for more stringent regulations to protect public health

CommentID: 223566

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:38 am

Kratom lacks accountability and endangers consumers

advocacy for kratom lacks accountability and endangers consumers

CommentID: 223567

Commenter: Jeremy Keeling

Kratom helps

Kratom has been a lifesaver for me. I was addicted to painkillers after a back injury for 10 years, barely able to work, let alone live life. Since finding kratom 7 years ago, I've been able to get off of the deadly pharmaceutical painkillers, keep a steady job and I'm in the best shape of my life because I can work out. Kratom has been a lifesaver! Please don't ban it. Thank you!

CommentID: 223568

6/4/24 4:39 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom allows me to be a father

I was injured as a club athlete in college and was prescribed opioids for the pain, but was offered nothing for long term pain management. Kratom has allowed me to live a normal, healthy and active life and to provide for my family. Rescheduling to schedule 1 would be dishonest and would harm many people's lives and livelihoods and will increase overdose deaths by a staggering amount.

CommentID: 223569

6/4/24 4:41 am

Commenter: Kelly Goldman

To the Virginia Board of Pharmacy

I do not support the petition to criminalize kratom by making it a Schedule I substance.

CommentID: 223570

6/4/24 4:44 am

Commenter: Tina Saggio

PLEASE do NOT criminalize Kratom!

Please do not make it illegal to possess and use this life saving tea! That itself would be criminal! As a nurse for over 35 years, and Kratom consumer of 5 years, I know firsthand how this plant saves lives WITHOUT altering one's capabilities. After a tragic work accident in 2014 left me in daily unbearable pain, I knew I had to research what I could do to make my life bearable. I did not want to use narcotics, but my two spinal cord stimulators were not enough, and I could not get out of bed. Depressed, making my Final Exit Plan, I came across a post that mentioned Kratom, and I decided to give it a try.

That decision changed me, changed the course of my life, and ... honestly, saved me. Kratom gives me hope and pain relief without the 'dirty' narcotics, or alteration of my mental status. It's... truly a miracle. It would be criminal to make it illegal, and to take away from people who really need it to live. Please don't do it.

CommentID: 223571

6/4/24 4:45 am

Commenter: F Charon

Kratom allowed me to rebuild my life and become Postmaster.

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

6/4/24 4:49 am

Kratom allowed me to overcome a decades long opiate addiction basically overnight. It allowed me to get custody of my son. It allowed me to rebuild my career as a mail carrier and work my way up the ladder in the Post Office, eventually becoming Postmaster. Kratom put me in charge of an entire towns mail, bills, checks, medications. Kratom is not evil, it changes lives. Don't steal the opportunity for a new life from others.

CommentID: 223572

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom is not appropriate for use

It is not safe and effective to treat any specific medical condition

CommentID: 223573

6/4/24 4:53 am

Commenter: Anonymous

risk of serious adverse events

"FDA has warned consumers not to use kratom because of the risk of serious adverse events, including liver toxicity, seizures, and substance use disorder (SUD) "
<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/public-health-focus/fda-and-kratom>

CommentID: 223574

6/4/24 4:55 am

Commenter: Martine Dingman

Kratom

I do not support criminalizing kratom. It helps me with pain. It got me to stop narcotics 2 weeks after having total knee replacement.

CommentID: 223575

6/4/24 4:56 am

Commenter: Josh

Kratom helped my life tremendously.

I've had extremely bad anxiety/social anxiety to the point to where I'll literally make myself physically sick and it messes with my work ethic. I don't want to talk to anyone, I can't pay attention to directions because I'm constantly worrying about what's going to happen next. Kratom completely drains out my anxiety, I have perfect customer service now and I don't mind having a conversation with anyone. I have a clear head and can think clearly when im not stressing myself out every hour on the hour. Not only has it helped my lifestyle tremendously, but it's also helped my work ethic and put a constant flow of good money for my family. If this was to turn illegal I would be back in my old shell, not wanting to talk to anyone, and just drowning myself in depression from anxiety. I've tried anti depressants and narcotics for my anxiety and neither work, but kratom works tremendously!! I hope everyone reading this has a great productive day! :)

CommentID: 223576

6/4/24 4:57 am

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

Commenter: Blake

6/4/24 5:02 am

Kratom benefits Virginians

Kratom is natural plant matter with extremely mild effects and should not be criminalized. Its benefits to society are numerous and it has restored the quality of life of millions of Americans and Virginians. There is simply no good reason to ban this plant other than to protect overpriced pharmaceuticals with harmful side effects. Please do the right thing and keep this miracle medicine available.

It's important to note there has never been any death associated with raw kratom use. The only medical emergencies are when mixed with other illicit drugs which cause overdoses on their own without any help from kratom.

CommentID: 223577

Commenter: Jay P

6/4/24 5:03 am

The kratom proposed legislation in VA

This is ludicrous. Putting a docile plant I've used harmlessly for 15 years daily in the same category as heroin etc. is silly. It has improved my life tremendously. I quit smoking a pack a day, and drinking at least 30 beers weekly. I don't smoke or drink anymore thanks to a minute amount of this mild plant.

CommentID: 223578

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 5:05 am

Kratom kills - CDC latest data shows 53 overdose deaths in Virginia involved Kratom

<https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/data-research/facts-stats/sudors-dashboard-fatal-overdose-data.html>

CommentID: 223579

Commenter: David b

6/4/24 5:07 am

Saves life's

Kratom helps me daily after two knee reconstruction surgery's one the same new at 30 years old

CommentID: 223580

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 5:09 am

Kratom manufacturers intentionally ignored any warnings from the FDA and DEA

Multiple lawsuits ongoing. Please place in schedule I

CommentID: 223581

119

Commenter: Patricia A Pomeroy

6/4/24 5:09 am

Kratom Ban, Virginia

Well I'll begin by saying I recently had a nasty hand injury and some nerve damage was done so I wouldn't be typing this now if not for this lovely tree and the natural pain relieving botanical known as Kratom. I'm 59 and on disability due to spine issues and neuropathy. I've been taking Kratom for approximately 4 years now and wish I'd known about this years ago. I am also a fully recovered opiate/opioid addict and have been totally successful due to my newly found pain relief. Pain relief it was got me in trouble years ago and I've struggled with addiction all of my adult life until I found Kratom. About a year ago I had an incident with my dog and the leash and landed flat out on the concrete and my right knee took the most of it and I'm undergoing test on it now to determine if surgery is a possibility. If not for this safe and effective pain relief I wouldn't have been able to get up and around and am struggling with it even at this moment yet I am able to move about freely. I'm asking with respect and with kindness to please allow me as well as countless others to continue to use this without boundaries attempting to come about by law. I'm in Wva and was fortunate this state scooted by last year and the ban was not a success and now I'm standing up for the state of Virginia. If this becomes a crime in Virginia it makes it easier to pass the ban in other states as well. I've gone to bat for every state since I've have started turning to Kratom for my pain relief and I'll continue to stand up for every state where help is needed in the future. I also suffer extreme anxiety and have gone as far as neuro feedback on my brain but to no avail. Kratom keeps me calm and I'm able to remain calm in difficult situations and go out and about to live and interact in a normal state of mind. It's been a life changing experience for me and I'm asking in all sincerity to please allow our lovely tree to remain legal. I thank you very much for your time and pray to God that the decision is made based on honesty and fact and may God have his will in the guidance of all those involved. Once again I say thank you for allowing me to come forward with my story. Love and peace be with you??????

CommentID: 223582

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 5:11 am

LIBERTY for ALL. Do not trust the pharmaceutical industry.

The valid risks associated with kratom use far outweigh the potential benefits to our society. The opioid epidemic has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives and has negatively impacted the lives of countless others.

"In the United States, there were approximately 109,600 drug-overdose-related deaths in the 12-month period ending January 31, 2023, at a rate of 300 deaths per day. From 1999 to 2020, nearly 841,000 people died from drug overdoses, with prescription and illicit opioids responsible for 500,000 of those deaths. In 2017 alone, there were 70,237 recorded drug overdose deaths; of those deaths, 47,600 involved an opioid. A report from December 2017 estimated that 130 people die every day in the United States due to opioid-related drug overdose. The great majority of Americans who use prescription opioids do not believe that they are misusing them."

Of the treatment options available to opioid-dependent people, kratom is one of the safest and most accessible options. The active alkaloid in kratom is not a true opioid, but an entirely different type of substance that mildly affects opioid receptors in the body, thus mitigating withdrawal symptoms, but with far fewer side-effects and less risk of long-term dependence compared to other commonly recommended treatments. I have personally known people who claim that KRATOM SAVED THEIR LIVES.

Some people have valid concerns about the overall safety and efficacy of kratom. However, as previously stated, the benefits outweigh the risks significantly. More importantly, the scheduling of this substance at the Schedule 1 level will DIRECTLY IMPEDE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. It is not impossible to conduct scientific studies on Schedule 1 substances, but the restrictions and

regulations often deter researchers from even attempting to do so. We will not be able to learn more about kratom's safety and efficacy if research is hindered.

WHO BENEFITS from the scheduling of kratom? The pharmaceutical industry directly profits from people's addiction to opioids. When people become dependent and want to quit, the available options for treatment happen to be other pharmaceutical drugs. The drug manufacturers win either way. Kratom directly affects their profits because it's safe, effective, and available. There is clear demand for it. But instead of conducting research on this clearly beneficial and potentially life-saving substance, the drug companies fight tooth-and-nail to have it made illegal. Why? BECAUSE ITS NOT ADDICTIVE ENOUGH FOR THEM TO MAKE MONEY OFF IT. Believe you me when I say they are salivating at the thought of making kratom illegal. If they succeed, we will see a huge spike of cases of opioid dependence and opioid-related deaths.

The "war on drugs" has been a massive failure since its inception. It has caused more harm than good. It's time to end this insanity. Choose education. Choose liberty. Choose humanity.
CommentID: 223583

Commenter: Devin James Fry

6/4/24 5:15 am

Kratom has supported me through the growth of my business.

I started using Kratom over a decade ago; stopping completely every fourth month, just like clockwork. This is how I avoid my body growing tolerant to its effects. During the periods when I am using it, I use the same small amount I always have on a weekly basis to manage the chronic back issues that plague a professional surgical instrument sharpener and musician — both of which activities encourage rather the opposite of good posture. Kratom has allowed me to avoid relying on the sorts of dangerous painkillers that have killed some of my heroes (Prince, Tom Petty) and continue to kill regular people all over America. I repeat: I use the same small dose of Kratom now as I did starting out ten years ago.

This plant has been nothing but beneficial for me, and I find the notion of making it illegal in Virginia ill considered in the extreme.

I have a successful small business, a fun music career, no debt, and no addictions. Kratom has without question helped me get here.

Devin James Fry

1275 Trenton St

Denver, CO 80220

719-201-4570

CommentID: 223584

Commenter: Jon

6/4/24 5:17 am

Keaton helps me

Kratom helps me stay off Xanax & pain medication for my many broken bones & panic attacks. I have used it for over 5 years with no problems sometimes daily. Please I need it to live a normal

life. Thanks Jon

CommentID: 223585

NO

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 5:18 am

kratom kills - support classification as a schedule I controlled substance

"A 2018 study by British scientists of 152 kratom-related deaths estimated that 23% of the victims died from kratom overdose alone"

<https://www.courthousenews.com/the-law-and-the-profits-inside-kratoms-political-underbelly/>

CommentID: 223586

Commenter: John Dobbs

6/4/24 5:18 am

Please do not criminalize this HERB as if it were actually a serious drug of concern!

Dear Legislative Body,

You have absolutely ZERO grounds, nor right, to criminalize the herbal supplement (kratom), or any of its primary active chemicals (i.e., mitragynine). I mean, do you TRULY believe that it belongs in the same class as EXTREMELY DEADLY drugs like heroin and methamphetamine? Have you taken leave of your senses? Are you simply ignorant of the facts, and getting swept away by the disinformation and hysteria being manufactured and stirred up by the FDA and police organizations all over the country? Are you really in the pocket of big pharma, as everyone already believes? Or, are you just on yet ANOTHER power trip?

The truth is that myself and COUNTLESS others have been SAFELY and RESPONSIBLY taking kratom for YEARS on end, and guess what? We are still just average, normal, ordinary, run of the mill, productive members of society. We do NOT deserve to be made criminals for medicating ourselves (for pain, depression, anxiety, all of the above) with a LIFESAVING herbal supplement that is the ONLY thing keeping so many of us off of actual, REAL drugs and alcohol.

It's PAINFULLY obvious that the right thing to do here would be for all of you up at the capital to help pass legislation that regulates kratom and protects consumers from mislabeled and/or adulterated products. THAT would be an example of you doing your ACTUAL job instead of overstepping your legal mandate to protect the people that you SERVE. PLEASE do that right thing—or do nothing at all—but do NOT criminalize your constituents for trying to make their lives better.

Thank you very much for your time.

CommentID: 223587

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 5:19 am

Kratom helps people

I cannot imagine what my life would be like if I was still consumed with anxiety and depression, like I was before I found Kratom.

please reconsider this..

CommentID: 223588

Commenter: Wednesday ForestBear, 101 Kratom and Botanical

6/4/24 5:20 am

We are against the scheduling of kratom plant matter and alkaloids.

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Thank you for reading my response.

I'd like to start by saying I used to work in the medical field. Now I work helping people quit opiate/alcohol addiction by using kratom. I've been doing this for years and have seen thousands of lives saved. Thousands of NOW everyday productive members of society saved. Scheduling kratom will kill more people than you could imagine.

Don't take their safe natural medicine away.

CommentID: 223589

Commenter: Christopher Stvartak

6/4/24 5:23 am

In support of responsible kratom use by adults

I find kratom to be an effective and mild supplement to aid in relaxation. The evidence supports the conclusion that it is considerably less dangerous than alcohol and tobacco, which statistically cost society far less in terms of injury and addiction. I am not a conspiracy-monger but have concluded that, in this case, the pharmaceutical industry is genuinely advocating against kratom solely for the sake of their own profits; the artificial alternatives they offer are higher-priced, less effective, and have more severe side effects than kratom, which is used traditionally in some countries without a history of significant health or social problems. The proposed kratom ban is a solution in search of a problem and is a not sensible for the government to pursue. Many states have enacted, or are considering, acts to ensure that kratom is safe and available only to adults, again like alcohol and tobacco, which are more dangerous, and I encourage the Virginia legislature and responsible agencies to do the same. Thank you.

CommentID: 223590

Commenter: Richard

6/4/24 5:26 am

Kratom saves lives

This amazing leaf in the coffee family alleviates my pain.

CommentID: 223591

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 5:26 am

15 million users in the United States yet no real study to prove it is safe or effective?

"Pinney Associates earned at least \$152,000 in 2017-18 to produce pro-kratom science"

<https://www.courthousenews.com/the-law-and-the-profits-inside-kratoms-political-underbelly/>

CommentID: 223592

Commenter: Joshua Mon

6/4/24 5:31 am

Kratom saves lives

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Saved me from alcoholism and meth use disorder 4 years of use and negligible side effects. Also improves my mental health. If alcohol can be legal kratom definitely should be

CommentID: 223593

Commenter: MR. T

6/4/24 5:34 am

Kratom saved me from a relapse

After 7 years of sober living a head injury put me back in the sites of big pharmaceutical companies. Instead of going back on prescription medication, the same prescriptions that left me dead from an overdose 7 years prior. I use Kratom for my headaches and migraines and nothing else. I don't drink, I don't smoke, I'm able to hike with my wife and dogs. I have a life I wouldn't have without Kratom. If Kratom was banned I don't know where I would turn for relief.

CommentID: 223594

Commenter: Jason Heflin

6/4/24 5:35 am

I oppose scheduling kratom's active ingredients

I respectfully request the Board deny this petition. Scheduling these chemicals would effectively outlaw kratom in the commonwealth, which would harm Virginians. Many people in the Commonwealth exercise use kratom to manage pain, as an alternative to opioids, and as an alternative to alcohol. There is no good evidence that kratom is harmful, but there is very good evidence that opioid use and alcohol use pose substantial risks. Scheduling these substances will put Virginian's lives at risk. I respectfully request the Board deny this petition.

CommentID: 223595

Commenter: Carol

6/4/24 5:35 am

Kratom saves lives every day.

Kratom needs to be legal. It saves people's lives. It helps with pain, anxiety, depression and even helps people stop taking opioids.

CommentID: 223596

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 5:36 am

Keep kratom legal

In 2012 I began having pain all over my body. I saw a number of doctors to try and figure out the cause of the pain. I had numerous tests done, blood tests, MRIs, bone scans and x-rays. None of the doctors I saw could figure it out. They started me on morphine extended release and hydrocodone. I would go in for periodic tests and still no cause was found. This went on for 3 years. In 2015 I was suddenly diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. I moved and started seeing another doctor for my thyroid, and the diabetes. Around that time I discovered kratom. I was able to get off of the morphine and hydrocodone and feel normal again. I still had pain but it was much more tolerable and I didn't feel off like I did with the other medications. In 2018 I had picked another doctor closer to where I live and explained my symptoms from the start and she easily explained that I had diabetic neuropathy. I got my blood sugar and A1C in check and my pain went away and I stopped taking the kratom in ~2020. I'm certain there may be other people like me, with

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Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

unexplained pain for years who try to do the right thing by seeing doctors and don't have answers for their pain for years like I did. Don't take away this safe alternative for people.
CommentID: 223597

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 5:36 am

I do Not support this petition!

Hi, I'm here to tell you that I do not support this petition! Kratom has very much so saved my life and countless others!

CommentID: 223598

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 5:38 am

Increased calls to poison control show it is dangerous.

660 calls to poison control between 2010 and 2015. In 2022 poison control received 1278 cases related to kratom.

CommentID: 223599

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 5:42 am

I don't support this bill, kratom helps people, it's a natural plant that helps with pain and other.

Save kratom

CommentID: 223600

Commenter: L. Waldron

6/4/24 5:45 am

Replaced four prescription medications that had dangerous side effects

I spent thirty years of my adult life misdiagnosed with fibromyalgia, when I actually had seronegative mixed connective tissue disease (autoimmune disease, with symptoms of lupus and rheumatoid arthritis, as well as antiphospholipid syndrome).

For ten years of that time, back when doctors were handing out opiates like candy, my doctor had me taking Lortab, Soma (muscle relaxant), Tramadol, and Ambien. All at the same time. Every single day. Can you imagine??

In frustration, I eventually weaned myself cold turkey off of all four. I replaced them with Kratom, and it was a night and day difference.

Eventually, I found a Rheumatologist who pushed for answers (because I was seronegative, it took advanced testing to figure out what was wrong...I owe that doctor my life). And now that I have the correct medications for my disease, I have been able to wean almost entirely off of kratom. But before I was adequately treated, kratom made the difference for me between being a good wife and mother, and being a helpless, useless, crying ball of pain.

Please listen to people who are telling you to at least give a listen to the science behind kratom. It saves lives (and quality of lives).

You are welcome to e-mail me for more information about my experience.

https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409

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6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

And finally, I will add, that we will never travel to or through Virginia if this law is passed. And we are a high net worth family who travels and vacations often.
CommentID: 223601

Commenter: Andrew Chamberlain

6/4/24 5:46 am

Keep Kratom Legal

Studies have been done by the American Kratom Association that unadulterated Keaton is safe to use. I can personally say from using it off and on for 6 years that it's not something that's addictive or gets you high. Kratom helps give an energy boost as well as some pain relief that traditional medicine won't work for. I've personally never had any negative side effects from taking it. I believe that there is no reason for Kratom to be made illegal.

CommentID: 223602

Commenter: Peter Steele

6/4/24 5:49 am

Kratom saves lives

With an out of hand fentanyl epidemic caused by government. Kratom can and will save lives. Been using Kratom for 7 years. Used responsibility with age requirements this is a safe natural and healthy product if saving lives is your goal.. Keep Kratom legal for the well being of your citizens.

CommentID: 223603

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 5:51 am

Support Making Schedule I - Uphold Common Good

Prioritizing the classification of kratom aligns with responsibility to promote the health and well-being of our community and safeguard the dignity of every individual

CommentID: 223604

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 5:52 am

Support for Classification

Classifying kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance would restrict its availability and mitigate the risks of addiction and harm to individuals and communities.

CommentID: 223605

Commenter: Chris Bowen

6/4/24 5:52 am

Kratom saves lives

I would very much appreciate it if you left natural remedies such as kratom alone. I know you are probably all paid to push synthetic medicine but you should leave natural remedies alone. Thanks for letting me comment.

CommentID: 223606

https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409

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Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 5:53 am

support regulating kratom as a controlled substance

By regulating kratom as a controlled substance, we can prevent the exploitation of vulnerable individuals who may be misled by false claims about its safety and efficacy.

CommentID: 223607

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 5:56 am

support classification of kratom as a Schedule I

support classification of kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance, as a temporary measure until the FDA can regulate it aggressively under existing food guidelines or outright ban its use

CommentID: 223608

Commenter: Kevin Delane

6/4/24 5:57 am

No ban

I do not support a ban

CommentID: 223609

Commenter: LA Morris

6/4/24 5:59 am

Do NOT Classify KRATOM as Schedule 1

Please do not schedule kratom as a schedule 1 substance! I am 66 years old and have suffered from severe migraine headaches most of my life. Doctors have put me on anti-seizure medicines, antidepressants, beta blockers, none of which worked. And I have been put on narcotic pain relievers, which worked for a while, but then I needed too many for it to help, and made me too drowsy. Now I take one teaspoon of Kratom a day with no ill side effects and it helps!! To just remove this helpful herb without hearing from the people it helps is unreal and hardly democratic. I have heard so many stories from veterans with PTSD, people recovering from serious addictions, and others suffering from fibromyalgia, back injuries, and on and on, and they are all helped by taking Kratom. We are not talking about irresponsible young people here, but upstanding citizens who cannot lead a normal life without it. These are people who do not want to be on chemical concoctions. Kratom is a natural herb that has been taken safely by indigenous cultures in Southeast Asia for thousands of years! Please consider this request. There are many of us out there who will suffer without this natural herb. I have consumed Kratom for four years without side effects. Please read this article n New York Magazine with testimonials from people it has helped: <http://nymag.com/scienceofus/2017/01/the-intriguing-therapeutic-potential-of-kratom.html>

=====

10 send to any petition:

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I am 71 years old and have suffered from severe migraine headaches most of my life. Doctors have put me on anti-seizure medicines, antidepressants, beta blockers, none of which worked. And I have been put on narcotic pain relievers, which worked for a while, but then I needed too many for it to help, and made me too drowsy. Now I take one teaspoon of Kratom a day with no ill side effects and it helps!! To just remove this helpful herb without hearing from the people it helps is unreal and hardly democratic. I have heard so many stories from veterans with PTSD, people recovering from serious addictions, and others suffering from fibromyalgia, back injuries, and on and on, and they are all helped by taking Kratom. We are not talking about irresponsible young people here, but upstanding citizens who cannot lead a normal life without it. These are people who do not want to be on chemical concoctions. Kratom is a natural herb that has been taken safely by indigenous cultures in Southeast Asia for thousands of years! Please consider this request. There are many of us out there who will suffer greatly, even to the point of desperation without this natural herb. I have consumed Kratom for 14 years without side effects. Please read this article n New York Magazine with testimonials from people it has helped: <http://nymag.com/scienceofus/2017/01/the-intriguing-therapeutic-potential-of-kratom.html>
CommentID: 223610

Commenter: Keith Pascucci

6/4/24 5:59 am

Kratom saved my life

I cannot begin to imagine where I would be without this miraculous botanical. It has helped me handle severe pain from Degenerative Disk Disease for the last 12 years. I have been utilizing this tea since 2011. I successfully stopped all OTC meds that were quite literally killing me slowly. My health is the best it's ever been and I am now 51 years old. Please do not criminalize Kratom. In it's plain leaf form it is so beneficial to me. Thank you.

Keith Pascucci

CommentID: 223611

Commenter: Ariana Benn

6/4/24 6:01 am

Keep Kratom Legal!

As a child I witnessed addiction firsthand as my father was a severe alcoholic which eventually led to his early death. I am hypersensitive to addiction and would not tolerate it in my household. My husband has safely and responsibly used Kratom for the past 7 plus years. It was recommended to him by a friend that saw how much pain he was in. Thank goodness! Neither of us are a fan of taking prescription pain killers on a daily basis. Those are the real gateway drugs! Kratom has helped him with horrifying bone on bone knee pain (both knees). Our surgeon told him that most people with his x-rays come into his office in a wheelchair. That is how bad his knees were. But the surgeon told us to wait as long as we could because my husband was only in his late 40's at the time. He inherited his bad knees and did physical labor most of his life. Kratom helped him get through life with less pain so that we could save and plan for much needed knee surgeries. He has since had double knee replacements and now strictly uses Kratom to get a good night's sleep. Helps him so much! You should be focused on how to help people acquire and safely use Kratom instead of trying to ban it. But it is a NATURAL plant, and the POWERFUL DRUG COMPANIES own our government, so unfortunately, I get it. Such a shame! Do the right thing! KEEP KRATOM LEGAL! Maybe someone in your family could benefit from Kratom? Thank you for your time and consideration.

CommentID: 223612

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Commenter: Shannon

6/4/24 6:01 am

Saved my Life

After getting into a car accident and being GROSSLY overprescribed meds by my doctor, I became heavily addicted to opiates. My doctor prescribed pills and fentanyl patches to me for seventeen years, then abruptly cut me off. After seventeen years of being a functioning addict - I had a career, a successful household with a husband and two children, I ended up going to a methadone clinic and being exposed to street drugs while there. I lost EVERYTHING. I ended up going cold turkey off methadone and "street" drugs. Six months later, I could still hardly function due to extreme pain from the 20 year old car accident injuries and also due to the damage I suffered from taking opiates for so long. Then I read about KRATOM and decided it was worth a try. I am now functioning, rebuilding my life. I am working again and bought a house and car. Please don't make KRATOM illegal.

CommentID: 223613

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:02 am

Kratom's lack of warnings make it unsafe for Virginia

kratom's lack of warnings regarding drug interactions or adverse effects on medical conditions, including pregnancy, which has been linked to neonatal abstinence syndrome. This disregard for public safety is deeply troubling and cannot be ignored.

CommentID: 223614

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:04 am

a controlled substance in 16 countries

recognize that kratom is a controlled substance in 16 countries, banned in several states, and listed by the DEA as a Drug and Chemical of Concern

CommentID: 223615

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:06 am

Support this - 2017 salmonella outbreak linked to kratom sickened 199 individuals across 41 state

In 2022 the FDA admitted its inability to trace manufacturing or production information to the recalled kratom products, leaving consumers at risk of unknowingly exposing themselves to harm

CommentID: 223616

Commenter: Cory Barnes

6/4/24 6:06 am

Kratom helped my illness

Dear sir or madam,
I had the opportunity to testify at the hearing for LB972 for Stateof Nebraska. . . It was my first time at the Capital. Thus, i forgot to mention additional thoughts.

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https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409

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6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

I'm reaches out to Senator Blood. Of most of the Senator's, I was impressed with her questions and seemed open to making sure she was educated on the subject before making a decision on a Bill.

I began by acknowledging I have bipolar and am i very embarrassed to talk about it do to all the stigma. I also acknowledge im a user of kratom which has helped my racing thoughts. I do not use drugs or drink alcohol. Im highly functioning and successful. Kratom has helped me immensely. Thus i believe Kratom has value and should not be dismissed. I would like to put a natural grown plant in my body rather continuing taking pharmaceutical lab created pills.

What I neglected to mention as a consumer of Kratom. Im a huge advocate to strict testing, labeling and regulations. My concern about making kratom a criminal offense. As a person who is law abiding, this could make me a felon by taking a plant that has changed my life.

Please vote for regulations and not create needless felons.

Thank you for your time.

Cory Barnes

CommentID: 223617

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:07 am

In support - a temporary measure until the FDA can regulate it under existing food guidelines

either regulate it aggressively under existing food guidelines or outright ban its use.

CommentID: 223618

Commenter: Sharon Thompson

6/4/24 6:08 am

I'm a RN kratom has saved lives including my own.

I have been taking kratom for over 10 years. It has helped my anxiety and depression. I'm a RN and if you take this herb responsibly it can be very helpful. Do not schedule this herb. It is no different then people taking cannabis. In my opinion it is less harmful than cannabis.

CommentID: 223619

Commenter: Shannon Esbrandt

6/4/24 6:08 am

Kratom saves lives

Exactly like the title. I do not support this ban. Kratom helps and is not dangerous.

CommentID: 223620

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:09 am

It acts like an opioid

https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409

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In 2022 alone, the CDC reported a staggering 909 fatal overdoses involving kratom, 53 (2.1%) in Virginia

CommentID: 223621

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:10 am

DO NOT BAN

Kratom can and has helped so many.

CommentID: 223622

Commenter: J Bourke

6/4/24 6:10 am

STOP THE KRATOM BANI!!!

It's not just the pain relief that's a godsend, but the mood boost that makes it so I don't need harmful pharmaceuticals. I take one at a time and almost never take more than that. This stuff is AMAZING!!!!

CommentID: 223623

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:10 am

I oppose making Kratom illegal

I oppose making Kratom illegal. I have used it for almost ten years now and live a perfectly healthy productive life. Restrict its availability to minors but not to those 21 and older.

CommentID: 223624

Commenter: Heidi Elliott

6/4/24 6:10 am

I am against the regulation of kratom.

I am fully against the regulation of kratom. To do so would cause much greater harm than it would benefit. Millions of responsible adult kratom consumers would suffer and the millions that have not discovered how kratom can benefit them will suffer. I urge you to not make a decision that will harm the responsible people living full lives with help of the natural god-given supplement, kratom. Please do REAL research and stop falling for the drama of the media.

CommentID: 223625

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:11 am

Kratom saved my life

Banning this substance would be a step in the wrong direction for the future of the United States. Land of the Free. Let Kratom remain!

CommentID: 223626

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:11 am

As a resident of Virginia, I do not consent to making kratom illegal in Virginia!

Kratom is saving lives!

CommentID: 223627

Commenter: D. D.

6/4/24 6:12 am

Kratom

Please leave Kratom alone. It is NOT a problem. Don't make it one. It helps so many of us. It is pain management that is safe and effective.

CommentID: 223628

Commenter: Joshua Garcia

6/4/24 6:13 am

Kratom Helps Endless

Kratom helps a lot of people. It seems the state should focus on helping rather than hurting people. Do something good for once by nothing at all.

CommentID: 223629

Commenter: Jennifer Wenninger

6/4/24 6:17 am

Kratom is saving lives!

In the midst of this opiate crisis and terrible response to it, people with chronic pain are having their medications reduced or cut off altogether. Kratom has been a lifeline to these neglected and forgotten people. Many people with chronic pain are suicidal now and have no hope. Kratom has been a safe and effective way for them to find hope and live a life with reduced pain. Please do not classify it.

CommentID: 223630

Commenter: Scars

6/4/24 6:20 am

Kratom saved my life

It helped this chronically hurting man get off lethal pain pills. My doctors approve of my consuming kratom, and I've had no side effects.

CommentID: 223631

Commenter: April

6/4/24 6:24 am

Kratom saves lives!

Kratom is one of the best things that could've ever happened to the USA. It is saving lives every single day.

CommentID: 223632

Commenter: Anonymous

Keep kratom legal

Don't schedule Kratom, keep it legal

CommentID: 223633

6/4/24 6:26 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Do not make Kratom illegal

This healing herb is helping save millions of lives by keeping them away from heroin and fentanyl. Don't help the cartels destroy our nation.

CommentID: 223634

6/4/24 6:27 am

Commenter: Alex

Helps with neurological disease

I purchase kratom from a company in Virginia. Please keep kratom legal, it has helped me with chronic pain and keeps me cognitively sharp despite existing neurological disease.

CommentID: 223635

6/4/24 6:27 am

Commenter: Josh Fitzer

KRATOM SAVED MY LIFE

When anti-depressants weren't working and nothing else was working, I tried Kratom and it worked wonders for my mental health. I was severely depressed and Kratom came through and helped to lift me out of despair. It would be a great disservice to the wonderful folks in Virginia and the rest of us in the USA to criminalize Kratom. It literally saves lives.

So, please don't criminalize this life saving product.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

— Josh Fitzer

Minneapolis, MN

CommentID: 223636

126

Commenter: Kim

Kratom helps people

Kratom helps people

CommentID: 223637

6/4/24 6:27 am

Commenter: Matt G

Risk vs Benefits

I've been using Kratom for 8 years now, it's helped me immensely. Please consider studying the benefits and ways it can help relieve effects of the opioid epidemic before throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

CommentID: 223638

6/4/24 6:28 am

Commenter: Thomas W. Blanton, III

Why Kratom is good for me

I have been using Kratom for seven years. It helps to alleviate aches and pains naturally. I am 61 years old and it helps to keep me productive. I have a job which is strenuous, but I believe I can keep working into my eighties.

Thank you for your consideration.

CommentID: 223639

6/4/24 6:29 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Do not criminalize kratom

Many of us have escaped deadly circumstances and regained our lives thanks to this leaf. It's shameful that many in our leadership are so eager to leverage fear and ignorance to criminalize legions of veterans, senior citizens and upstanding, productive members of society while maximizing profits for manufacturers of actual deadly drugs (who demonstrably created much of the real problem). Amongst the many consequences will be more overdose deaths and the overnight creation of felons from some of our finest citizens.

CommentID: 223640

6/4/24 6:30 am

Commenter: Allyn

Ban it now

The Kratom extract sold under various brands for example OPMS Kratom needs to be banned immediately! It is a destructive highly addictive substance. I have been trying to get off of it for at least 5 years and it's hard to shake it. I would rather be prescribed medication than this crap. It says nothing on the label about it being addictive. And the smoke shops are more than happy knowing you are addicted and will keep selling it to you. I had a stroke caused from Kratom intoxication about 6 years ago. I can produce proof. It has drained my bank account. When it was taken off the shelf the first time, it was a relief. I practically quit it until an injunction was filed and it was allowed back on the shelf. Then the spiral started again. The smoke shops sell these bags of

6/4/24 6:31 am

lower doses of Kratom but a person I know real well who works at Tobacco Hut said those are more or less kept for show. Everybody buys the exacts. The more addictive one. Please and I repeat PLEASE. Get this stuff off the shelves. People are dying from this mess. It needs to go before any more harm comes to anyone else

CommentID: 223641

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:32 am

It is an opioid. - place in schedule 1

As we confront the opioid epidemic that continues to ravage communities across our country, it is imperative that you take decisive action to address one of its insidious contributors: kratom

CommentID: 223642

Commenter: Jordan

6/4/24 6:33 am

Keep it legal

I am 30 years old. Kratom has saved my life. I have a wife and two kids. I have never been so happy. I also have my own landscape business. Never thought I would get to where I am today.

CommentID: 223643

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:34 am

There is no evidence that kratom helps with IBS - place in schedule 1, no medicinal use

It acts like an opioid, with all the associated risks and adverse effects

CommentID: 223644

Commenter: Amy Wike, Kratom Consumer

6/4/24 6:34 am

Kratom is a life saver

I first found this leaf in 2017 and it's been working wonders since that first day. I've just celebrated my 5 year anniversary back at work after having been bed bound for a year. There is no comparison to its benefits. I had been on pain meds for several years prior and I was able to come off those meds with the help of this leaf.

Sit down with the unbiased science and learn a few things. #3Es #Educate #Enlighten #Encourage

CommentID: 223645

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:35 am

Saved my life

After 3 back surgeries in a matter of 5 years I was on 3 pages worth of medication. I'm now only taking my tea and one other medication for pain. It gave me my life back. This isn't a schedule 1 drug. Not by any means.

CommentID: 223646

Commenter: Shaun Clark

6/4/24 6:36 am

Don't criminalized kratom!

Kratos helps with my hip pain. It's a great alternative to narcotics and it drastically improves my daily life.

CommentID: 223647

Commenter: Ricky Blount

6/4/24 6:37 am

Why kratom should stay legal

Psalms 104:14 says that God provides us with "herbs for the service of man." And for being about a country who's supposed to be about god we sure don't follow his ways. Kratom has helped me overcome addictions and it's helped with certain illnesses. It's working the exact way god intended it to be used for and the fact yall are trying to label gods creation dangerous and not mans creation says enough of how much evil is in this nation. Kratom itself should NOT be illegal. But the extra stuff gas stations vendors cut it with should be illegal. Yall should do more study on it before you try to label it on the same level as heroin because it's NOT even close to heroin. Thank you and god bless ??

CommentID: 223648

Commenter: eric voorhies

6/4/24 6:40 am

kratom

do not ban kratom. it is not dangerous. no one has ever died from a kratom overdose. it is very mild and can help people feel better. I use it twice a day for my PTSD and it definitely helps me. please keep kratom legal! thank you!

CommentID: 223649

Commenter: Tondya

6/4/24 6:40 am

Kratom Gave Me My Life Back

I have been a daily Kratom user for 7 years. I suffer from multiple health issues that involve pain including Endometriosis and Degenerative Disc Disease. Before learning about Kratom I could not function on a daily basis without controlled pain medication which over years only caused worse problems. Since I started using Kratom I am able to control my pain without issues of addiction an can function and live a normal life again. Also, before I found Kratom I had become severely depressed and no longer deal with that either. Please do not take away the life I have been given back with a Natural Leaf!

CommentID: 223650

Commenter: Sam Andras

6/4/24 6:40 am

~~~~~Please don't ban Kratom ~~~~~

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

I was an addict for many years and without kratom helping me with the anxiety left after getting clean I couldn't make it. Please DON'T ban kratom as it helps so many people just like myself.

I am however in favor of passing the kratom consumer protection act, which helps regulate safe product and packaging.

Thank you????

#kratomlives

#KeepKratomLegal

#plantsoverpills

CommentID: 223651

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:41 am

kratom kills - over 1200 calls to poison control in 2022

67 cases involved a patient less than 5 years old

CommentID: 223652

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:43 am

Do not support the ban

Kratom has helped so many people and animals. It's helped people get their life back when they cannot afford pharmaceuticals. Do not add it to schedule 1. It is nothing like the chemicals the government has, nor does it have the crippling side effects.

CommentID: 223653

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:43 am

Banning kratom is a step backwards

It's very simple — kratom has proven to be a very safe remedy and its free and open access is incredibly important for pain patients who wish to stay off of dangerous prescription pain medication.

I hope the Board of Pharmacy's memory isn't so short that it forgets the devastation laid from opiates, and many of those addicts are successfully treating their addiction and abstaining from prescription opiates with kratom.

The War on Drugs is an utter failure. Kratom hasn't killed anyone, and it's safe to consume as it's been legal and available in America for a decade at this point. The "kratom deaths" reported are extremely suspect, with many other substances in the deceased's blood.

Save kratom alone.

CommentID: 223654

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

24/7/750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Commenter: Kim mccarthy

6/4/24 6:44 am

Stop the change

This should not be changed

CommentID: 223655

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:44 am

"Deaths in Colorado Attributed to Kratom"

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc1811055>

CommentID: 223656

Commenter: Karen Newman

6/4/24 6:47 am

Kratom has helped me tremendously

I have many different ailments from joint pain to stomach issues, rheumatoid arthritis too many to list. I felt very defeated. Kratom has eased my symptoms keeping me from starting narcotics. Please leave the law the way it is.

CommentID: 223657

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:47 am

"FDA warns companies selling illegal, unapproved kratom products..." - ban it now!

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-warns-companies-selling-illegal-unapproved-kratom-products-marketed-opioid-cessation-pain>

CommentID: 223658

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:48 am

Kratom saves lives!

Kratom saved me from taking pain medicine and depression meds. I don't know where I would be without it! I have noticed no side effects. Please keep this natural and safe alternative legal.

CommentID: 223659

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:49 am

Kratom saved my life

I unfortunately had an accident resulting in a brain injury. I was put on multiple pharmaceutical medications to help me recover and to control my anxiety & depression after my accident. I was having seizures. I couldn't drive anymore. My doctor eventually diagnosed me as antidepressant resistant. Meaning all 3 classes of antidepressants didn't work for me. After a couple of years of

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

248/750

different therapies, I was told by my neurologist my brain would not improve any further. I had 2 little kids at home and couldn't take care of them without a ton of help from my husband. This diagnosis was completely unacceptable to me. Therefore, I decided to take my recovery in my own hands. That's when I found Kratom. I was able to completely come off all pharmaceuticals that I previously couldn't handle the withdrawals from. My pain was greatly reduced. My depression, anxiety and anger all went away. But most of all, my seizures stopped. I am in a much better place now than I was even before my accident. I owe my life to Kratom. My children have their mommy back because of Kratom.
 CommentID: 223660

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:49 am

Schedule I now - no legitimate medical use for kratom in the United States

"The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved any kratom uses—though the FDA, NIDA, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continue research to better understand kratom. What research has discovered, as of now, is that some kratom products contain contaminants, including heavy metals and harmful bacteria."

<https://americanaddictioncenters.org/kratom/dangers>

CommentID: 223661

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:51 am

Do not consent

Kratom has saved many lives , it isn't probable cause to ban something just because people want to misuse and do other things with it, please do not ban it!

CommentID: 223662

Commenter: Emily Boatright

6/4/24 6:52 am

Kratom saved me.

I was in active addiction with Suboxone and meth. Kratom gave me my normalcy back. It's apart of the coffee family. The government is doing this ban for big pharma and IT SHOULD BE STOPPED.

CommentID: 223663

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:54 am

Do not consent

Kratom has been a life savor dealing with chronic pain as the healthcare system and insurance has failed a lot of us in this regard.

CommentID: 223664

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:57 am

Kratom: Unsafe and ineffective per Mayo Clinic - BAN IT NOW

Per the Mayo Clinic
<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/prescription-drug-abuse/in-depth/kratom/art-20402171>

CommentID: 223665

Commenter: Rebecca Jamin

6/4/24 6:58 am

Keep kratom legal and safe

Banning pure lab tested kratom powder will put more people at risk health wise. Pure lab tested kratom powder is safe when consumed RESPONSIBLY.

I oppose this amendment

CommentID: 223666

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:58 am

It's just a plant

Kratom has saved me from having to take so many prescriptions. It's a plants that helps ppl and the pharmacy is mad because they can't benefit from it.

CommentID: 223667

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:58 am

"Dad found dead in living room after using kratom, lawsuit says. Jury awards family \$2.5M"

<https://www.thenewtribune.com/news/state/washington/article277595083.html>

CommentID: 223668

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:00 am

"Kratom-Associated Fatalities in Northern Nevada"

"This opioid extract has not been subject to clinical trials, and furthermore, marketed kratom products are not controlled or standardized for extract potency. Furthermore, it is unclear whether its stimulant effects at low doses could play a contributory role in the death of individuals with cardiac disease, or potentially be sufficient even to cause cardiac arrhythmia without underlying heart disease. Until this drug is regulated and standardized, and access to it controlled, deaths due to its effects will continue."

https://journals.lww.com/amjforensicmedicine/fulltext/2021/12000/kratom_associated_fatalities_in_northernnevada.aspx

CommentID: 223669

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:02 am

Make Schedule I - urgent need for decisive action!

2017 salmonella outbreak linked to kratom sickened 199 individuals across 41 states, underscoring the urgent need for decisive action

CommentID: 223670

Commenter: Valerie Smith

6/4/24 7:03 am

Kratom has been a positive treatment

Kratom has been one of the few natural remedies for joint pain and anxiety. I have tried conventional medicine and it does not work as well. I understand that it can be abused and regulations may be needed. I stay away from extracts and simply have two 1/2 tablespoons of the green powder a day (6 years). No issues. Please don't outlaw because there are a few abusers out there without common sense and self control.

Valerie Smith

CommentID: 223671

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:03 am

Make kratom a controlled substance

Based on other comments in the forum, kratom has the potential to be beneficial in a medical setting, but keeping such a strong sedating drug over-the-counter is dangerous. Some people will take advantage of drugs no matter what, but limiting access keeps the population safer. There are worse drugs out there, so why ban kratom before oxycodone or fentanyl?

CommentID: 223672

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:04 am

Do not turn a blind eye to the suffering caused by kratom - Classify as Schedule I

please act with urgency and resolve to protect the vulnerable among us from its harmful effects

CommentID: 223673

Commenter: Amy Brewer

6/4/24 7:05 am

Those who serve and have PTSD fought for our right to decide for ourselves

I am a mom of 3, and responsibly take Kratom for my anxiety, and it helps with my ADHD and concentration. Please consider the many service members that have to live with what they have seen and what they have done, because that is who needs this plant the most. P. S. Please start looking into arsenic in organic baby food instead.

CommentID: 223674

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:09 am

CDC - Kratom Linked to 152 Overdose Deaths in 2016-2017. In 2022 in is 909

Please make schedule I now

<https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-news/kratom-overdose-deaths-821579/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/data-research/facts-stats/sudors-dashboard-fatal-overdose-data.html>

CommentID: 223675

Commenter: Nikky kawa

6/4/24 7:10 am

Kratom has been a huge help to many. It helps many conditions,very light drug should be legal.

Please leave the Kratom be. It doesn't make people act out it helps people. Most people that take it for a condition, one wouldn't even be able to tell.

CommentID: 223676

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:13 am

Disabled veteran given life again by kratom

To whom it may concern, in 2007 in the height of the war I was severely injured while on active duty. I was 19 years old. A child still. Upon returning home I was unable to walk properly, and put in a long term med unit for recovery. There I was given pain meds until ultimately I was discharged from service. The next 5 years the VA had me on heavy pain medication, which started to become a habit (90 pills would last me 5 days and I was taking via nasal inhalation. I found myself living my entire life around finding more pills. My breaking point was losing my jobs, my spouse, my home. I was done. I wanted to be. However I was so hooked that I had both a mental and physical barrier to stopping, plus I really was still in pain every day. I was so desperate that I turned to Google. I read about kratom. How bad could it be, look what I've been doing to my body! It gave me life again. I've been taking it since. I purchased a new home, got married, had 2 beautiful children. I'm no longer in crippling pain, I no longer hate my life. Banning kratom will create more addicts and suicides.

CommentID: 223677

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:13 am

I support Schedule I. kratom has no therapeutic benefits and dangerously addictive

Please do the right thing and make this schedule I

CommentID: 223678

Commenter: Tyler VerVynck

6/4/24 7:13 am

Kratom is a live saver, it is not a schedule 1 narcotic.

Like many other I used kratom to help me get off of heroin/fentanyl. When suboxone and methadone both didn't work, kratom did. I am now completely sober and live a life I would never be able to have without the help of kratom. don't let these ignorant people lie to you, kratom is a life saver. After years of using kratom I suffered no withdrawal and my blood work came back perfectly healthy.

CommentID: 223679

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:15 am

"\$11 Million Awarded to Family of Woman Who Died After Taking Kratom"

<https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2023-08-01/11-million-awarded-to-family-of-woman-who-died-after-taking-kratom>

CommentID: 223680

Commenter: S. Jacobs

6/4/24 7:16 am

The Science

I ask that the board follows the scientific data and not the outdated and incorrect claims of the FDA, or the unsupported claims of others. Please refer to the latest scientific data and you will understand why making it a schedule 1 is absurd.

CommentID: 223681

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:16 am

"Multi-State Salmonella Linked to Kratom Supplements"

<https://www.illinois.gov/news/press-release.15447.html>

CommentID: 223682

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:16 am

Cancer survivor here. Kratom saved my life

Kratom saved my life. Please don't add yet another controlled substance to the list for the failed war on drugs. As a cancer survivor kratom has literally helped me stay alive. Please don't do this.

CommentID: 223683

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:16 am

Maryland's Kratom Consumer Protection law is the answer

It's the adulterated unregulated substances that's being supplied unregulated is the problem. I have used Kratom successfully for 4 years for my rheumatological autoimmune condition (I'm 74). I have never experienced anything but a relief from inflammation, No "high", no sedation, no diminished capacity.

The Maryland law requires Kratom strains to be certified lab tested.

Here is more on the Maryland law:

Maryland has enacted a Kratom Consumer Protection Act (KCPA). The bill, known as House Bill 1229, was introduced during the 2024 Regular Session and was subsequently passed. Here are the key provisions of the KCPA in Maryland:

Definition of Kratom Product:

A "Kratom product" is defined as a food product or dietary ingredient marketed for human consumption containing any part of the leaf of the plant *Mitragyna speciosa*.

Retailer Responsibilities:

Retailers (including manufacturers, wholesalers, stores, restaurants, hotels, and other food or drink companies) that prepare, distribute, sell, or expose for sale a food represented to be a kratom product must:

Disclose on the product label the factual basis on which the representation is made.

Ensure that the kratom product complies with the disclosure requirement1.

Prohibited Actions:

Retailers may not prepare, distribute, sell, or expose for sale any of the following:

A kratom product that is adulterated with a dangerous substance other than kratom.

A kratom product that is contaminated with a dangerous substance other than kratom.

A kratom product containing a level of 7-hydroxymitragynine in the alkaloid fraction that is greater than 2% of the alkaloid composition of the product.

A kratom product containing a synthetic alkaloid, including synthetic mitragynine, synthetic 7-hydroxymitragynine, or any other synthetically derived compound of the kratom plant1.

Age Restriction:

The KCPA also prohibits the sale of kratom to anyone under the age of 212.

In summary, Maryland's Kratom Consumer Protection Act aims to ensure transparency, safety, and accurate labeling for kratom products. ??

CommentID: 223684

Commenter: Gabrielle

6/4/24 7:16 am

I do not support this legislation. Total overreach. Keep Kratom Legal & Safe.

The portrayal of kratom in the news media, & by a relatively small portion of the population that is in favor of a ban, has been unfair & inaccurate. I've been a consumer for years.. why is it that I'm able to lead a healthy, productive, fulfilling life if kratom is so bad? Am I simply an exception? I think not. Keep kratom legal & safe. Do not leave the door open to a black market that will almost certainly be the result of a ban on kratom.

CommentID: 223685

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:17 am

Zero Proven Deaths. Cures Alcoholism & possible solution to the opioid epidemic

Typical big pharma squashing effective natural remedies. Don't set a dangerous precedent by scheduling a plant. Stop reading Facebook and doom headlines. Speak to actual users in your community.

CommentID: 223686

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:17 am

Banning Kratom will make the opioid epidemic worse

Many people take kratom to help decrease withdrawal symptoms when they are trying to overcome addiction by quitting street drugs. Kratom helps decrease symptoms, without making the person high.

Kratom can also help with chronic pain and fatigue, giving people ask alternative to turning to stay drugs. This allows them to be functional members of society.

For both of these reasons, banning kratom will worsen the epidemic of people using illegal narcotics.

CommentID: 223687

Commenter: Patrick
Kratom Legality

6/4/24 7:17 am

I've been a Kratom user for over 15 years to help with scoliosis. All Scheduling will do is force users back into the black market to aid their conditions. How about our politicians focus on the two wars, a possible felon becoming our president and how the middle class is struggling mightily. Instead, they focus their energy, lobbyists money and time on ensure their lobbyists get their pay back from big pharmaceuticals.

CommentID: 223688

Commenter: Michael Ferguson

6/4/24 7:19 am

Kratom Allows Me To Be A Contributing Member of Society

Making Kratom a schedule one drug would be the grossest miscarriage of justice to happen in quite some time.

I've been using Kratom for years now as it's helping me to stay off harder drugs like methadone and Suboxone. These pharmaceutical versions of heroin are impossible to live a normal life on. If Kratom is taken away, you will be losing me as a functioning, tax-paying member of society. I will go back on all forms of public assistance available to me out of necessity.

Kratom keeps money out of big pharma's pockets; that's the ONLY reason anyone cares about it. Kind of suspicious that all the anti-kratom comments on here are anonymous posters submitting

CommentID: 223689

132

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:19 am

Kratom in Overdose Deaths in the US - Support Schedule I Designation

From July 2016–December 2017, 152 decedents tested positive for kratom on postmortem toxicology (kratom-positive) and in 2022, 909 decedents tested positive for kratom.

<https://www.drugpolicyfacts.org/node/3978>

CommentID: 223690

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:20 am

Kratom is a game changer in my life.

Kratom helped me get off narcotics and helps my chronic pain.

CommentID: 223691

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:20 am

No evidence that Kratom Cures Alcoholism. Make schedule I now

" FDA continues to warn consumers not to use any products labeled as containing kratom "

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-announces-seizure-adulterated-dietary-supplements-containing-kratom>

CommentID: 223692

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:21 am

Support the ban

Kratom has significant drug drug interactions even with cod which results in harm and overdose death. It can also cause significant harm on its own due to the need for escalating doses.

The industry group American Kratom Association and their affiliated scientists are not afraid to lie in public. However the same scientists have admitted under oath that kratom causes death and is an opioid.

CommentID: 223693

Commenter: Gary Thordarson

6/4/24 7:25 am

Changed all the bad to good

I have osteoarthritis. I was addicted to painkillers. I've been working a rotating shift the last 20 of my 62 years. Pills and straight whiskey killed my pain. My then, drug addicted, son found kratom and shared this wonderful leaf with me. Both of us quit opiates. Since then I have quit drinking. Then I quit smoking after having smoked for 50 years. Then I quit Copenhagen. My blood tests have all fallen into the green. My cholesterol went down. My A1C went down. BP went down. My son is still drug free and sober. I've had both my shoulders totally removed and replaced and I did that without opiates. Just ice packs and this life saving leaf. Kratom has saved my life. Saved my son's life. And now it's saved my brother in laws life who has finally gotten away from vodka. Don't let the lies fool you into judging against this miracle leaf. It saves many lives and without it a lot of people will die because of street painkillers. If anything should be banned, alcohol should be. Look how many millions die of alcohol. Yet nothing is done. That alone should show you this is just a ruse. If it was about your safety, they'd take alcohol n cigarettes sway. This is monetary driven by Big pharma. Kratom cuts into their market and gets people off the drugs being prescribed and living better lives because of it.

CommentID: 223694

Commenter: Stephen Patrick Doheny

6/4/24 7:25 am

Do not expand prohibition again chronic pain patients

To whom it may concern,

I recently found out the state of Virginia legislation is attempting to make life even harder for a portion of the population that suffers in constant agony. People who can already barely function with the extensive tool bags for management of their chronic illnesses. To act to steal a tool like kratom from those bags abhorrent. It amounts to the same ignorant cruelty the led to people like delegate Miller from Manassas mocking the idea of cannabis being used to treat children's epilepsy before he lost his seat. Do not hurt the small businesses that provide it, the patients who rely on it or add a new drug to the illegal unregulated market. Do not kill innocent people out of a misguided sense of saviorism.

Thank you,

Stephan Doheny

CommentID: 223695

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:27 am

Support this ban until the FDA can regulate

contaminated products harming consumers is unacceptable

CommentID: 223696

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:27 am

Do not make Kratom illegal

I work with a number of veterans that have used Kratom to treat their PTSD, depression and anxiety. This has allowed them to live functional and well adjusted lives. I have had chronic pain for years and do not want to take opiates, with Kratom I have been able to reduce acute pain to a tolerable amount. There is no need to criminalize Kratom, it will make research more challenging,

and put in jeopardy many lawful well adjusted members of society. The amount of prescription pain users would go up significantly.
CommentID: 223697

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:29 am

Retired special education teacher benefits from Kratom

I discovered Kratom about 5 years ago. It not only improves my mood and pain level but is an easy to use supplement added to coffee or tea. I grew up in Virginia Beach and lived in Williamsburg as a young adult before moving to Maryland as a teacher of the deaf. I have seen and heard so many testimonials from people who benefit from Kratom as opposed to illegal and dangerous substances to ease their pain. I know it has made a positive difference for me as a grandmother on the go. Thank you for your attention.

CommentID: 223698

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:30 am

"Parents sue over son's death after he took kratom supplement"

<https://apnews.com/article/health-business-lawsuits-georgia-us-food-and-drug-administration-46027961c11d27c3cee56c547a4a1664>

CommentID: 223699

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:30 am

Kratom - Useful and access should be a right.

Kratom has been a useful botanical for which I have utilized for nearly 9 years. I am a 49 year old working professional, a Manufacturing Designer and CNC programmer, whom had massive cranial reconstruction nearly 2 decades ago after an accident where my fibula bone and blood supply (arteries) were used to replace the front of my skull (forehead), frontal sinus, brow bridge, and a plastic shelf replaced my orbital socket, called fibular flap procedure. While I have been put back together by one of the best in the world thanks to modern surgery skills, it has been a challenging path forward with some residual complications ever since. After nearly a decade of struggles, I stumbled upon kratom and it has improved my path forward ever since.

Kratom, plain leaf only, has aided me in remaining a productive member of society, and for that I'm forever grateful. It helps me to be the closest thing to normal, allowing me to continue working and being a productive member of society. It has allowed me to continue going to work every day, where I produce exemplary results in a challenging field.

I have used for pain management without the negative results I had with prescriptions. Again, it gets me the closest to baseline normal compared to anything else I tried, prescription or otherwise. There are a lot of rumors and misconceptions surrounding kratom, but plain leaf, unadulterated kratom has little to no side effects, no recreational uses, and helps countless globally. Again, I have used it for 9 years to improve my quality of life.

We the people, in a free country, should have the right to pursue and make use of natural options as they pertain to our own health. Unadulterated, plain leaf kratom is not something to be demonized. After 9 years of use, I feel that I can confidently speak from authority on the benefits of kratom as it pertains to my life and well being.

Please do not allow for this plant to be unjustly criminalized do to inaccurate and wrong information. Plain leaf kratom is not the problem and people who benefit from it should be entitled to access to it without being criminalized. In my case it has improved the quality of my life and allowed me to continue working and being a productive member of society. Please do not allow this to be taken this away from people like myself. The consequences could cause me to be unable to work and become a burden on society. This is certainly not ideal and not how I wish to finish the remainder of what should continue to be my career. I love my work and with continue doing so.

Thank you for taking the time to read my plea to maintain access to plain leaf kratom.

-Matt Dixon

CommentID: 223700

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:30 am

The comments in favor of a ban are all coming from the same small group of extremist activists with

These people have taken it upon themselves to make it their life's mission to see that kratom is banned. It is quite bizarre seeing as how kratom is, while effective in helping to manage a cornocopia of ailments, rather benign in its effects. Their negative experiences/opinions regarding kratom are outweighed "heavily" by those of us who have positive experiences with kratom.

CommentID: 223701

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:30 am

Kratom saved my life and saves people daily.

I owe my life is Kratom. I am in my late 60's. I have never taken illegal substances throughout my life. I am in chronic pain from a congenital Spondylololsthesis. Spondylolsthesis is a spine condition where a vertebra slips from the vertebra below. Kratom has given me my freedom back. I am able to play with my grandchildren, walk, bend over without feeling like I have taken a pharmaceutical. Kratom does not make me feel intoxicated at all. I am so thankful for this and honestly, I am not sure where I would be without having the freedom Kratom has given me back.

CommentID: 223702

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:31 am

"Maryland man's death linked to kratom; herbal substance center of heated debate"

<https://www.wmar2news.com/news/local-news/investigations/maryland-mans-death-linked-to-kratom-herbal-substance-center-of-heated-debate>

CommentID: 223703

Commenter: Kathryn West

6/4/24 7:31 am

Please Do Not Ban Kratom Based on Incorrect Information

I am a 45-year-old mom from New Jersey. I have been suffering from back pain in one form or another for 15 years. I have tried physical therapy, exercise, TENS units, epidural and other steroid

injections, acupuncture, medication, chiropractors (briefly), and massage. I've had CTs and MRIs. I've seen half a dozen doctors. While they think they know the source, nothing has helped resolve the pain or issue in those 15 years. Except kratom. I tried it out of sheer desperation in a lot of pain, every day. I would wake up in pain, suffer pain after trying to clean or do work around my home, play with my kids, and go to bed in pain most nights. Until kratom, I was pretty sure that was going to be my life. Chronic pain, no answers, no help. When I tried kratom as a last resort, I didn't expect the complete relief of my pain to the point I was in tears. It was like a miracle. For the first time in years, I could actually do things without hurting constantly. I have been using it*as needed for at least 7 years because it works. Just like I drink coffee every day because it helps me wake up and it's enjoyable to drink, I take kratom in pill form and marvel every day at how a little leaf could be such a wonderful thing for pain sufferers like me.

PLEASE do not ban it in your state. PLEASE do not take it away from people like me who have found it to be the only answer to pain besides opioids.

Because I've been there. I took opioids for years because I had to work and couldn't do so in pain. I had no choice. Guess where it got me? In withdrawals when I was cut off by a doctor with no alternative, no taper. I would gladly stay on kratom as it has no overdose potential and is not making me a drug-dependent zombie. Opioids/painkillers are no longer an option for me. Being a constipated zombie with a glazed-over look in my eyes, people noticing how out of it I am on painkillers? No way. Never again.

I would fight tooth and nail to keep it legal, render its sale and production safe at every level, and make it available to the adults who choose it to help with many debilitating and chronic conditions. It's not just for pain sufferers. It's for alcohol dependence, withdrawals from opioids, PTSD, anxiety, depression, and Parkinson's disease, and there are probably more applications it hasn't even been studied for yet because it is, for some unknown reason, demonized. You cannot overdose on kratom. You gauge your level and that's what you take, once or twice a day. There's no reason to overdose it. It works so well on a daily basis that it would be counterproductive to abuse it. How do you get more pain relief without feeling high? And you don't get high. I've been taking it responsibly for 7 years or more, because nothing else works. Literally, and I have never had to use more than my allotted amount based on my height and weight and the strain of kratom I use. It is impossible to abuse something that doesn't give any other euphoria than having no pain where there once was pain. Please understand that those who use this leaf, a natural leaf, are not abusing or hurting themselves. It's as natural as drinking coffee or taking St. John's Wort or ginkgo biloba.

I would also like to say that if this is banned in your state, many, many people will have nowhere to turn. They will have to use illicit drugs or go back to the opioids kratom was helping them remain free from. They will become zombies chemically and psychologically dependent on drugs that are also very limited in their prescribed amounts and will probably have to live in pain again. I can only imagine that many of them will not be able to take it anymore. I understand limiting opioid prescription and use, because that absolutely has the potential to be abused. But taking something away from people that isn't being abused, is safe, has science backing its use and safety, it will leave many with no other choice. I don't know what I would do. I have to be here for my kids and my family, but being in chronic pain every day will be miserable. I might be bedridden for much of my time because what I could do when the pain was gone, I will no longer be able to do without giving in to the agony. Your back is an integral part of how you move, sit, stand, and lay down. Without pain relief for that, I'm very close to crippled. I'm only 45 years old. I am not overweight or out of shape. But for some reason, my back didn't get the memo and it's been a problem that threatens to shut me down every day without kratom. I am thankful every day that I found it. I am grateful every day for those who sell it so I can use it. I am immensely grateful to those who grow it overseas and distribute it to America legally. Please do not shut down businesses that safely operate and employ so many people. This means jobs, it means a living, it means a lot to those who need kratom.

I am hoping my words and the words of others like me who speak passionately and with years of safe use of kratom behind us will reach those who need to hear it. Listen to the AKA and other

organizations who have researched, drafted legislation, worked tirelessly to ensure that kratom remains legal and safe and isn't sold to those who are underage or incapable of making that decision for themselves. We are capable, though, and we know what we're doing. That's why you're seeing so many responses that may seem desperate and upset at this proposed ban. It means an end to something that is close to a miracle for those who need it. Please do not take that away based on false information. The science speaks volumes. The faithful users who are still here to speak about kratom speak volumes. Please listen and understand. A ban, instead of the KCPA or legislation to make sure it is safe to buy and use, will have a ripple effect that could not possibly be foreseen and will affect so many lives and livelihoods. Please reconsider this. Please target only those substances that are proven to be unsafe and have abuse potential. We are begging. Thank you for your time.

CommentID: 223704

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:31 am

" U.S. Parents suing over son's death say he left behind a to-do list: "Stop taking kratom""

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/kratom-lawsuit-ethan-pope-death-georgia/>

CommentID: 223705

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:33 am

"Studies link kratom to overdoses and seizures Lawsuit says New Castle man died..."

Studies link kratom to overdoses and seizures

Lawsuit says New Castle man died of kratom overdose

<https://www.wtae.com/article/kratom/46894629>

CommentID: 223706

Commenter: Jenee Patterson

6/4/24 7:34 am

Do not ban Kratom

Not banning kratom is crucial because it has proven to help many individuals manage chronic pain and overcome opioid addiction. Kratom, a natural plant, acts as a less harmful alternative to prescription opioids, providing relief without the high risk of overdose or severe addiction. Many users report significant improvements in their quality of life, allowing them to function normally and regain control over their daily activities. Banning kratom could remove a valuable tool for those seeking to live healthier, addiction-free lives.

CommentID: 223707

Commenter: Ainee

6/4/24 7:34 am

Kratom saved me

Kratom allowed me to stop the use of pills and go back to living a normal life. I was able to eventually reduce my use of kratom instead of having to depend on it like i was dependent on pills.

CommentID: 223708

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:35 am

Against Kratom Ban

FDA recently declined to testify that kratom is dangerous. Banning kratom is not a fact or science based decision. Most states are moving to regulate kratom (make sure minors are not buying it, etc.). Banning it means millions upon millions of people who use kratom for a myriad of issues would not travel to and enjoy your great state. Tennessee overturned their ban. Why is Virginia not looking at the facts? Please consider the far reaching impact on the state and your residents that need kratom. Thank you

CommentID: 223709

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:35 am

Make Schedule I - Get this trash out of Virginia

It's trash and its dangerous. Ban it please

CommentID: 223710

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:37 am

Ban this if you will not regulate this

Everybody deserves to know that the products sold in Virginia have been proven safe. If you can't ensure the safety, make schedule I

CommentID: 223711

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:38 am

Retired special ed teacher finds benefit

I failed to mention that I only purchase Kratom from one company which sells product as ruled by the Kratom Protection Act.

CommentID: 223712

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:39 am

Kratom is safe and effective and should remain legal

Kratom should not be criminalized. It has been a life saver for many people struggling with addiction. It is also great for pain management and can also be useful for people with mood disorders. Making it illegal will take away an inexpensive natural remedy that helps many people improve their quality of life. Like most natural medicines, big pharma wants to make them illegal because it cuts into their profits.

CommentID: 223713

Commenter: Brian

6/4/24 7:39 am

MAKING KRATOM ILLEGAL WILL KILL PEOPLE

Kratom has quite literally saved my life. Without it i would continue to be in and out of institutions unable to support myself and my family. I have finally found stability after 2 decades of self destruction. Its the only thing i have found that works that i dont abuse. Please dont take this away from me!

CommentID: 223714

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:40 am

I support this as a schedule I drug

Treating SUD with an unregulated product is dangerous and leads to harm

Kentucky family warns against drug kratom after loved one's sudden death on Easter

<https://www.wlky.com/article/kentucky-kratom-drug-death-easter/60484303>

CommentID: 223715

Commenter: Tyler

6/4/24 7:40 am

Kratom legal

Keep Kratom legal it has given me my life back. Also for the people who say it poses serious health risks what about alcohol?? It doesn't do anything but damage you yet you consume it and keep it legal.

CommentID: 223716

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:41 am

Kratom is dangerous and deadly

53 deaths involving kratom in 2022

CommentID: 223717

Commenter: Cheryl Scher

6/4/24 7:41 am

Safe, Effective and Life saving

I'm a 60 year old female who has been using this miraculous leaf for over 6 years. I suffer from Chronic fatigue syndrome and Kratom is the only thing that allowed me to get my life back without harsh side effects, addiction potential or any other negative problems. I also deal with anxiety and depression but just like the fatigue, everything is well under control. So many people have been misled by this leaf it would be criminal to make this leaf illegal. Regulate via the KCPA, absolutely but please keep my leaf legal. Thank you for listening to my story

CommentID: 223718

Commenter: Debbie Ferrell

6/4/24 7:41 am

Keep crying legal

TN mama here do not classify and criminalize the use of kratom I suffer with several health issues this plant is nothing but a blessing to many

CommentID: 223719

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:41 am

serious health issues

Research shows that kratom use can result in serious health issues such as liver toxicity, seizures, and respiratory depression. The CDC reported a 10-fold increase in calls to poison centers regarding kratom exposure from 2010 to 2015, underlining the public health risk

CommentID: 223720

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:42 am

highly addictive - ban it

Evidence from case reports and user surveys indicates that kratom can lead to addiction and dependency. A study published in the Journal of Addiction Medicine found that 9% of kratom users met the DSM-5 criteria for a substance use disorder, highlighting its addictive potential

CommentID: 223721

Commenter: HT

6/4/24 7:42 am

Against this law

I have take kratom everyday with my coffee. I have chronic pain so I took pain pills prescribed by doctors 10 yes ago. I got highly addicted to the pain pills & ended up in prison. When I hot out I found kratom & it was a life saver for me. It reduces my pain tremendously & it does not make me feel high like pain pills did in the past. I do not feel like a worthless drug addict using kratom. Please consider regulating kratom just like alcohol or cigarettes. I would support that

CommentID: 223722

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:43 am

Make schedule I - no accepted medical use

The FDA has consistently stated that kratom has not been proven safe or effective for any medical use

CommentID: 223723

Commenter: Sherry Owings

6/4/24 7:43 am

Kratom saved me and millions of others.

I'm 61 and I have been taking kratom for over 6 years. I was in a wreck 37 years ago that damaged me for life. I was on 26 different medications. I found kratom and it changed my life 100% for the better. I am no longer all drugged up from all the pain pills. I am pain free without that high. I can function in life again. My anxiety is gone. I lost 100lbs because I have mind enough to make better choices.

Please keep kratom league.

Thanks for reading

CommentID: 223724

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:44 am

Ban Kratom - significant health risks

serious health issues such as liver toxicity, seizures, and respiratory depression. The CDC reported a 10-fold increase in calls to poison centers regarding kratom exposure from 2010 to 2015, underlining the public health risk

CommentID: 223725

Commenter: Stan Rudacil

6/4/24 7:45 am

Kratom is safe

I, my wife and my son all take Kratom and have been for five years with no, NO, side affects. My wife and I take it for arthritis, my son for wounds in Afghanistan, without it we cannot get anything done.

This is a natural, unadulterated plant leaf. leave it alone. Don't make us criminals!

CommentID: 223726

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:45 am

63 times more likely to kill you than other OTC products.

Studies link kratom to overdoses and seizures

Lawsuit says New Castle man died of kratom overdose

<https://www.wtae.com/article/kratom/46894629>

CommentID: 223727

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:46 am

Protect the rights of Virginia Kratom consumers

The fact is Kratom helps so many people, and criminalizing it will just hurt those people. I'm a recovered opiate addict and I used opiates for 10 years. When I got clean 6 years ago it was a struggle, I had debilitating anxiety. I tried prescription drugs and nothing they gave me worked well at all. Then I found Kratom. Kratom gave me my life back, I've been clean off opiates for 6 years and free from the anxiety that almost had me relapsing for 2 years. Please do not criminalize Kratom.

CommentID: 223728

Commenter: Long term consumer

6/4/24 7:46 am

Consumer of kratom for well over a decade-clean bill of health

As the title states, I've been a kratom consumer for going on 11 years now & I am in tip top shape. Mentally, physically, and emotionally. Blood results always come back perfect. Absolutely no issues. Kratom is safe & effective for the vast majority of people. Keep it legal.

CommentID: 223729

Commenter: Michael Evans

6/4/24 7:47 am

Kratom saves lives

Kratom saves many lives if this plant gets banned y'all are gonna have a lot of ex dopefiens back door fienhfin.

CommentID: 223730

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:47 am

protect the health and well-being of Virginia

I support classification of kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance because I care about Virginia

CommentID: 223731

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:47 am

I'm able to walk without pain despite my arthritis

Kratom helps me manage my arthritic pain in both of my feet. I am a full time member of the workforce and I work hard every single day. I used to just work despite my pain and difficulty walking when on my feet long periods of time. With kratom, I don't have the constant pain and I'm able to tackle each day without any issues. I have had nothing but perfect biometric results from my bloodwork. My doctor says I am a poster child for ideal health markers and there is nothing indicating that Kratom is detrimental or dangerous for my health. I am able to workout everyday and in addition to my health diet, I have zero issues now that Kratom helps with my arthritis. I ask that you take into account the vast majority of people who benefit from Kratom in helping deal with their health issues. There are many benefits to Kratom which comes from the same plant family as the coffee bean. Please do not act on the misinformation that is spread about this plant. Talk to the many people that implement kratom in their lives and the companies that are diligent about ensuring they are providing a quality product that changes lives for the better. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

CommentID: 223732

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:48 am

Ban it - grave threat to public health

denounce proponents of kratom use, who seek to defend its use through deception and manipulation

CommentID: 223733

Commenter: Sage Giles

6/4/24 7:49 am

Suicide attempts, no more since utilizing kratom

I have been utilizing kratom since 2015. In that time, I have no longer had suicide ideation or suicide attempts. This is the longest period of time I have gone since the early 90s without suicide attempts / ideation. This is just one of the many benefits I receive.

Please do not ban or schedule. It is vital to the health of many people.

Thank you

Sage Giles

CommentID: 223734

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:49 am

There is no evidence that Kratom is a safe or effective treatment for arthritis

the FDA's Public Health Assessment via Structural Evaluation (PHASE) methodology found no evidence to indicate that kratom is safe or effective for any medical use

CommentID: 223735

Commenter: Michele

6/4/24 7:50 am

Please do not make Kratom a banned substance or controlled substance in VA

Kratom is a natural substance. This is just a way for big pharmaceutical to take away a natural pain relief that some have found to be helpful for pain.

CommentID: 223736

Commenter: Mike W

6/4/24 7:50 am

Kratom fears cite same few misinformation sources

can see from the comments today that many of the concerns about kratom are coming from the same few misinformed news sources. In the cases where these sources it's "kratom linked to..."

death" if you dig into these case you will find that those people also had other drugs in their systems or had significant co-morbidities.

Cigarettes kill 13 million people globally every year. Alcohol causes death, destruction and violence every day. Marijuana, which can inhibit one's ability to drive, among other things, is legal in half the country and gaining. And what about opioids? Ah. Opioids. Powdered kratom leaves made into a tea have a similar effect as opioids, but are as addictive as coffee and simply not dangerous at all. That's why people use it to GET OFF of opioids like Purdue Pharma's OxiContin. Big pharma is terrified of this. "Oh no! A perfectly natural, harmless substance that helps people manage pain, and helps people get un-addicted from our products! What should we do!" Stop this nonsense. Kratom is harmless. Prescription opioids and Chinese fentanyl are the problem. Not kratom. CommentID: 223737

Commenter: Kara B. (Mama of 4 Kratom Babies & Kratom Advocate)

6/4/24 7:51 am

Please don't schedule I Kratom as a narcotic, this plant saves lives from Narcotics!

Making Kratom a Schedule I substance would be a huge mistake! I had failed back surgery in 2013 and I had been on prescription Oxycodone 20 mg SIX times a day and 100 mc/g fentanyl patches every 3 days. I also had Gastric Bypass which caused me a malabsorption issue. I took these medications as prescribed for years and just finally decided it wasn't worth it anymore because I'd be lucky to get an hour of relief, so the cons outweighed the pros for me. I found Kratom, it gave me my life back. I was also able to give birth to FOUR perfectly healthy, super intelligent babies who have always been advanced for their age! One is now 11, the best part is my poor babies didn't have to go through Neonatal Withdrawal Syndrome from all the poisonous opiates I had been on previously, as I used Kratom SAFELY, and EFFECTIVELY throughout all 4 pregnancies. I also had the easiest of labors and births, perhaps because of this plant.

CommentID: 223738

Commenter: Kate

6/4/24 7:54 am

Kratom is safe if used responsibly.

Please protect Kratom. It is safe if it is not abused. Stop letting the idiots who abuse it ruin it for those of us who take it responsibly to manage our pain, mental illness, and recovery from addiction. Teach moderation and regulate it. We had this same fight for years over marijuana, which has effects that are so much stronger than Kratom. Please do your research, people. The ones that abuse this stuff are ruining it for everyone else. People will abuse anything no matter if it's legal or not. That's why regulation and moderation are key. Thanks to Kratom. I was able to get off of hard drugs, go back to school and get my degree, and now I have an amazing job. I still use Kratom to manage my back pain and my overall anxiety from the trauma I experienced while on hard drugs. I've been taking it for almost 9 years in small doses and I have friends who have died from heroin that I wish I could have showed the miracles of Kratom and maybe they would still be alive today. Could I survive now without Kratom? Sure, if I had to I would. And I would still refuse to take pharmaceuticals to manage my life. I would adapt without needing anything but coffee, so making Kratom illegal still would not make me put any money in big pharma's pocket. But I think making it illegal will send a lot of people back to opiates and it would detrimental to society. Please teach people how to use this miracle plant responsibly. Making it illegal is just going to cause more problems than we already have.

CommentID: 223739

Commenter: Laura

6/4/24 7:54 am

Kratom should not be banned! It saves lives!!

I live with constant neurologic pain and sciatica. Without Kratom I would exist in agony and not want to live. Anyone that wants it banned is associated with big pharma! The FDA is owned by big pharma!

CommentID: 223740

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:55 am

pretending that 15 million use this product. Please schedule this garbage

Try to bury this in comments, pretending that 15 million use this product. Sad

CommentID: 223741

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:57 am

Support schedule I - Complications such as dependence and withdrawal also pose significant issues

with individuals reporting symptoms similar to those experienced during opioid withdrawal

CommentID: 223742

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:58 am

Big Pharma is against anything safe, natural and cheap

Been taking it 10 years. Zero ill effects of any kind. It's much safer for you than their synthetic drugs! The people who want to ban it know nothing about it.

CommentID: 223743

Commenter: Kate Tom

6/4/24 7:58 am

My body, my choice. Legalize all drugs

Nobody should have a say in what we choose to consume or do with our own bodies

CommentID: 223744

Commenter: Derek Leuw

6/4/24 7:59 am

Kratom

I've been using kratom for 7 years for pain there are no side effects and it's keeps me from having to take pharmaceuticals that have a bunch of negative side effects. My wife also uses it for the same reason. We are 54 and 65 years old and take no medication only kratom for our pains and also helps with social anxiety. I've known no one who uses it has any side effects. We don't want to have to take pharmaceutical drugs with many side effects.

CommentID: 223745

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:59 am

Against this schedule

Against scheduling of kratom wholeheartedly. This is a life saving plant demoralized by fear lingering and misinformation. Absolutely anything is negative if not used responsibly including water.

CommentID: 223746

Commenter: Zac Shiffer

6/4/24 7:59 am

Kratom is a Miracle Tree!

Hello,

Please do not ban Kratom, it is a Miracle Tree, and I do not say this lightly. I am a 42 year old man, in my early 30s, I went through a very difficult divorce and custody battle, and found myself with a bad anxiety disorder. Panic attacks, depression, and feeling like I was going to crawl out of my skin. I ended up with a prescription for Xanax and took it for 2 years, needing to dose right after waking up and throughout the day to be functional at my place of employment. Then I found Kratom through a friend and since that time, I have used this amazing plant to flat out cure my anxiety and depression almost entirely. I have not needed Xanax for years now, and use the ground up Kratom leaf as my medicine. I completely quit alcohol as well, not needing it's effects to subdue the anxiety or depression.

This leaf is nothing more than medicine for a lot of people. It has many health benefits along with keeping people off intravenous drug use, among many other things.

Banning this leaf would no doubt kill people and unnecessarily destroy lives in the process. Kratom is safe, and natural! Please do not take this away from everyone.

Thank you for your time.

Zac Shiffer

CommentID: 223747

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:59 am

Support schedule I for safety

Reports to the US Food and Drug Administration Adverse Event Reporting System from January 2004 through September 2021 concerning kratom amounted to 489 cases. Most common outcome is death

CommentID: 223748

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:00 am

potential for seizures, liver damage, renal failure, and psychosis

At higher doses, the risks become even more severe, with potential for seizures, liver damage, renal failure, and psychosis. These risks are significantly heightened when kratom is used in

conjunction with other substances, such as Fentanyl, Heroin, Benzodiazepines, and antidepressants, to name a few
 CommentID: 223749

Commenter: Daniel Andrews

6/4/24 8:00 am

Making Kratom illegal will criminalize innocent civilians.

I have family down in Virginia that I visit once or twice a year. I have been taking kratom for about 15 years now. It has done so much good in providing an alternative to alcohol (which almost killed me multiple times) and also in providing many benefits for my mental health. This plant can be miraculous when used responsibly and when used irresponsibly you just get nauseous and maybe vomit. The benefits vs. consequence ratio of this plant is almost entirely towards the benefit side. I am among thousands and thousands of people who have used this plant to improve the quality of life. If it is made illegal then I, and many others, will suddenly become criminals that could face felony drug charges for something that has already been widely available in this country. That is not a good outcome for anyone involved, except maybe the prison system and courts when they profit from the misfortune of others... Many states have done this dance before and kratom usually gets left alone. If you care about the stability and wellbeing of your citizens and tourist visitors then please just let the plant continue to be legal and start doing scientific research on it to actually learn more about it.

CommentID: 223750

Commenter: Mark Muller

6/4/24 8:03 am

Kratom is a Practical Pain Solution, Economical and Not Addictive

Kratom has been a great help to me, to manage the pain of migraines, and a crushed spinal disc. I am over 60 years old, and have been working with these issues for decades. For the last four years, I have been taking about two teaspoons (4g) of Kratom per day, one teaspoon every six hours, which provides roughly 12 hours of pain relief. The cost is low - less than \$200/year. Before Kratom, I would use hydrocodone, cyclobenzaprine (a muscle relaxer), and sumatriptan, as needed. Usually on a weekly basis. I still sometimes resort to those medicines, but only rarely now. Instead of once per week, I might use them once in 2-3 months, to handle a severe migraine, for example, because Kratom does not get rid of extreme pain. Kratom is not addictive. I can, and do, choose not to use it on any given day. There are no withdrawal symptoms - just the knowledge that if you don't take it, you may feel the pain, and if you do take it, the pain will go away, and you will have a general feeling of well-being. It is nothing like caffeine, for example, where you get headaches if you don't have a cup of coffee. You simply know that if you take the Kratom, the pain will go away and you can more easily get on with your day. There is very little motivation to abuse Kratom. It doesn't taste very good! Moreover, it's not like hydrocodone or meperidine (the two controlled substances that I've had experience with ...), where after a few doses a little voice in your head urges you to take more to feel even better. While I've never taken "too much" Kratom, my understanding is that you get jittery if you do - something like drinking too much coffee. For those that haven't used Kratom, it might be useful to compare it to caffeine and alcohol, which almost everyone has tried. After taking Kratom for four years, my experience is that coffee is substantially more addictive. That is, while you may have some mental desire to ingest Kratom or caffeine, you will have a strong physical need to ingest caffeine - and you will feel terrible if you don't. That doesn't happen with Kratom. Alcohol is even more addictive, mentally and physically. As to abuse, taking too much Kratom is about the same as taking too much coffee, and much less dangerous than taking too much alcohol. In short, Kratom is economical, and generally safe. As to abuse, about 20% of people don't respond to it, at all. On the other hand, many do respond, and it is very useful to the millions that take it on a daily basis to help make their lives better, and more easily manage pain. For most, it means they don't have to resort to hydrocodone, or some other

addictive, or expensive substance. Kratom can be abused, but as a society, we know that's true of just about anything. However, the abuse of Kratom is much less of a problem than other substances. And its benefits far outweigh any problems it might cause. Please take the time to look into the academic research on this substance, and even more important, listen to the voices of many that have daily experience with it. In fact, you can easily order it yourself, online, at very low cost. Try a quarter- to half-teaspoon of the powder in a small glass of warm water and see for yourself. Drink the powder/water combination like tea. Depending on your body weight, it might take as much as a full teaspoon. Start small and don't take more than a teaspoon if it's your first time. The effects are felt within 10-15 minutes. If you are over 50 years old, with the usual aches and pains, I think you will find it makes a substantial difference - for the better! Thanks for your kind consideration.
 CommentID: 223751

Commenter: Chris S.

6/4/24 8:05 am

Kratom saved me and others lives!! From OXYCONTIN & FENTANYL!!

Do NOT BAN OR SCHEDULE KRATOM!! It saved MY life, and MANY I know. got "hooked" onto unithathomable amounts of OXYCONTIN, Percocets, and Fentanyl- I/We are lucky to have found KRATOM. Haven't touched that BIG PHARMA POISON in years.... Stay out of OUR LIVES. We the people have FREEDOM . YOU PEOPLE IN GOVERNMENT ARE ALL FOR RESTRICTING OUR RIGHTS- until YOU FIGURE OUT HOW YER DONORS AND FRIENDS AND PHAMILLY can make \$\$\$\$.

HAVE YOU EVEN TRIED KRATOM??? No? Then leave it alone for those of us it helps to WORK AND PAY YOUR SALARIES!!!

CommentID: 223752

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:06 am

Support Schedule 1 - kratom causes psychosis

dependence and withdrawal also pose significant issues

CommentID: 223753

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:07 am

support this petition - safeguard the health and well-being

we cannot turn a blind eye to the suffering caused by kratom.

CommentID: 223754

Commenter: Nick

6/4/24 8:07 am

Keep kratom legal to save lives

We all know about the fentanyl crisis. If you outlaw kratom, which many people have used to get off of pharmaceutical opiates or street opiates, they will be forced to find street drugs and risk their lives.

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

This plant is harming no one! If you want a nice compromise, make the extracts illegal and leave the powder and capsules out of it.
CommentID: 223755

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:07 am

a temporary measure until the FDA can regulate it

ban it until you can regulate it

CommentID: 223756

Commenter: Daniel Habel

6/4/24 8:07 am

Kratom is great

Kratom has helped me tremendously with my anxiety please don't make something that helps illegal.

CommentID: 223757

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:08 am

advocate for the classification of kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance

protect communities from harmful substances

CommentID: 223758

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:08 am

Stop the criminalization of Kratom

Kratom has been a life saver for me. It helps control the pain that I suffer from every day

CommentID: 223759

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:09 am

ban this "harmless herbal remedy" killer

get this out of Virginia

CommentID: 223760

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:09 am

Kratom has saved my life--10 years later and no increase in dosage and rebound pain is gone

Kratom is anything but a schedule 1 drug. It has saved my life and so many others I know from a prison of opioid hell dealing with DDD. While I'll always have pain to fight kratom has made rebound pain is no longer an issue and my dose has never increased after 10 years plus bonus

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https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409

27/3/750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

effects~ I no longer get painfully sunburned and if I get stung by a wasp I'm not running for the ER or an EpiPen. It is an incredible plant helping many things so I think you'll be doing your community a grave disservice if you ban it. It needs more research done for all it's medicinal value.
CommentID: 223761

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:10 am

Criminalize those who poison our communities

Criminalize those who poison our communities with unsafe, unregulated products

CommentID: 223762

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:11 am

Support schedule I

with a sense of urgency and a profound duty to protect the health and well-being of Virginia citizens

CommentID: 223763

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:12 am

denounce the American Kratom Association - support this ban

shame on those who defend Kratom use through deception and manipulation

CommentID: 223764

Commenter: Jean

6/4/24 8:13 am

Please do NOT schedule kratom!

I have friends and family members who have used kratom safely for years. They use it for relief from pain, energy to get through the day, and to improve mood. I have never seen any negative side effects with the right doses, and in the case of an overdose, the user might get nauseated, constipated, a little on edge or sleepy. Most recently I've watched a close family member use it to endure the pain of healing from an injury where an hunting arrow went through his leg. He hasn't needed to use any other pain management, no narcotics or even NSAIDS. Please do not make mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine schedule 1! Kratom helps to save lives, not to destroy them.

CommentID: 223765

Commenter: Ward Blanchard

6/4/24 8:14 am

ban it so pharma can use it?

It's not a safety issue, its a matter of making money from it. The University of Massachusetts and Mississippi are doing research on it's pain relief and it's ability to help those who are addicted to Opioids. Eventually it will be fast tracked to sales. It's a matter of greed, safety.

CommentID: 223766

https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409

274/750

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:15 am

Make an evidence based decision...kratom is not a dangerous substance

Studies show that kratom does not pose an imminent safety risk. FDA uses false information to manipulate lawmakers into doing their bidding. Please look at this decision through the eyes of evidence and not on feelings and emotions.

CommentID: 223767

Commenter: Mike

6/4/24 8:15 am

Kratom works .. Why Criminalize it ? I say That is Bullshyt ...!

Kratom help on so many levels .. It is Not a Narcotic , Leave it alone .

CommentID: 223768

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:16 am

Kratom does NOT lead to psychosis. It helps people!

This is absurd and I imagine was left not in good faith. I have used this plant for years and it has never made me anything but relaxed. I am a combat vet and it has helped me where no pharmaceutical ever has.

I think even more importantly, it has helped people get off harder, terrible drugs. Drugs like heroin or drugs that the pharmaceutical industry itself pushed for years—creating so many drug addicted victims.

Nobody is out there dying from taking too much Kratom. That is all propaganda. If you happen to take too much you just get nauseous...that's it! Nobody is taking kratom and hurting someone else. Doesn't happen!

We have a genuine opioid crisis in the US and to take away the best way to fix that seems insane and heartless. Please have some compassion. Please look at this in a practical, scientific light. Banning kratom will do so much more harm than good.

CommentID: 223769

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:16 am

Kratom saved my life

I had been peddled big pharmacy opioids as a 14 year old boy by a trusted doctor after a severe sports injury. I became addicted to opioids before I even really understood what addiction was. For 15 years I struggled on and off with this addiction until I found Kratom. It's been almost 10 years now and, with a simple kratom tea drink with my coffee in the morning, I feel like I have control over my addiction, and can be a functioning member of society. Big pharma only cares about their bottom dollar, and kratom cuts into their profits by reducing opiate sales. Don't fall for the propaganda. Kratom is safe. No one is dying from kratom use alone. All kratom related deaths can be attributed to mixing it with other drugs, like opiates or alcohol. Keep kratom legal and safe so many lives.

CommentID: 223770

Commenter: Trevor M

6/4/24 8:17 am

Kratom Saves Lives- Solution to Opiod Epidemic

Kratom has helped save my life. I became addicted to narcotic pain pills and eventually heroin. With the help of kratom, I was able to transition away from all hard drugs/ alcohol and regain control of my life.

If you make this product illegal, it WILL push many addicts and people with chronic pain back to much more dangerous narcotic solutions.

There is NO reliable scientific evidence that kratom causes harm and it is literally physically impossible to die of an overdose (similar to marijuana). ALL reported fatal overdoses that have EVER been recorded, are a result of the consumption of other drugs at the time.

PLEASE do not push thousands of people back to street drugs with an ill-considered ban of this natural product. Thanks.

CommentID: 223771

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:18 am

Retired Police Officer, kratom is the least of our worries.

Comparing a consumer of kratom to real drug addicts is like night and day. Kratom consumers are responsible and accountable not to mention much more positively involved in their society and community compared to the squawking from fear mongers and Big Pharma shills. First hand accounts say research needs done, it's a medical marvel.

CommentID: 223772

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:20 am

Keep legal,benign plant.

Have used for years with no side effects.

CommentID: 223773

Commenter: Daniel Diamond

6/4/24 8:21 am

Kratom is beneficial

I suffer from back pain from the moment I wake up to the moment I get back in bed my back hurts sometimes the pain is so intense I have to stop what I'm doing and sit down I have tried every OTC pain med you can think know and if I'm lucky I will get 39 minutes of relief kratom gives 2-3 hours of relief!

CommentID: 223774

Commenter: Zadkiel Lukauskas

6/4/24 8:23 am

Kratom Saves Countless People From Opiate Addiction.

Kratom is an amazing and safe natural alternative for those like myself that suffer from chronic pain. I have an extra vertebrae and two reversed ones that cause me daily pain. I was crippled with three herniated discs for an entire year and became addicted to Vicodin in 2014. The Vicodin helped me be able to function enough to barely keep working but lost its effectiveness quite quickly unless I took more and more. After months and months of therapy I got better but remained addicted to the Vicodin. I read about different ways to quit Vicodin and opiate addiction online and first read of Kratom. I ordered some and tried substituting Kratom for the Vicodin and to my amazement I quit the Vicodin cold turkey and the Kratom two weeks later with zero withdrawals. A few years later my back went out again. I suffered for months without any pain relief other than upping my daily Naproxen intake until I happened to run across the Kratom I'd used a few years ago. I decided to try it for the pain and to my amazement it actually worked. I started taking it daily instead of Naproxen after reading of the deaths and liver damage caused by daily use of over-the-counter pain medication. Since switching to Kratom my quality of life has been improved beyond words. I've stopped taking it cold turkey several times with no withdrawals and recently had a full physical with blood work. All my labs came back amazing. Also I never have to increase my dose. Thousands of people are harmed and die from using over-the-counter pain medication let alone the millions from opiates every year. Why on earth would anyone want to ban a safe natural alternative to such harmful pharmaceuticals is beyond my comprehension. Please listen to the countless people like myself whose lives have been changed for the better with utilizing Kratom. Also please look into the science and history of safe usage by millions of Americans.

CommentID: 223775

Commenter: Erin Brandenburg

6/4/24 8:23 am

Kratom saved my life

I had two brain surgeries at the age of 16, which led to a dependence on opiate painkillers. That addiction cost me many years of my life in prison. The problem is that I have legitimate physical pain from the two decompression surgeries I had at the base of my skull. The pain is chronic and never really goes completely away. Kratom helped me get off of the fentanyl and dilaudid. And it also reduces my physical pain by about 75%. my quality of life without Kratom would be so poor that I'd have no reason to live. it saved my life and so many other peoples lives... Please do not support this ban.

CommentID: 223776

Commenter: Kratom Consumer

6/4/24 8:23 am

Making a mountain out of a mole hill

Kratom is the least of your worries. Keep it legal.

CommentID: 223777

Commenter: Kim S.

6/4/24 8:24 am

Not as powerful as coffee.

Kratom is in the coffee family and milder than coffee. Criminalizing kratom is as silly as criminalizing coffee. Alcohol and tobacco are highly addictive and poses extreme dangerous risks to health and should be criminalized. I have taken kratom for the last 12 years and I am 48 years old. My doctors can't get over how healthy I am for my age. Kratom is not addictive. It's the same as taking a multivitamin. It is a botanical. Do the science and stop assuming. It's silly.

CommentID: 223778

Commenter: JCM

6/4/24 8:25 am

Use Kratom for Depression & Anxiety

I found Kratom about 10 years ago when no other medication (antidepressants, anxiety meds, etc) helped my postpartum depression. I've been using it daily every day since. It is not addictive.

CommentID: 223779

Commenter: William Schneider

6/4/24 8:26 am

Kratom has proven a viable pain reliever

I have degenerative disc disease as well as Factor V Leiden (FVL). Because of the FVL, I'm unable to take NSAIDs for pain relief. Tylenol has no effect for me, and I would prefer to not be addicted to opioids. I discovered Kratom and have found that using it in a limited, measured amount, nightly, allows me to sleep without back pain. I have been using Kratom for this purpose for 2 years. Categorizing Kratom as a Schedule I product is an unnecessary step. Kratom, when used responsibly has no detrimental effects. I am strongly opposed to the Virginia Pharmacy boards request for inclusion of Kratom as a Schedule I drug.

CommentID: 223780

Commenter: Ian Magee

6/4/24 8:26 am

Do not support the criminalization of kratom!

Kratom helped save my life from an actual opiate addiction. Kratom literally helped me regain control of my mind after 3 years on suboxone and repeated relapses. I have not touched an actual opiate in over 6 years after 10 years of continuous opiate use. I have a clean bill of health, am not psychotic, and am currently in the best shape of my adult life. Kratom (a relative of the coffee bean plant) only acts on the delta opioid receptors in the brain; it does not activate mu receptors, which suppress breathing and can lead to nodding/overdose. This makes kratom a powerful tool in opiate withdrawal treatment because it alleviates cravings without causing a dangerous high; this is not the case for big pharma's opiate cessation treatments like methadone and buprenorphine - both of which are highly addictive and dangerous. PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PETITION!

CommentID: 223781

Commenter: Carol June King

6/4/24 8:27 am

Please stop outlawing natural remedies.

I am a 64-year-old woman who wouldn't be able to do home and yard work without kratom. I just experienced property damage from a tornado. I would not have been able to remove limbs and tarp my roof without using kratom to help with the pain. I have had two major back surgeries and require at least one more. I have never been addicted to anything in my life except legal nicotine which I finally was able to recover from.

If you outlaw kratom, those that abuse it will move on to something else leaving people like me suffering needlessly. I believe this push to outlaw kratom, and other natural remedies is being pushed by big pharma.

I believe our Politian's are greed motivated and it has got to stop.
CommentID: 223782

Commenter: Linda Cliford

6/4/24 8:29 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT MAKING KRATOM A SCHEDULE 1

I am writing to let you know that my daughter was in active addiction for 20+ years, my husband and her father passed away in 2018, and after that she found Kratom and started taking it. Now, I cannot explain to you the difference in her. She now is there for us and helps take care of me every single month. She holds down a job and has nice things for the 1st time in her life. I am asking you a mother who has her child back, do not do this please ??

Thank you,

Linda Cliford

CommentID: 223783

Commenter: Ben Goddard

6/4/24 8:30 am

Do not schedule Kratom

Kratom saved my life. It has been critical to my well being and health. The alternative is bleak.

CommentID: 223785

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:31 am

To criminalize plant medicines is a crime against nature and humanity

Kratom has helped countless people stop alcohol and opiates myself included. It is time people realize that these plants are a gift to humanity and adults should absolutely have the right to consume what they wish without persecution. To criminalize plants is absolutely insane and a crime against nature and humanity. When are people going to get past this antiquated way of thinking of plant medicines. And if you think that human beings should be locked in a cage and have freedom stripped away for using a plant than you are the true criminals. Stop trying to interfere in people's lives and steal freedoms, you are on the wrong side of history. Don't be a tyrant.

CommentID: 223786

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:31 am

Please Stop the Kratom Ban

As someone who battles the relentless agony of small fiber neuropathy, I am deeply disheartened by the proposed ban on kratom supplements. My journey with this excruciating condition has been a daily struggle, marked by intense pain that traditional medications, including opioids, have failed to alleviate without severe side effects. I was prescribed opioids for 3 years and to get the same result, they had to keep increasing my dose. I felt like a zombie after everything was said and done and I just couldn't let myself go down the road of addiction. Kratom, on the other hand, has been a beacon of hope for me and many others in similar predicaments. I have been taking kratom responsibly for over 5 years now and I have never had to increase my dose. People can become

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addicted or overdose on all sorts of substances. We don't outlaw aspirin because too much can kill you. We regulate it and that's what should happen with kratom as well

Kratom's safety profile is considerably better than opioids. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that over 70,000 people died from drug overdoses in 2019, with opioids being involved in nearly 70% of those deaths. In contrast, kratom, a natural supplement, offers pain relief without such dire consequences. Studies and anecdotal evidence suggest that kratom can effectively manage pain with a lower risk of dependence and severe side effects.

Furthermore, the ban on kratom fails to consider the stark reality faced by chronic pain sufferers. According to a study published in the "Journal of Pain Research," untreated chronic pain leads to a significant risk of depression and suicide. It is estimated that every day, 22 veterans and countless civilians succumb to the despair of living with chronic pain by taking their own lives. This heartbreaking statistic underscores the critical need for safe, effective pain management options like kratom.

I urge the authorities to reconsider this ban and recognize the life-changing benefits that kratom offers to those of us who live in constant, debilitating pain. For many, kratom is not just a supplement but a lifeline. Denying access to this natural remedy forces us back into a cycle of unbearable pain and potentially dangerous pharmaceutical alternatives. Please, consider the human lives that hang in the balance and the desperate need for compassion and understanding in pain management policies.

CommentID: 223787

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:32 am

Please keep Kratom legal

Kratom has given me my life back. I have chronic back pain due to degenerative disc disease. I also have just been diagnosed with fibromyalgia. The medication that the doctors want to give me literally make me a zombie. So I really don't get to enjoy activities with my family. Kratom helps with my pain and I'm able to participate and join my family in enjoying life. Please don't take this away.

CommentID: 223788

Commenter: Ryan

6/4/24 8:32 am

Kratom is helping countless people, U.S. failed its citizens allowing billions of opioids prescribed

Kratom affords a safer option to prescription and recreational opioids, do not fail the people by making it schedule 1.

CommentID: 223789

Commenter: Damian Hanley

6/4/24 8:33 am

Why are all the "Pro Schedule 1" ANONYMOUS?

It's because 'real' people benefit immeasurably from Kratom use - including myself. I suffer from daily knee pain in both knees from catastrophic past injuries. It's the only thing that works well with NO side effects. It allows me to make a living and stay active. The blatant reason that anonymous

'people' make pro-schedule 1 comments is because they understand it will encroach on the pharma cartel's market for highly addictive opioids... and they're cowards (or bots).
CommentID: 223790

Commenter: Robin H

6/4/24 8:34 am

Misinformation Causing Confusion for Lawmakers - Do Not Ban Kratom

There is a great deal of misinformation that has been crafted for the sole purpose of banning a simple herb from the marketplace. This substance literally saves the lives of countless people in this country and many others. It has great value for reducing the number of people addicted to opiates, as well as reducing the number of suicides for desperate people with chronic pain. It's shameful that our lawmakers, law enforcement agencies, as well as the general public are being misled by a campaign to ban Kratom without ANY kind of documented official evidence of any dangerous properties or addictive qualities. People are being lied to about what it is, and how it works because someone that is fearful of natural remedies, or someone with an even more sinister reason than that, wants it scheduled. I urge you, before you vote to ban it or schedule it, do your own research. LOOK at the studies! Look at who is leading the push to schedule it and ask yourself why are they unable to produce any evidence? Be careful with them. Do not allow yourself to be duped. They believe you can be. Kratom is known to be a non-toxic and beneficial remedy for many opiate and drug-addicted people completely eliminating their need for dangerous, life-threatening opiates. As well as for other non-addicted people who are suffering from chronic pain. I am a long-term chronic pain patient who would most definitely be addicted to opiates, or dead by now, if I had agreed to take the opiates for this long. 9 years now having had to consistently treat my pain just to be pain-free enough to participate in my own life. Daily use. No health issues or side effects whatsoever. No liver issues. Nothing. Safe dosing. No overdosing. No addiction. No withdrawal symptoms when ceasing to use it for a few weeks before different routine screenings or medical procedures throughout the 9 years. No symptoms at all with daily use, 7 days a week for 9 years! I have experienced none of what they are telling you are good reasons to schedule it. Look at the available studies and ask yourself what is really going on here before you agree that it should be banned. Do not deprive your citizens of something that has not been proven to warrant scheduling. Ask them for actual proof of their assessment. Ask them for the results of their research. Ask them to provide you with official evidence. Not just a story, or some kind of hearsay. If they produce something, take time to really LOOK into it. Be prepared though, because what you discover may be a bit unsettling, especially if you do not already know the nature of the entity pushing for scheduling. Do not be misled. They believe you can be. Prove them wrong!

CommentID: 223791

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:35 am

Packaged for a child! Shame on Kratom Manufactures. Ban this mess please and thank you

It's harmful and dangerous. Follow the FDA guidance

CommentID: 223792

Commenter: Yoga Allukya

6/4/24 8:35 am

Criminalizing Another ???? plant? I'm a herbalist, it's extremely helpful in Dealing with addic

After reading why your trying to Criminalizing Another Plant, because it helps humans dealing with addiction. So far I haven't found anything as addictiveness as humans making up rules to defend

there ignorance.

Politics has no place in Natural herbology or any other nonsensical Structured Predefined definitions of natural herbs or medicine that actually helps.

CommentID: 223793

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:36 am

Keep Kratom legal

1. Please do some research. This plant has helped so many people. You're supposed to be for the people

CommentID: 223794

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:36 am

I support schedule 1 classification. No evidence to treat a medical condition

And the death toll is climbing

CommentID: 223795

Commenter: Keith

6/4/24 8:39 am

Kratom legality

Kratom has been a lifesaver for me for lower back pain and it is a godsend for my IBS. This plant SHOULD NOT be a schedule 1 drug. By doing this it will force people to look elsewhere for pain relief and may contribute to more deaths.

KEEP KRATOM LEGAL!!

CommentID: 223796

Commenter: Heather

6/4/24 8:39 am

Kratom saved my life!!!

I received a traumatic brachial plexus injury in 2018 that caused full avulsion to my bp nerves. The constant daily pain I suffer can only be described as excruciating. Medications do not stop it. THC does but I'm too sensitive to it. If I hadn't found kratom I would have taken my own life long ago. And I'm not in any way suicidal. it's just the worst pain. Please don't ban kratom!!!!

CommentID: 223797

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:40 am

A 1.5 billion dollar industry does not mean safety. Ban this please

Don't place profit over safety in Virginia

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

CommentID: 223798

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:42 am

It causes neonatal withdrawal with no warning for pregnant consumers

<https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article-abstract/142/6/e20181839/37470/Neonatal-Abstinence-Syndrome-Due-to-Maternal>

CommentID: 223799

Commenter: Rachel Switzer

6/4/24 8:43 am

Kratom is not an opioid!

I do not support banning kratom! It's in the coffee family and does not cause respiratory depression bc its NOT AN OPIOID. STOP TRYING TO TAKE OUR FREEDOMS. WE ARE DONE BEING CONTROLLED AND MEDICATED BY BIG PHARMA.

CommentID: 223800

Commenter: Kailey Luttrell

6/4/24 8:43 am

Kratom gave me my life and children back after an over 10 YEAR heroin and fentanyl addiction.

Like everything else in the world. Use responsibly. This plant gave me mine and so many other lives back after living through literal hell. Please don't ban a plant based on misinformation.

CommentID: 223801

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:43 am

Kratom and Chronic Illness

I take Kratom, along with my prescription biologics, for Crohn's Disease. It has totally changed my life. I'm also a classical violinist, a professor of violin, and an assistant concertmaster in an orchestra. I have won auditions, performed concerts, driven my car, gone to dinner parties, or virtually anything else, while taking Kratom, for years. It's does not make one "high." It needs to be controlled and informed about, but please not banned. It's helping too many people! Information is key, but banning is a terrible idea. Don't give in to big pharma control, stay strong! This is plant that should be available to responsible adults.

Thank you.

GC

CommentID: 223802

Commenter: Sara Stephens

6/4/24 8:44 am

146 a veteran with PTSD kratom saved my life!

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

283/750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

CommentID: 223803

Please keep this plant legal in Virginia. I have PTSD from my time in service and tried several antidepressants and anxiety medicine. All of them had terrible side effects especially on the type of colitis I have (caused during deployment by contaminated water). Kratom is the only thing that helps me relax and be able to be present for my family with no side effects. I can even go to balgames and hiking with no anxiety. It's even helped my colitis tremendously. I don't understand why you are trying ban something completely safe and effective?

Commenter: chris christianis

6/4/24 8:45 am

Kratom is not dangerous

I have been using kratom for 17 years. You can NOT overdose on it. It is a leaf that is grown on a tree, not a synthetic drug. Any horror stories you hear about it always involve other hard drugs. We all know why FDA and pharma want it banned. If you do ban it, that is a good way to hurt your economy. Many use it know and it is getting very popular since I started using it. I tend to stay out of states where it's banned also. Make the right choice.

CommentID: 223804

Commenter: Dan

6/4/24 8:45 am

Kratom saved my life

If it wasn't for Kratom, I would either be dead or still addicted to painkillers and drinking. I've been sober 6 years thanks to Kratom it would be very sad if others were denied that same chance. Using natures medicine that's been around for thousands of year to help with things that people will get 10 different prescriptions for is not fair. Keep kratom legal!

CommentID: 223805

Commenter: Dan Spicer

6/4/24 8:46 am

Please do NOT criminalize kratom

Kratom is safely used by thousands of Virginians for many different purposes. Turning them ALL into criminals overnight is an immensely terrible idea. Please reject this effort at criminalization. Why not instead regulate the quality and safety of the kratom sold in Virginia, so that Virginians have access to safe and regulated kratom. Thank you.

CommentID: 223806

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:47 am

Banning these compounds is the wrong approach

Banning these compounds is the wrong approach to safety. I suggest you look into the Kratom consumer protection act which specifically ensures that products containing the plant and its benefits are not adulterated in any way. This ensures that people can get the benefits without being at risk for ingesting harmful substances.

CommentID: 223807

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

284/750

Commenter: Steve**KRATOM is safe**

I use kratom daily and have for 5 years. I have never experienced any unusual or problematic side effects. I fully support not scheduling kratom as a schedule I product.

CommentID: 223808

6/4/24 8:48 am

Commenter: Todd Martin**Do not ban Kratom, listen to those like me who have used it daily for over 12 years.**

I am a 53 year old man, married to the same woman for 25 years, same job for 26 years, two successful children in college. I have taken kratom for 12 years, to help with anxiety in the way no medicine helped. I lead a very normal life, but anxiety meds did not allow the same freedom. I have tried several and was lethargic, gained weight etc. Only kratom allowed me to function as normal. I have had blood tests every 120 days for each of those 12 years and those tests have shown no ill results. I have to have tests because of the triglyceride medicine I am on.

6/4/24 8:48 am

I read these claims about Kratom being dangerous and I become frustrated because these stories are coming from people who do not take it and who know nothing about it. Anyone claimed to have died from kratom also had other drugs in their system they were abusing. The same claims can be made about Tylenol and most every item one can ingest but it's not true! One could never accidentally overdose on kratom because of the amount required. You would need to ingest a kg or dry powder. Anyone who takes Kratom knows you would never be able to do that. These are lies cooked up by the pharm industry because people like me who use kratom do not give money to them for their drugs. The medicines I was prescribed were way more addictive and turned me into a zombie so I couldn't work or interact with others.

Kratom saved me. Please do not do this!

CommentID: 223810

Commenter: Anonymous**Please keep kratom legal**

Please do not make this illegal. It's SAFE for people using it correctly! Alcohol and cigarettes are far more dangerous. The unintended consequences will be thousands of people forced into very dangerous situations using illicit substances again. For people with chronic pain, there are no options.

CommentID: 223811

6/4/24 8:49 am

Commenter: Anonymous**Very helpful in pain management....enabled me to continue working till retirement age.**

We plan to relocate. One of the requirements for relocation is legal kratom, as it allows me to perform daily activities with little pain and no side effects.

6/4/24 8:50 am

CommentID: 223812

Commenter: Lori F**Please keep Kratom available to consumers**

I am respectfully requesting that you please reconsider the ban on Kratom. It has received undue negative press because of **irresponsible behavior of a few** who either tampered with the natural plant or consumed it in combination with known dangerous substances. There is too much misinformation based upon fear as opposed to practical knowledge.

My father, a Veteran (U.S. Army of Occupation in Japan) passed away at a V.A. Hospice. This followed a lengthy period of caregiving and was devastating for me. I found an herbal product that helps me cope with the relentless emotional trauma. With Kratom, I was able to continue working, paying my bills, going to the gym, participating as a drummer in musical ensembles, supporting my husband's fire department and Masonic organization, and volunteering at a local nursing home (I do a weekly Storytime for Seniors). I've also earned a certification in my field and am doing well at a new job. All thanks in part to Kratom.

Thank you for your consideration.

CommentID: 223813

6/4/24 8:51 am

Commenter: Wendy Chamberlain Kratom Danger Awareness**Schedule 1 kratom**

I am in support of this petition to schedule Kratom. I lost my son to this substance all because he was looking for a so called natural supplement to use for energy. COD was accidental mitragynine toxicity. The science just isn't there yet to prove the safety of consumption. Kratom has no business being sold over the counter. It is to easily accessible to young children. Thank you.

CommentID: 223814

6/4/24 8:52 am

Commenter: Anonymous**It actually saves lives**

Kratom has kept me and my mother alive and happy and healthy for 7 years. So many of us will suffer. So many will die from fentanyl. Please don't.

CommentID: 223815

6/4/24 8:53 am

Commenter: Anonymous**Pointless legislation**

This plant has save many lives. The opioid crisis destroyed a lot of families and was exacerbated by the same industry that looks to pass this bill for the same reason. Profit. The companies that created those opioids merely got a slap on the wrist while those small fines they received represent only a portion of the profits made. All while the people affected by the crisis lost love ones. Why are we wasting tax dollars to help a predatory industry make more profits by selling this plant from nature at a mark up most people would not be able to afford. Hopefully lawmakers can

6/4/24 8:56 am

uphold the interest of the people and voters instead of the corporate interest that has eroded this countries government.
 CommentID: 223816

Commenter: John

6/4/24 8:57 am

Don't do this

Kratom has saved my life. It helped me wean off alcohol and I have been sober for five years because of it. I think banning this would cause irreversible harm to thousands.

CommentID: 223817

Commenter: B. Austin

6/4/24 8:57 am

Kratom is safe

I'm a 59 year old woman who has used kratom daily for 8 years. it's helped me so much with my anxiety and depression, and I've never experienced any unusual or problematic side effects. I fully support not scheduling kratom as a schedule I product.
 Please keep kratom legal.

CommentID: 223818

Commenter: X

6/4/24 9:00 am

Keep kratom legal

Please consider ALL of the facts relating to kratom when making this decision. There are quite literally millions of people who have had an improvement in their quality of life thanks to kratom.

Substances like cigarettes and alcohol are legal and there aren't millions of people speaking out about how either of those have changed their lives for the better. The difference is the amount of money spent on politicians to lobby for those products, while kratom has no such incentives.

Further, there are no instances of death caused solely/exclusively by kratom in which other substances, co-morbidities, or events were not also contributing factors, however, thousands of deaths each day are directly linked to alcohol and cigarette consumption. Yet adults are able to choose for themselves whether to ingest those products.

There are far more people who will be harmed if kratom is banned than who will be helped. Consider chronic pain patients, who have been cut off from any meaningful pain management due to the opiate crisis. MANY of those people have found help for their pain in kratom, with the added benefit of maintaining their dignity and a sense of ownership over their own care. Pain management clinics, if you are not familiar, treat people like low-class drug seekers, when many of them are honest people just trying to be able to walk, work, and take care of their homes and families. Without kratom, there are many people who will have no options and will become despondent and hopeless.

1488
 Explore you to consider regulation of kratom, rather than scheduling it as a co trilled substance and throwing thousands of people into pain and turmoil. Certainly, children should NOT be able to chase kratom products. I think we all agree on that point. But if adults are allowed the freedom

of choice with regards to substances which have been proven by numerous medical studies to be ONLY detrimental to their health, then it is only fair to allow them to choose whether to partake in a substance which has ZERO such medical studies, and in fact more anecdotal evidence of benefits than any other herbs I am aware of.

Please, please, consider the human beings behind this decision that you are considering. I cannot fathom why you'd want to harm so many people who are telling you, directly and from their own mouths, how much this plant has helped them. Please show me a single person sending such passionate entreaties and testimonials about how cigarettes or booze have saved their lives.

If this is actually about taking agency away from vulnerable people, then be sure you say that. The people you are about to potentially irrevocably harm deserve to know your true motivations for doing this, if you do. But I truly and sincerely hope that some of you are reasonable and empathetic people, and will NOT move forward with scheduling kratom as a controlled substance. There are many Kratom advocates who would be happy to work alongside you to come up with meaningful regulation which protects young people and the consumer, while also leaving the choice in our hands.

CommentID: 223820

Commenter: Wayne Miller

6/4/24 9:00 am

Kratom not a gateway drug, it's an exit ramp

I just wanted to address a comment made by one of the doctors about them claiming kratom is a gateway drug. This is exactly the opposite. Kratom is an exit ramp. Everyone I know that uses it, including myself, have used it as a tool to come off of more dangerous drugs including alcohol and opiates. Many have also used it to come off of anxiety and depression medication. I'm not sure where these "doctors" are getting their information

We just passed the Kratom Consumer Protection Act last year here in Virginia, so there's already an age restriction.

For 23 years, I was nothing but an alcoholic and drug addict. I was in and out of jail, rehabs, homeless. I couldn't keep a job without being fired. I lost 3 marriages and couldn't keep a drivers license.

If you would ban anything, ban alcohol, the drug that kills 500,000 people a year, and ruins lives like it did mine.

Kratom gave me life. I literally don't know what I would do without kratom. I've been taking it for 12 years. All my blood tests come back great. My blood pressure is normal. I'm 46 years old, and work circles around people half my age.

Please don't take this leaf away from us.

CommentID: 223821

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:00 am

Kratom saved me from alcoholism

Please do not ban kratom from your state! It has been successfully demonstrated to treat various addictions including alcoholism! Please do not throw away this valuable tool!

CommentID: 223822

Commenter: Alton Mitchell**Kratom helped me recover from opioid addiction**

After being hooked on pharmaceutical opioids for 10 years I discovered kratom and was successfully able to kick my addiction. I am currently 2 years clean of kratom now and have my life back! Kratom shouldn't be scheduled 1, but should be regulated. Please keep kratom legal it has helped thousands with addiction issues and chronic pain.

CommentID: 223823

6/4/24 9:01 am

Commenter: H Brill**Keep kratom legal**

Kratom was the only thing that allowed me to successfully taper off high doses of legally prescribed extended release morphine. I'm a chronic pain patient and have been for over 10 years. My pain management doctor of 8 years decided one week after a lumbar fusion that I needed to be completely off of narcotics. Because I trust my doctors, I decided to go with that idea. My hope was that the fusion would heal my chronic back issues.

However, the fusion did not heal my pain. Only I did not know this for months and months afterward. But what I can say is that by using kratom, I was able to successfully go without narcotics for 2 years and still be able to function. It allowed me to come off of pharmaceuticals with little to no withdrawal. I was able to do physical therapy and all of the exercises I was prescribed.

If you're basing your decisions to schedule kratom based on FDA supposedly scientific information, you're harming your constituents more than helping them. As with many government entities that are taxpayer funded to help the people of our country, they are operating under that guise, all while in the back pocket of the DEA and other organizations that are not science-based.

Please do the citizens of Virginia a good turn. Keep kratom legal. It helps more people than you can ever know.

CommentID: 223824

Commenter: Anonymous**Wrong action!**

Kratom is a natural substance with mild effects like so many other natural remedies. It is not something that needs to be regulated this way. It is not a hard narcotic. People have few options for treating chronic pain. Over the counter medications have serious side effects if used long-term. This provides a safe option. It is cruel to take this away from consumers. Wrong action! I am a Registered Nurse and I see so many in chronic pain. People cannot even afford to go to the doctor much of the time. Natural treatment options need to be kept available for them.

CommentID: 223826

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:02 am

CommentID: 223827

Kratom has helped me with pain after coming off of 100mcg of Fentanyl and Norco voluntarily.

Please keep kratom legal. So many people use it for pain. I use it for pain relief and have used it for around nine years after asking my neurosurgeon to wean me off of 100mcg x three days and Norco for breakthrough pain. I have never gotten a "buzz" from it just pain relief. The only thing that happens when you take to much is that you end up with shakes and end up vomiting. I do not use anything else for pain except kratom. If you make it illegal you will have more overdoses of other drugs. Please don't make this about money and control. Let this remain legal. There are some people who sell kratom without testing but if a person does ask about third party testing and make sure that the vendor follows the guidelines then everything works out well.

CommentID: 223827

Commenter: Jerry Roark**Kratom Saved My Life Over a Decade Ago**

I've been using pure leaf kratom for about 16 years with NO side effects... unlike the pharmaceutical medications I was taking before with little positive results. Kratom allows me to function both physically and mentally. My chronic debilitating pain is managed better than any medication that I tried, and my mind is perfectly clear. Kratom allowed me to get out of bed, make my daughter breakfast, and walk her to the bus. I walked her home in the afternoon and helped her with her homework. I went swimming with my little girl, and we played in the park. None of this was possible without kratom. Don't give in to greedy and fear mongering pharmaceutical companies. I am an ordained minister and doctor of religious philosophy. I am not someone seeking a "high"...and I would not find one with kratom. It does not provide that. It also does not cloud my mind or make me dizzy. I know many people who have been helped by kratom in various ways. Do not take this option from a free people and force them to use dangerous medications to receive lesser positive benefits.

CommentID: 223828

Commenter: Dennis R Williams**Kratom is Good**

I've been a Kratom user for 8 years I'm 70 yo w arthritis and it helps gives me energy to do chores around the house, it also gives a little pain relief so I take less Tramadol. I dont abuse it and it works for me .if u take too much of anything it will hurt u, so please dont ruin it for people like me.

CommentID: 223829

Commenter: Lindsay**Kratom should not be a schedule 1**

Please do not make Kratom a schedule 1 for Virginia constituents. When any drug falls under this category, it takes away from potential studies that may be done to actually help and potentially cure people. This happened with marijuana and psilocybin for many years, and now look where we are today. There are facilities specifically made for psilocybin treatments to help with a range of mental health conditions, such as **depression, anxiety, addictions, obsessive compulsive disorder, and psychosis**. There is also plenty of studies showing that cannabis has helped with **lowering blood pressure, reducing inflammation, preventing relapse in drug and alcohol addiction, treating anxiety disorders, treating gastrointestinal (GI) disorders,**

preventing seizures, and fighting cancer. This is only the beginning of finding out all of the benefits to drugs that have been treated as if they had no medical benefit whatsoever. It's inhumane and a bit silly to take away drugs like these that may have potential for those who are truly suffering. Allow doctors and scientists to study these things before scheduling a plant at this level please.

CommentID: 223830

Commenter: Betty Lynn

6/4/24 9:05 am

There are more dangerous items, kratom is not dangerous

420 people die annually according to the CDC from salmonella due to consuming chicken. 178,000 people die annually from alcohol. Acetaminophen toxicity is the second most common cause of liver transplantation worldwide and the most common cause of liver transplantation in the US. It is responsible for 56,000 emergency department visits, 2,600 hospitalizations, and **500 deaths per year** in the United States.

There are no kids dying from kratom, this is all fear mongering. Ask the American Kratom Association for their research. This is a clearly big pharma push to schedule or ban.

CommentID: 223831

Commenter: Alex

6/4/24 9:06 am

Kratom Saved My Life

If this is scheduled you are ruining so many peoples lives. I guess you guys don't care about that though. This stuff literally saved my life.

CommentID: 223832

Commenter: Noah F

6/4/24 9:07 am

Kratom is safe, please do not adopt this proposal

Kratom is a safe and effective non opioid option for adults with chronic conditions. There is no evidence of dangers, let adults decide for themselves and stop overregulation of natural products. Thank you.

CommentID: 223833

Commenter: Liz

6/4/24 9:08 am

please do not schedule this life saving plant

I am 53 and I suffer with severe arthritis and kratom is the only thing that helps. It also helps my anxiety and depression.

CommentID: 223834

Commenter: Bev C

6/4/24 9:09 am

50
Kratom

Regulate Kratom, Do Not Ban. Natural Kratom is safe and should be available to adults.

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

2917750

CommentID: 223835

Commenter: Ronald Richter

6/4/24 9:10 am

Kratom

I am 74 years old with a past history of pain medication use. I have been using Kratom for about 5 years with careful attention to the amount I take each day and it has controlled the amount of pain I have which, in the past, required narcotic medication. I now have no desire for prescription pain medication. I have severe OCD (Obsessive Compulsive Disorder) and depression and now live with relief from those disorders since starting Kratom. I can attest to having a better standard of living due to Kratom. Please allow Kratom to be used with the understanding that it, as anything purchased over the counter can be abused without following awareness of how it can be used safely and respectfully. I do not support any determination that Kratom should be banned or regulated as a prescription drug because I believe the science behind Kratom indicates it is no more of a danger than caffeine or tylenol.

CommentID: 223836

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:11 am

Kratom Saved my Mother

My mother was addicted to opiates. She would be out of it all the time, and spend all of her money to get more. I would try to give her money for groceries and she would just buy more pills. It was bad.

She discovered Kratom and has been doing great ever since: living a normal life for the past 5 years or so. Please don't take this away. Peoples lives will be destroyed.

Also, based on my personal experiences and all of the evidence I have seen, I don't believe it is harmful, especially not harmful enough to be considered a scheduled drug.

I do however think age restrictions may be reasonable.

CommentID: 223837

Commenter: Chris Sedgwick

6/4/24 9:12 am

Please keep kratom legal.

Please don't criminalize kratom consumers and consider passing the Kratom Consumer Protection Act, like many other states have done.

CommentID: 223838

Commenter: Kenny Byers

6/4/24 9:12 am

Save Kratom

I have been taking Kratom for 15 years now for my back and it has been a lifesaver!! No more opiates on a daily basis! How can you deny someone an all natural drug, over a pharmaceutical mess that just keeps getting worse??

Kratom does work, and it does not have opiates in it! Leave the natural choice alone, please!

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

2927750

CommentID: 223839

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:12 am

Kratom is needed!

Hi, I'm a nurse. I support kratom. I suffer from arthritis and pain from a previous injury. I tried almost everything and no. I didn't want narcotics in my body. I found kratom extract to be a godsend for sleep pain, mood, energy, FOCUS (laser focus to be exact) sleep? (Like an infant) Nite I'm an insomniac. I found the right dosage for me. And don't overdo it. certain labs have puree kratom than others. You cannot control what I put in my own vessel. It is MINE. THIS IS A VITAL PRODUCT FOR SO MANY. I'm sorry an addict overdosed ok sorry not sorry that's THEM, you just want to control a what?!? A tree?!? A leaf from a tree?!? No don't do that! Bad! Are you out of your mind!?!?!

Respectfully,

An angry citizen

CommentID: 223840

Commenter: Humans of Earth

6/4/24 9:13 am

ALL PLANTS HAVE MEDICINAL VALUE

God gave us plants to heal ourselves. Who are we to deny our brothers and sisters access to these gifts?

CommentID: 223841

Commenter: Leah

6/4/24 9:15 am

Kratom gave me back my life

I was born with multiple genetic mutations, one of which causes great pain on a daily basis, random joint dislocations and partial dislocations, scoliosis, kyphosis, I have spinal arthritis, compression fractures, tendonitis, endometriosis, migraines, and my muscles have to work 10x harder to keep my joints in place. I had gotten to the point where I was ready to give up and stop forcing myself to work in agony and suffering greatly for it each day, until I found kratom. My eyes well up with tears thinking about my old life filled with constant suffering. I now have a life I love, I have time and patience for my family and friends, I feel emotions that are not strictly sad and defeated, I work so much more than I was able to and still have enough left in my cup to pour into my friends and family. Thank you for reading

CommentID: 223842

Commenter: Lauren

6/4/24 9:16 am

Blatant Attack On The State's Most Vulnerable

As a licensed pharmacy professional I find the push to ban kratom absolutely cruel. The state has repeatedly punished patients through restrictive laws aimed to combat addiction and overdose, which only increase the possibility by forcing people to street drugs because they can't get

CommentID: 223843

legitimate prescriptions. Kratom does not cause overdoses, kratom is not more dangerous than coffee and has less adverse health outcomes than alcohol. If you look into kratom related cases it has only been in individuals abusing other substances or with existing health conditions that could be aggravated by any over the counter medication or even energy drinks.

The kratom ban has been addressed repeatedly. The FDA and DEA have yet to ban it. Studies repeatedly show it helps those recovering from addiction or chronic pain. It reduces the chance of long-term health issues, like liver failure, seen with every day medications like acetaminophen.

This is a gross overstep by Virginia. If the state is so concerned about preventable deaths in patients that self medicate they should be speaking with the VABC and finding a way to monitor alcohol sales. They should be keeping track of the sales of Tylenol and NyQuil. This attack seems to be more monetarily motivated than scientifically based.

Between the attack on legitimately prescribed pain medication, medical cannabis, and now kratom Virginia is taking a stance that they not only refuse to support Virginians with chronic issues they are openly signaling they want citizens to suffer and decline. People will go from being productive citizens to disabled broken individuals that will have to rely on others to thrive. This isn't an attack on Kratom, it's an attack on disabled veterans, recovering addicts, tax paying Virginians with chronic conditions, and most of all it is an attack on one of the last affordable and available pain options that isn't going to be bought off the street and laced with fentanyl.

A Kratom ban is a push for increased meth and heroin use. A push for more people to be disabled. A push for more people needlessly using social programs like disability and social security. A ban on Kratom is a shortsighted, baseless, and cruel overstep by individuals who have something to gain without regard who those who have everything to lose.

This has been addressed multiple times in the past. Virginia decided not to take part in the Kratom Protection act. It's obvious these attempts have no basis and are not based on "patient safety". It's absolutely revolting Virginia continues to consider the benefit of the few, who probably don't even reside in Virginia, over their own citizens. Passing this will only prove the bias and ignorance the public feels is within the regulatory board absolutely exist. Virginians health shouldn't be a bargaining chip for corporate profits, which we all know is the driving force being this.

CommentID: 223843

Commenter: Geoff Johnson

6/4/24 9:16 am

Kratom is safe, more so by far than tobacco and alcohol

I'm a regular kratom user for several years now, 68, always self employed, working, retired architect. Kratom fosters clarity and relaxation in proper use and does not have a "buzz". I can see no legitimate reason for schedule 1 classification but do support the AKA efforts for consumer safety in sourcing and sale of kratom. I ask that you consider such more reasoned approaches than scheduling class 1.

CommentID: 223844

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:17 am

Do NOT support moving kratom to schedule I

As a medical professional I have personally used and seen the benefits this plant can give and the tremendous alternatives to opioids this can be. Although big pharma is likely happy to see this go schedule I, kratom is, in fact, helping reduce the current insane opioid epidemic we have and helping those that need pain relief. Keep kratom legal.

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:23 am

Serious concerns

I have serious concerns about the accessibility of these products to young people. Despite recent laws to make sale to those under 21, it still easy to purchase by those without full judgment. The advertisements and packaging look far too appealing.

From VDH: In 2011 Poison Control Centers received 13 calls about kratom. This rose to 682 in 2017, and two-thirds of the 1807 kratom-related calls between 2011–2017 happened in 2016 and 2017.

The BOP should seriously consider moving Kratom to schedule I.

CommentID: 223855

Commenter: Jen LaCasse

6/4/24 9:24 am

Kratom HELPS

For myself and many others like me, kratom is our only SAFE option for pain relief. I have chronic pain and a history of legal and illegal drug use attempting to manage this pain. Kratom is my only safe, legal option to manage chronic pain. Please do not make this plant illegal and limit all legal forms of pain relief.

CommentID: 223856

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:24 am

Regulate kratom so it's safe and legal

kratom saved me from drinking myself to death. it should be regulated for safety standards. that's the only reason for any government involvement.

CommentID: 223857

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:24 am

Keep Kratom safe

It helped me stop taking pain pills was on pills for 3 years if it was not for kratom don't know where my life would be at today

CommentID: 223858

Commenter: Lost American

6/4/24 9:25 am

Mitragyna Speciosa saves lives

53
Mitragyna Speciosa, also known as kratom, has saved tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of people's lives. It is a tree indigenous to South East Asia that has been used for thousands of years for its analgesic and anxiolytic healing properties. In all it's years of documented use, nobody has ever died SPECIFICALLY from kratom ALONE. I feel that further

research and studies should be done with kratom in order to truly understand it's highly valuable healing properties.

CommentID: 223859

Commenter: Amanda Clark

6/4/24 9:25 am

Stop taking away holistic medicine

Kratom is a natural way for people to get rid of pain and to cope with past previous addictions. It has given many people their life back from pain, illness, overcoming addiction and more. Which I believe y'all already know considering y'all are trying to get rid of it. Along with the lot of other holistic medicines and doctors. We the people see what y'all are doing throughout these years removing things such as vitamin B17, trying to ban apricot seeds, which contain vitamin B17... shutting down holistic doctors around the world, some mysteriously die. We should have the right to be able to heal ourselves without your garbage pharmaceuticals and poisons that y'all pump into people's bodies and get them addicted to. Please don't take away the people's rights to have a life again, to feel at ease again, to be able to heal without being in mental and physical anguish. Would you want to live like that? Not only that but not everyone can afford expensive pharmaceuticals considering America has the most expensive health care in the freaking world. Overcharging people, not curing anyone, and just seeing people as customers or victims to die. Does that sound like real medicine or people who care about your health to you? I wouldn't to say it does.

CommentID: 223860

Commenter: Lee

6/4/24 9:27 am

keeping people off narcotic pain meds

Why would you try to take away something so beneficial, that keeps people off narcotic pain meds.... Unless you are trying to get and keep people addicted to fda regulated drugs. Sounds like corruption at the highest level.

CommentID: 223861

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:29 am

I support the Scheduling of Kratom

The AKA profits off the vulnerable. The AKA also dismisses the deaths due to kratom consumption. They downplay the dangers. Kratom is a 1.3 billion dollar industry and growing annually. The KCPA is just legislation to protect the vendors and manufacturers. Kratom is to easily accessible to young children. The DEA listed Kratom as a drug of concern. The potent extracts coming to market is unbelievable. 7OH alone will start causing deaths .

CommentID: 223862

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:30 am

Kratom saves lives

Keep kratom legal

CommentID: 223863

Commenter: Anonymous**KEEP KRATOM LEGAL**

I won't bash and throw a fit. However, kratom is all natural and is simply a plant that helps people in more ways than any pill could. You simply can not overdose on it, as it has a ceiling effect. This plant has kept many elderly people and others off of Pharma drugs and truly made their life worth living. Please do not do this. I have and will always continue to support a plant that is a miracle for people.

CommentID: 223864

6/4/24 9:30 am

Commenter: Rob brewer**I'm a veteran and kratom saved my life**

There are so many harmful things to focus on banning, kratom has had a overwhelming positive effect on my life and given me a natural way to manage pain and anxiety. Banning kratom is a win for big pharma. Please, please, please don't ban something that's going to leave millions of Americans vulnerable. Kratom saved my life, I'm a veteran and feel strongly about having the option to continue taking kratom as a natural supplement. Try it before you assume anything, it is highly effective.

CommentID: 223865

6/4/24 9:31 am

Commenter: Andrew Jackson**Criminal Act is Making the Use of Kratom Illegal**

Hi, Don't do it, please. Like any other substance that is ingested there will be people to abuse it as is with Kratom so the nay sayers of it jump on the bandwagon and try to ban it...Most of which from me few years with using it and following the new about it is the drug companies.....wonder why...

I was introduced to it when my pain relief was taken away by the government, because of the BS abuse issue. So the majority that needed the relief for chronic pain are pushed to the streets to find alternative ways. Hmmm, bet illegal sales went up after that government intervention. Anyway I have been using kratom for a few years now and while not as effective as the other pain reliever it does subue it to being tolerable. Does not make me high just subdues the pain. I can not take kratom for a day, when i run out, and very little if any withdraw issues but the pain increases.

Kratom can be abused, absolutely. Not sure how much it would take to get to the abuse level but that stuff is nasty tasting (the one drawback). But for most everyone I know that uses it it helps to get through the days with less pain, where our government could give two shyz about when they stopped us being able to keep or previous pharma pain relievers.

Before you judge why dont you all try it and see what it does to you....Its a joke that people making a big deal of this product, affordable and effective.

Please Don't Do it.....

Andy

CommentID: 223866

6/4/24 9:32 am

Commenter: Patrick Hill**It would be a crime against those who seek help to schedule kratom.**

Kratom saved my wife from the devastating effects of pharma pain medication and has helped tens of thousands of similar people do the same. The big war on drugs is directed at the wrong people in this case. Keep it legal. It would be a crime against those who seek help to schedule kratom.

CommentID: 223867

6/4/24 9:32 am

Commenter: Kirk Larsen**Kratom is a life saver**

Kratom was essential for helping reduce my pain so I could stay off of opioids. It is not dangerous or harmful if used properly.

CommentID: 223868

6/4/24 9:32 am

Commenter: Anonymous**Please don't take away our natural remedies. It's not right.**

Kratom saves lives

CommentID: 223869

6/4/24 9:33 am

Commenter: Jennifer Grover**Please do not criminalize Kratom, nor the chemicals found in it.**

Please do not criminalize Kratom nor the chemicals found in it. Lots of people find it benefits their health. It is a natural plant and should stay fully legal.

CommentID: 223870

6/4/24 9:33 am

Commenter: Brendan**Chronic pain patient I implore you to fully read this.**

Hello, I'm here to inform you about one of the most magical trees to ever grace this earth. Let just start by saying, you all have a medical cannabis program because you all recognized that it has medical value. It has medicinal qualities and in this day and age, that cannot be denied anymore. The FDA has a long standing policy that cannabis has no medical value and we all have proved that wrong, the SAME THING comes with kratom. FDA says no medical value, if you listen to the 15 million Americans that this tree has DRASTICALLY increased their quality of life, allowed people to return to being fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters. It allows people such as myself who would otherwise walk with a cane, work 60 hour weeks in a cooler cutting steaks. I'm a Hello, I'm here to inform you about one of the most magical trees to ever grace this earth. Let just start by saying, you all have a medical cannabis program because you all recognized that it has medical value. It has medicinal qualities and in this day and age, that cannot be denied anymore. The FDA has a long standing policy that cannabis has no medical value and we all have proved that wrong.. the SAME THING comes with kratom. FDA says no medical value, if you listen to the 15 million Americans that this tree has DRASTICALLY increased their quality of life, allowed people to return

6/4/24 9:34 am

Commenter: Anonymous**KEEP KRATOM LEGAL**

I won't bash and throw a fit. However, kratom is all natural and is simply a plant that helps people in more ways than any pill could. You simply can not overdose on it, as it has a ceiling effect. This plant has kept many elderly people and others off of Pharma drugs and truly made their life worth living. Please do not do this. I have and will always continue to support a plant that is a miracle for people.

CommentID: 223864

6/4/24 9:30 am

Commenter: Rob brewer**I'm a veteran and kratom saved my life**

There are so many harmful things to focus on banning, kratom has had a overwhelming positive effect on my life and given me a natural way to manage pain and anxiety. Banning kratom is a win for big pharma. Please, please, please don't ban something that's going to leave millions of Americans vulnerable. Kratom saved my life, I'm a veteran and feel strongly about having the option to continue taking kratom as a natural supplement. Try it before you assume anything, it is highly effective.

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6/4/24 9:31 am

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Please Don't Do it.....

Andy

CommentID: 223866

6/4/24 9:32 am

to being fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters. It allows people such as myself who would otherwise walk with a cane, work 60 hour weeks in a cooler cutting steaks. I'm a productive member of society now. And I can literally only account that to kratom. From ages 15-24 I trusted doctors and they turned me into a drug addict with the drugs they prescribed me. Dangerous drugs. DEADLY drugs. The next thing I'm going to say, I truly hope you all do your research. Because the NIH already had Congressional meetings and they even said that nobody has died from pure unadulterated kratom. There were only four people out of the 60 deaths that didn't have any drugs in their system other than kratom. Their blood was analyzed by NIH. They realize that they had other drugs in their system such as research chemicals. New novel drugs that are being developed daily and all they have to do is change one chemical compound to keep them legal. Those drugs are flooding the market and you could easily purchase them online. Pure unadulterated kratom has been used for 2,000 years safely. It's used safely by 15 million Americans. The only thing a Virginia kratom ban will do is send productive members of society who have been contributing to the Virginia economy back to drugs, back to opiates, back to being people who cannot contribute anything to society because of one reason or another. Pain, depression, anxiety, it doesn't matter. Anybody over the age of 28 has some sort of problems. The only thing we should be telling them to take is kratom and not some chemical and a pill that has only been around for 100 years. That has been proven time and time again to be absolute poison and destroy the human body. I'm 35 years old and I've never been in better health in my life other than now, since I quit the chemicals from doctors. I take cannabis and kratom only and have never been in better health, physically and emotionally. When I was on drugs from doctors I felt like I was near death every single day. I will continue to push people towards nature and tell people how much drugs have destroyed Everybody's lives. Any Doctor who pushes anybody for pain or anxiety or depression to drugs instead of something that nature has provided us is the most asinine thing I've ever heard. Those chemical drugs are deadly and addictive and dangerous. Nature is not. I implore you to listen to the American kratom association and the NIH, productive member of society now. And I can literally only account that to kratom. From ages 15-24 I trusted doctors and they turned me into a drug addict with the drugs they prescribed me. Dangerous drugs. DEADLY drugs. The next thing I'm going to say, I truly hope you all do your research. Because the NIH already had Congressional meetings and they even said that nobody has died from pure unadulterated kratom. There were only four people out of the 60 deaths that didn't have any drugs in their system other than kratom. Their blood was analyzed by NIH. They realize that they had other drugs in their system such as research chemicals. New novel drugs that are being developed daily and all they have to do is change one chemical compound to keep them legal. Those drugs are flooding the market and you could easily purchase them online. Pure unadulterated kratom has been used for 2,000 years safely. It's used safely by 15 million Americans. The only thing a Virginia kratom ban will do is send productive members of society who have been contributing to the Virginia economy back to drugs, back to opiates, back to being people who cannot contribute anything to society because of one reason or another. Pain, depression, anxiety, it doesn't matter. Anybody over the age of 28 has some sort of problems. The only thing we should be telling them to take is kratom and not some chemical and a pill that has only been around for 100 years. That has been proven time and time again to be absolute poison and destroy the human body. I'm 35 years old and I've never been in better health in my life other than now, since I quit the chemicals from doctors. I take cannabis and kratom only and have never been in better health, physically and emotionally. When I was on drugs from doctors I felt like I was near death every single day. I will continue to push people towards nature and tell people how much drugs have destroyed Everybody's lives. Any Doctor who pushes anybody for pain or anxiety or depression to drugs instead of something that nature has provided us is the most asinine thing I've ever heard. Those chemical drugs are deadly and addictive and dangerous. Nature is not. I implore you to listen to the American kratom association and the NIH.

CommentID: 223871

Commenter: Mark Burris

Kratom is safe

6/4/24 9:36 am

Kratom is very safe and effective for many health issues.

I have 8 years of experience of personal use and have witnessed numerous examples of friends and associates who have similar positive results with Kratom.

Almost all of the negative comments are posted by anonymous persons.

Kratom threatens many other substances that are very profitable and these negative comments should be questioned with an open mind as to why they are posted without names.

Please do your own research and contact me if you have any questions.

Thanks for the opportunity to give my experience and comments.

Mark Burris

CommentID: 223872

Commenter: Nicholas A Bonilla

Please do not criminalize Kratom

6/4/24 9:36 am

Please do not criminalize Kratom nor the chemicals found in it. Lots of people find it benefits their health. It is a natural plant and should stay fully legal.

CommentID: 223873

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom Saved Me

6/4/24 9:37 am

I had a number of injuries that required pain regulation. I was a victim of the opioid crisis. Had I not found a kind soul that taught me about Kratom I am positive I would either be a junkie on the street or dead. Kratom manages my pain with out making me feel "high" like opioids did. I have experimented with Kratom and it's side effects and I have found I can stop at any time. Of course my pain is no longer managed but that tells me Kratom is a million times better than any pain killer big pharma is going to give you. It's excellent for managing depression as well. I suspect that's why companies hate it so much. Please, do the right thing here.

CommentID: 223874

Commenter: Joey Howell

No need

6/4/24 9:39 am

It would be a huge waste of money to regulate something that has basically no negative side effects. Shouldn't that money be spent on important things? Kratom hurts no one. Spend the money on kids or veterans instead.

CommentID: 223875

Commenter: sam pierson

The Truth & the True Science

6/4/24 9:39 am

This is Really A SIMPLE subject.

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Do not TRUST an organization which receives more than 50% of its funding from the COMPANIES they are Supposed to PROTECT the American People from.

That IS A DUJHHH statement!!! Even Homer Simpson can understand this concept!

Ask yourself the Questions, What Is their Motivation behind wanting this plant banned? Where do they get their information & Can it Be Trusted? Who are the Scientists and what is their credentials?

Look at the Real & TRUE Science behind the Kratom Plant. It Is Simple & Logical!

You WILL Clearly SEE & Understand ALL the TRUTH behind this amazing plant.

CommentID: 223876

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:43 am

Don't criminalize my seizure medication!

I'm a senior great-grandmother. I've been rotated through the medication merry-go-round for several decades which left me sicker (thanks to permanent injuries and side effects from pharmaceuticals). I was also left medically dependent on prescription narcotics (which was the lesser of many evils). I stopped all prescription medications on my own, but was left with debilitating seizures that occurred several times a day. My quality of life was non-existent. I could push through my other medical problems, but not that one. Prescriptions had horrific long term side effects, and also diminished my quality of life. I accidentally discovered Kratom. I've been on it 10 years, have no physical addiction to it, and get 6 month checkups. I'm higher functioning than I have ever been. I can care for my great-grandchildren, travel, was the care-giver for my husband who had cancer, etc. I'm a productive member of society again, and a participant in my family. Please fund more research, instead of criminalizing me.

CommentID: 223878

Commenter: Cindy Ross

6/4/24 9:45 am

Kratom is Bad News

My son thought kratom would help his anxiety and keep him off illicit drugs. The only drug in his system when he died was kratom. I will fight the rest of my life to have this gas station heroin scheduled or banned. The majority of kratom comes in from SE Asia where there are no laws for manufacturing. It is swept up and bagged for the U.S. it's a messy and dirty industry that only benefits the people who have invested in it. Follow the money.

CommentID: 223879

Commenter: Gerrold J Kruse

6/4/24 9:46 am

Alcohol is 10 times worse. Why not make that schedule 1 ? Land of the Free? I think not.

Do some research before you do something stupid.

CommentID: 223880

Commenter: Jane

6/4/24 9:47 am

Do not criminalize!

156

https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409

303/750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Since I found out about kratom in 2018, I have discovered how beneficial and safe this natural plant can be. It has safely helped my husband and I with pain. Compared to prescribed narcotics, kratom is much safer and non-addictive. It also helps boost my mood and gives me energy. The pharmaceutical industry would like to criminalize kratom so that it can get more people back on opioids and boost their profits. Criminalizing possession of kratom would harm so many people who are safely taking kratom without any danger to themselves or others. I hope you choose to side with real people instead of big pharma.

CommentID: 223881

Commenter: Karima Ray

6/4/24 9:49 am

Keep Kratom Legal!

Please keep Kratom legal in VA, there is sensible and protective legislation in place already!

CommentID: 223882

Commenter: P. McPoyle

6/4/24 9:50 am

Keep Kratom Legal and Available to all

Kratom when used and stored properly, is a safe and effective tool to help manage discomfort from certain painful conditions. I have used kratom for years, after a motor vehicle accident, and found it safe and effective. Much safer than prescription medications. I recommend passing a Kratom Consumer Protection Act instead of a ban. Age limits for sale of at least 18 yrs old are recommended.

Keep kratom legal please. I do not live in Virginia, but I travel through, and spend time in Virginia, several times each year.

CommentID: 223883

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:51 am

It has saved me and many others.

To make Kratom a scheduled drug, let alone a scheduled 1 drug, one has to ask if this is entirely politically motivated in some way. As someone with 4 major back surgeries but working for 9 years as a maintenance technician, kratom has helped me stay a functional part of society. When Xanax and Soma are a schedule 3 yet send thousands to the ER with overdoses every day. I know. I was one of those people 10 years ago. I was a "dysfunctional" part of society. But Kratom has helped me stay narcotic free since then. Please listen to the messages of many people like me who want to continue to live a mentally and physically better life. Thank you for your consideration

CommentID: 223884

Commenter: Rebekkah Morris

6/4/24 9:52 am

Kratom Has Saved My Life

To Whom It May Concern,

Please do not ban kratom in any way! It's become an important tea leaf for so many adult Americans, including veterans. However, I fully support regulation needs like age restrictions for

https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409

304/750

18/21+.

My name is Bekkah, I'm a married mom of 4 boys (& 1 bonus daughter!) In Maine. I'm a make up artist, webmaster, & marketing manager. I have also found Genealogy to be a an amazing hobby of mine & my boys, we also love playing outside which takes a lot out of me.

I've been diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis, degenerative disc disease, radiculopathy, & most recently, I've been suffering from nerve damage after a bout of Lyme disease in 2021 - I have not been well since & it's taken a lot for me to continue to be a productive member of society.

I consume kratom like a tea & it has helped me immensely over the years. I feel like I can function, be a mom, have less pain, & some semblance of a quality of life - especially now that doctors in our overtaxed healthcare system have failed to help me. Quite frankly, many doctors are too scared to help pain patients these days. They fear being arrested or losing their licenses & livelihoods. There's too many of us suffering right now.

I proudly work in the kratom industry for a small, family-owned company who really cares about our community. They lab test our products, package products in a clean packing area, & so many other things to follow industry standards. We also offer the online & local community assistance during emergencies, food in our community garden, & often host "open house style" gatherings to educate on kratom & herbs.

I can also tell you that most of our customers are age 30 or older. Many of them work & have physically demanding jobs, are married & just trying to provide for their families. I know this because I have been in customer service here for nearly 10 years, talking to people online & by phone. I've seen the good it can do in myself, many members of my family, & friends - all with very little side effects & I have yet to see any major health differences in any of my routine labs over the years.

Once again, I implore you to please not ban or restrict adult kratom consumption & instead consider an age restriction. Thank you.
CommentID: 223885

Commenter: Mike H.

6/4/24 9:53 am

Do not ban. Regulate.

The issue is adulterated kratom. Adulterating anything can lead to harm or much worse. By itself, natural kratom is very safe and has helped me kick harmful alcohol addiction, reduce severe anxiety, and become a more productive happier person. I have used kratom for at least the last 8 years and it has improved my quality of life, focus and overall well being. When I suffered a debilitating rib injury 2 years ago, kratom was the only thing that allowed me to get out of bed without severe pain. Consider all the testimonials of people who have successfully gotten off of dangerous opioids, and are living more healthy and better lives today because of this safer alternative. Kratom is an opportunity, not a crisis. The Kratom Consumer Protection Act will protect consumers and remove bad players. Keep kratom safe and legal.

CommentID: 223886

Commenter: J

6/4/24 9:53 am

Don't schedule kratom! There are far too many benefits

~~K~~ratom has been immensely beneficial for myself and many of my friends. Being a heavy drinker I completely stopped drinking alcohol because of kratom. It is so much safer and healthier on the body. Please don't criminalize this plant, it is non toxic and has a pretty mild effect. People aren't hurting themselves with this plant, if anything they are using it to stay away from harder drugs.

And please remember all of the chronic pain patients who are no longer shackled to traditional opioid medications, who have cut them out completely and live productive lives all in thanks to kratom.

CommentID: 223887

Commenter: Stephanie Sue

6/4/24 9:53 am

Kratom saved my life in Virginia

I started out as an addict, but a doctor made addict. I had very common and reoccurring kidney stones from 2013-2016. The doctors here prescribed me addictive painkillers, all the while telling me it was time released and not addictive. That was a lie. Once I ran out of the supply prescribed to me, I experienced horrific withdrawals that lasted on and off for almost 2 months. But then PAWS reared it's ugly head and I know experience full on withdrawals due to Post acute withdrawal syndrome every 6-8 weeks even though I have been clean for almost a decade. When I experience PAWS from the medicine given to me by Virginia doctors, kratom makes it to where I can actually function. I was already clean when I found kratom but I wish I had found it sooner as I wouldn't have been stuck in my bed for weeks during withdrawals.

I have worked in the industry since 2018, been an advocate for this plant since 2016 and for the first time since I became a mother, finally feel like I can be the best mom I can be. Kratom is coffees literal plant cousin. Pure, lab tested, UNADULTERATED, kratom is just as safe as not more than coffee. Yes kratom needs to be used in moderation for best results...just like coffee. Please do not make this plant illegal if you are going to continue to let coffee be sold. If you ban one, in order for it to make sense, you'd need to ban the other. But if we regulate the industry and make sure safety procedures are followed from harvest to doorstep, Kratom can not only help, it can also save lives. Please take my story into consideration. Thank you.

CommentID: 223889

Commenter: Ashley

6/4/24 9:54 am

Natural remedy

Kratom is all natural, safe, and an effective alternate to some harmful medications. Compare that to alcohol which is literally poison and has no health benefits. Compare it to certain medications as well, some of which have ruined peoples entire lives.

CommentID: 223890

Commenter: Florence Southard

6/4/24 9:55 am

Do not ban kratom

This leaf has helped me have better quality of life when all meds I tried had failed to help. Please do not schedule this leaf but DO take dangerous extracts containing tianeptine and similar adulteration off the market.

CommentID: 223891

Commenter: Sue Donaghy

6/4/24 9:56 am

Keep Kratom Legal

I DO NOT SUPPORT THE PETITION TO MAKE KRATOM A SCHEDULE I CRIMINAL SUBSTANCE!!

Please, do not amend 18VAC110-20-322 that includes mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine, the active alkaloids found in kratom in Schedule I.

I have been taking Kratom for 13 years with only positive results and no negative side effects. I am a Registered Nurse with a Masters degree and I suffered a work related injury in 1989. The injury left me disabled with a spinal cord disease, among other injuries, including severe, intractable, and chronic pain. I was on many Schedule I narcotics. I was on bedrest and the medications made me semi-conscious. I was miserable!! In 2011 I had an accidental drug overdose and to my good fortune, I got detoxed off of all my Schedule I narcotics.

In late 2011 I discovered Kratom and my life flourished!! Kratom has helped my pain so much so that it has allowed me to get out of bed, out of my house and even drive to visit family and friends! My pain level went from a 10+ to a 2 when I found Kratom! I honestly felt like I had found a miracle in kratom! Everyone wanted to know what I had done to change my life. It really was life changing!!

I have had No side effects from using Kratom. I cannot tell you how afraid I am that kratom may become a Schedule I drug and I will have to go back to taking narcotics once again with the horrible side effects, leaving me hold up at home on bed rest, not able to enjoy life. This is one of those things that you will truly never understand unless you have lived in their shoes!

Kratom has helped so many people like me with all different problems like PTSD, Addiction, Emotional problems, Chronic Pain, etc. without incident. Kratom is like so many other products, it needs to be taken using unadulterated kratom for those 18 years of age and up. Take a look at alcohol or tobacco, both are highly addictive, both can be deadly-why are these not petitioned for Schedule I drugs? How many people have they killed? How many people has kratom killed? It just doesn't make sense. Why are you taking a substance that is a plant that has very few side effects and does so much good for so many? I have found that many people that know nothing about kratom other than what they read or hear through the grapevine. Most of that information is negative information. I implore you to do your due diligence and really research kratom and you will find that it does help people and the majority of people are taking kratom for a specific reason, not to just take it.

Please, do NOT support the petition to make Kratom a Schedule I Criminal Substance!!

Thank you for your support!

CommentID: 223892

Commenter: Jourdain Mixon

Kratom Saves Lives!

I am a 32 year old surveyor and veteran who would like to share my experience with kratom and how the plant saved my life. Through much of my 20s, I was addicted to heroin. After finding kratom I was able to quit and now have over 6 years clean from opiates. Kratom gave me back control of my life when I thought all was lost. I pray my story imparts the value of kratom, and why it's consumers need protection, not criminalization.

158 Use kratom often to control back pain resulting from a 20ft fall. The relief it brings allows me to work a job I enjoy. Kratom is the only effective pain relief I've found other than prescription opioids, which I avoid due to my former addiction. Losing safe access to kratom would leave myself and

thousands of others suffering in pain and increase the likelihood of turning to illegal drugs to find relief.

Kratom made the withdrawal from fentanyl-laced heroin manageable, helping me to endure them. It also reduces the urge to use, helping me stay clean. Rehab and all my other recovery attempts failed, but kratom didn't, allowing me to overcome my addiction. If I had not found kratom, I'd still be in active addiction, or dead from an overdose. For me kratom literally saved my life.

While taking kratom, I have never been fired for being intoxicated at work, stolen from friends and family, or woke up sick from withdrawals. All of these regularly occurred when I was using heroin. Kratom has never caused me to overdose while I experienced 3 overdoses on opiates. 2 of those would've been fatal if I was not administered narcan swiftly. Kratom saved me from being just another casualty of the opioid epidemic.

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) reviewed over 100 studies and surveys from 2018-2021 to assess the abuse potential of kratom. Some of their key findings include:

- Kratom use is primarily for health benefits rather than recreation or chasing a high.
- Long-term users show no significant differences in many physiological measures compared to non-users.
- Substantial evidence supports the use and efficacy of kratom in treating opioid withdrawal symptoms as well as other disorders.
- Evidence suggests the risk of death from using kratom is at least 1000 times lower than morphine-like opioids.

The NLM recommended kratom remain unscheduled and available to consumers due to the low risk of abuse and overdose. Instead, regulating kratom to minimize the risk of contaminated or adulterated products was recommended.

Kratom consumers biggest risk comes from the possibility of contaminated products due to the lack of purity standards. People must scrutinize vendors or risk buying unsafe products. Majority of vendors test their products and sell only quality kratom. Sadly, some only care about profits and don't test their product. Some even actively lace their kratom to increase weight or potency. Batches tested from such vendors have been found to contain high heavy metal levels, non-kratom plants, and/or synthetic drugs.

This adulteration is potentially deadly. Majority of deaths associated with kratom involve mixing kratom with much more potent substances. Designer drugs that are significantly more potent and deadlier than kratom are typically found. Many of these drugs can't be found with standard tests which often leads to falsely blaming an overdose on kratom.

Banning or criminalizing kratom would label thousands of people criminals for seeking relief. Additionally, it would fuel the opioid epidemic by prohibiting a promising treatment for opioid addiction. I hope you are able to see the value kratom has to offer and will stand against any ban attempts. Instead focus on protecting those who choose to consume it and encourage studies examining the medical benefits of the plant.
CommentID: 223893

Commenter: Brandon D

6/4/24 9:58 am

Kratom saved my life when no doctor would.

I am in my mid-20's. I have lived with chronic pain my entire life, stemming from bullying in kindergarten. A blunt force was applied to my spine and caused a cyst to grow. My pediatrician never helped. I lost all my jobs due to not being able to walk or stand for long.

I attempted suicide when nothing was left. Luckily I failed. I found kratom in 2016 and have taken it every day since. I've graduated college top of my class, summa cum laude. I work at a major hospital as a cyber engineer and help researchers, doctors, and professors help others.

Without kratom I would be dead as no doctor dared to help my pain. They didn't want me to get addicted and neither did I, but it would have been better than suffering in pain everyday and that is in the chance I would become addicted. So off of a whim I was sent on my way. Yet there was another choice. Kratom. One that does not compare to opiates level of addiction. One that I can function on every single day. And one that has kept my pain away.

Keep Kratom legal to save other lives as it did mine.

For those fighting. Stay strong <3!

CommentID: 223894

Commenter: Danielle Betz

6/4/24 9:58 am

My ultra conservative Mother wrote this on my behalf after witnessing my return to a healthy life

The following is the letter my Mother wrote after I started finding my way back.

August 18, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

Kratom saved my daughter's life. Danielle, my oldest daughter, who just turned 40, struggled with opioid addiction for well over a decade. During that time my daughter went from a responsible, caring and productive young woman to someone I no longer recognized although she was always beautiful. When it started to get bad, she initially had a well-paying job with benefits, security and chance for advancement. She lost that, in part due to her drug abuse, and from there things only got worse. She had a hard time finding and keeping jobs, she became financially irresponsible and stopped caring about basic things like family and keeping house. She was arrested several times and put on deferred adjudication so she has a criminal record. She had multiple doctors from

which she was able to obtain prescriptions and also had contacts that supplied her with drugs illegally.

During that time, she often said that she 'missed me' even though we were in constant contact. I was codependent and spent an untold amount of money keeping a roof over her head, paying her bills, etc. It took me a long, long time to stop enabling her. I missed my daughter, too. She was there in her body, but her personality was gone. She wasn't my daughter, she was a stranger. While on opioids, her judgment was gone. She wasn't able to make good decisions, had memory problems and was aggressively manipulative. I dreaded answering the phone for two reasons: the first that she might be stoned and it would be an upsetting conversation with a lot of drama and the second that I would get a call that she had overdosed and died or that she was in jail again.

Eventually I ended up as legal guardian of her 12-year-old daughter and her daughter lived with me for several years. It was during that time that Danielle found Kratom and

started on the road back to life. I started to see my daughter come back, started having intelligent conversations with her and saw her restored to emotional and physical health. Within a period of months, she went from opioid addiction to a 'normal' person. Her daughter continued to live with me while my daughter reestablished her life and eventually her daughter was able to return to live with her mother.

I do not know a lot about Kratom, although I read a bit about it and keep up on the news that is published by major news organizations that has to do with legislation and the FDA. I've done enough research to know that Kratom is a safe and better alternative than other methods that try address opioid addiction. Although my evidence is anecdotal, I see the results and I strongly believe that this should be available and remain a legal alternative without restrictions.

I cannot give exact statistics about the number opioid deaths per year (72,000 in 2017) and I do not know how many people overdose every day and are saved, but I know it is extremely high. For that reason, I do not understand why Kratom is not part of the solution and, instead, is considered dangerous.

My daughter is a whole person again. Kratom saved my daughter, plain and simple.

I do not need to remain anonymous. I am not ashamed that my family went through and came out of opioid addiction. We are one of many, many families going through this agonizing hell on earth. But we came out on the other side. Please keep Kratom legal

Lois Betz

CommentID: 223895

Commenter: Ana

6/4/24 9:59 am

Another pain patient, saved.

The comments speak for themselves. I'm yet another voice. Admittedly, most comments online don't "feel" real, as opposed to the impact when everyone marched for this amazing plant in Washington D.C. Nevertheless, as a chronic patient who was prescribed a heavy pain medication (early 20s at that during that time) and turned to Kratom to finally withdraw cold turkey, I can say with absolute certainty that it saved my life. Withdrawing from an opiate was absolute, torturous hell on earth. Succumbing to being sick while not having the luxury to take time off work, Mitragyna Speciosa saved me. I never want to go through opiate withdrawals again and pray I never have to for as long as I live. Pain medication has its time and place where Kratom may not work. I have also withdrawn entirely from Kratom in the process of trying to conceive/pregnancy. Did it have

some uncomfortable side effects? Yes, as no one enjoys chronic pain. I can say having been on both sides that it was negligible compared to the opioid.

Trying to make this natural tea that anyone who has ever taken it (on its own, not in combination) knows is the most harmless, yet legitimately powerful plant. My personal opinion since the 2018 ordeal is that the higher-ups solely want to synthesize Mit7 for pharmaceutical gain. There's little potential for abuse of non-altered Kratom. It will make you sick, you'll feel unwell and throw it all up before risking any side effect. You must find a reputable vendor (very high chance it isn't your local gas station), and stop trying to market this as a dangerous substance. Do the real research and findings of unbiased data and it will speak for itself.

CommentID: 223896

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:59 am

Kratom saves lives!

It's helping with my severe depression, anxiety, eating disorder, chronic pain, and alcoholism. Kratom saves lives every day!

CommentID: 223897

Commenter: David Hamilton

6/4/24 10:01 am

Kratom Saves Lives

Please heavily consider any action to take a powerful harm reduction tool away from the informed consumer. Kratom saves lives and the proof is evident. Revoking access would hurt tens of thousands of Virginians. See the science!

CommentID: 223898

Commenter: Mike

6/4/24 10:01 am

Kratom saved my life!

As someone who is an opiate addict I have to say kratom saved me! I was on heroin and methadone for almost a decade then tried to stay off methadone but that was a slippery slope for me until I looked into kratom. Thanks to this plant I am able to keep a job, own a house and live a normal life I really don't know where I'd be without it.

CommentID: 223900

Commenter: Michelle R Bender

6/4/24 10:03 am

Stop taking away all our medicine

First the government takes away our opioid pain medication forcing all of us who are chronic pain sufferers to have to look elsewhere. Some of us were lucky & we found Kratom & its been a God send. All of those who werent so lucky turned to the sireets to find relief for their never-ending pain & many have died as a result of Fentanyl laced medication or overdoses. Please do not take away this wonderful medicine provided by mother nature. It ~~me~~es me off really that you fight so hard to help all of us who are chronic pain sufferers instead of focusing your attention on the real drug wars in this country. Fentanyl pours over the border illegally all day everyday. That should be your focus. Shutting the big bad drugs like Fentanyl, Meth, Cocaine, & Heroin off our sireets. Instread you

legalize marijuana & then try to criminalize a perfectly harmless drug helping hundreds of thousands of people. Redirect your focus, you're fighting the wrong battle.

CommentID: 223901

Commenter: Alice Rodziewicz

6/4/24 10:03 am

Please don't ban. Fight for regulation and more research.

It is a crime to ban a substance simply because a group of the population abuses a substance that, for the most part, is not harmful. I have been using kratom for 5-6 years now. I was on 40 mg of Norco a day for a few years. I started doing research about substitutes and found kratom, did a lot of research, and then started using it regularly. I had no withdrawal from the opiates. I use kratom responsibly. What I can tell you from my experience is that (1) I have not developed a tolerance and had to up my dose over these years (big problem with Rx opiates), (2) I don't need my dose of kratom in the mornings to feel normal (big problem with Rx opiates), (3) I recently had a laparoscopic appendectomy and used nothing but kratom for pain control with absolute success. I have known someone with rheumatoid arthritis who has been able to manage pain successfully with kratom, a diabetic with peripheral neuropathy in his feet who said he was able to go shopping with his wife for the first time in a while.

Kratom has the potential to replace Rx opiate medication without many of the concomitant side effects of building up a tolerance, a huge problem. Nobody can control addicts looking for a substance to get high on, but there are probably millions of people at this point using kratom responsibly for pain control. What we need is regulation (e.g. ban concentrates, require batch testing, set age limits), education on responsible use and strain recommendations based on medical needs, and most of all research. Banning kratom stops the investigatory research needed to move this substance into the mainstream medical community, which is necessary.

CommentID: 223903

Commenter: Jacob

6/4/24 10:04 am

Criminalizing Kratom will destroy lives!

Kratom is an amazing and safe natural herb. It has helped me tremendously with social anxiety, chronic joint pain, anemia. It helps people I know to get off of, and stay off of heroin. Not only could they have died by now without kratom, criminalizing this natural herb will either cause them to relapse or send them to prison. This is ridiculous in the extreme! Keep kratom safe and legal!

CommentID: 223904

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:04 am

Kratom is the only thing that helps my pain

I've been in severe pain with scoliosis for years and literally nothing helps but Kratom. It's the only thing that gets me out of bed and to work every day. Otherwise I would be bedridden or in a hospital. Kratom had given me my life back, please don't take that away. Millions of people like me exist around the world. It has been used for centuries in Thailand for work. If Kratom is banned then caffeine should also be banned. It's also so much safer than alcohol and the government has no problem with that even though thousands of ppl die and ruin their lives every year with alcohol addiction. Kratom could never do that. To have Kratom banned in a world where alcohol is accepted would be insane

CommentID: 223905

Commenter: Lynee Kimble

Keep kratom legal

My husband and I both live with chronic, debilitating pain and kratom is the only thing that allows us to live pain free and enjoy our lives.

CommentID: 223906

6/4/24 10:07 am

Commenter: Michael chen

Do not criminalize kratom

Please do not criminalize Kratom as a scheduled substance. This only serves to monopolize a natural substance that is now being used by people therapeutically under the guise of public safety, which serves neither safety nor the public, but just allows a few medical professionals to lock up something that isn't the manufactured pharmaceutical.

CommentID: 223907

6/4/24 10:08 am

Commenter: Jennifer

Kratom gave me my life back

I hurt my back working as a nurse. Which resulted in three back surgeries. All of this led to my having chronic back pain. I was on prescription pain medication for 7 years. I was miserable and could barely function through out the day. In 2016 I found Kratom and decided to try it. Nothing else was working and I was ready to commit suicide, to my surprise the kratom helped. I was able to start doing things again and no longer felt like death was my only option. My family and I love to travel and if places start making Kratom illegal we will no longer be able to travel as I will have no option for pain control. Please do not make Kratom illegal

CommentID: 223908

6/4/24 10:08 am

Commenter: Trish

Keeping me off dangerous medication

I have taken kratom for pain to keep off dangerous medications. While taking kratom it also got me to stop drinking alcohol. I was drinking every night for years. Now I don't drink at all. Taking away kratom would be a huge travesty for recovering addicts and people in pain that are trying to avoid pharmaceuticals. Please do not take this option away from multitudes of people.

CommentID: 223909

6/4/24 10:08 am

Commenter: Al M.

Kratom Saved my life

I've been a IV heroin and meth user for 7 years, I've been in and out of rehabs and detoxes, it wasn't until I found Kratom that I've been able to stop using drugs intravenously. For the last 6

6/4/24 10:09 am

years I've had a good job and no longer IV drugs. I've completely turned my life around, and I believe Kratom had a big part in that.

CommentID: 223910

Commenter: Tina

Kratom allows me to be functioning citizen

Since the birth of my son 23 years ago, I have had many chronic conditions including depression, substance disorder, chronic pain and fatigue. In the first year of starting my bachelor degree I almost quit. I was having extreme pain in my lower back. At 30 I was diagnosed with ddd along with bulging herniated disc and spinal stenosis. I was determined not to succumb to the opioid crisis that was currently raging so I started researching alternative things for pain. Within a couple months of taking kratom I started to feel less depressed, more energy, and a lot less pain. Additionally I had no desire to drink alcohol. Now I'm 42 and have been taking kratom for nearly a decade daily. I am now a licensed mental health therapist, have completed both bachelor and master's degree and am at the end of my 4 year PhD. I truly believe finding kratom is what allowed me to stay in school and have a future. With kratom I get out of bed and want to be a functioning part of society.

CommentID: 223911

6/4/24 10:09 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom saved my life

I cannot do this!

CommentID: 223914

6/4/24 10:10 am

Commenter: Anonymous

This is a lifesaving plant

I do not support the board of Pharmacy Petition "Addition of kratom to Schedule I"

this plant is literally life-saving. Criminalizing it would mean thousands of people in your state trying to better themselves while fighting addiction or living with chronic pain would have to rely on other, much more dangerous substances.

Please do not ban.

CommentID: 223915

6/4/24 10:11 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Please do not ban

Kratom helps in so many ways. There is no need to criminalize it.

CommentID: 223916

6/4/24 10:11 am

Commenter: BB

6/4/24 10:12 am

Regulate kratom; DO NOT BAN

I am a Peer Recovery Coach, and this plant has literally saved the lives of countless people in my opioid-ridden community. Countless people have quit opioids and heroin successfully because of this plant. Please consider regulating it ONLY. I believe it should be regulated as alcohol and tobacco are. Yes, there are risks involved with kratom use. It is t for everybody and responsible use should be advised. But taking this medicinal plant away would effectively cause the lives of many to slip right back into opioid use and abuse. Save this plant! Save your communities. Regulate this, don't ban it!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

CommentID: 223917

Commenter: Judy presley

6/4/24 10:13 am

Safe product

I've been taking kratom 5-6 years. It's a natural nature made product with no side effects

CommentID: 223918

Commenter: Matt

6/4/24 10:13 am

Leave it alone

Kratom has helped a lot of people I know and should be left unregulated. Don't make it harder for people to access it. Regulation will make it harder for people to stay away from prescription medication.

CommentID: 223919

Commenter: Betsey Ahlstrom

6/4/24 10:13 am

Keep Kratom Legal

I do not live in Virginia, but this ban would affect me. One of my favorite kratom vendors works out of Virginia, bringing revenue to your state.

I live with chronic pain. I'm 45 years old and with kratom I am the healthiest I have been in my adult life. I have been using kratom for 6 years and my 40s are 1000 times better than my 20s were. With kratom I can not only get out of bed, but I can hike mountains. I can also do the little everyday tasks that allow me to have a life and be a contributing member to society. Kratom is an absolute miracle and godsend.

Banning kratom would be a mistake. It would affect the lives of untold thousands who live in your state who use kratom to better their lives. It is nowhere near as dangerous as the people who proposed the ban would have you believe, and it enhances the lives of millions of people in the

USA.

02 I wake up every day grateful that someone told me about kratom and that I gave it a try. It has only made my life better. It has only improved my ability to function in society and have a full time job. I was able to move out on my own and not be a burden to my family any more. I am completely self

reliant and not need any state programs to support my life anymore. I am able to walk 6 miles every day for my physical and mental health. My doctor supports me using kratom and we haven't found any evidence that it has adversely affected my body in the 6 years I have been using it daily. Please don't take this beneficial plant away from your citizens and from people who would visit your state in the future.

I lived in Ohio when our board of pharmacy was considering a ban and based on public response they decided to drop it. Please consider doing the same.

No one should be forced to live in chronic pain when there are safe alternatives available.

Betsey Ahlstrom

I Am Kratom

CommentID: 223920

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:15 am

Natural Remedies over Pharmaceutical Industry

Natural remedies often offer gentler alternatives to pharmaceuticals, with fewer side effects and a focus on holistic well-being. Additionally, many people find comfort in the historical and cultural significance of natural remedies, feeling a deeper connection to their roots and traditions.

CommentID: 223921

Commenter: Joyce McClintock

6/4/24 10:16 am

Keep Kratom nonprescription

I am a 74 year old woman who has been taking Kratom for crippling back pain for 10 years (after taking OxyContin for many years before that). There are no negative side effects. It is effective, affordable, and easy to get. Please do not change that!

CommentID: 223922

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:16 am

Kratom helps with opioid addiction

Kratom is a natural medicine that helps with pain management without having to turn to pharmaceuticals or other drugs. Kratom also helps get people off of pharmaceutical pain pills and opioid drugs. In the middle of an opioid crisis, banning kratom would lead to more suffering and deaths!

CommentID: 223923

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:17 am

I do not support

I cannot support banning a plant that has more potential than most pharmaceuticals

CommentID: 223924

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:18 am

Please don't ban this miracle plant

You would be doing Virginia a disservice

CommentID: 223925

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:18 am

Stop the bani!

I am a long-time kratom user, and am here to say that this plant has saved my life. I was addicted to pharmaceutical opioids and heroin/fentanyl, and kratom has allowed me to have control back of my life. After taking it for 10 years, and seen it change many others' lives in similar ways, I believe the ban is infringing on human rights. Listen to our stories, I promise it will make you think twice. Thank you

CommentID: 223926

Commenter: Prism Marlow

6/4/24 10:18 am

Hands off our plants

I use powdered Kratom which I fill capsules with WEEKLY following a strict regime that includes tolerance breaks -no more than 3g a day or 3 days a week. thats 3 caps every other day when my L4/5 disc is out and pressing on my nerves. i hav an opiate script which terrifies me that is doled out in two day supplies -comes w break thru pain and has been increased from 5mg to 10mg bc it doesn't work and comes w too many side effects. I HATE the way it feels in my brain.

Kratom works better and differently. It doesn't dope me up.

plant medicine is sacred and it's YOUR JOB TO PROTECT OUR ACCESS TO IT.

what's next? Chamomile? Lavender?

CommentID: 223927

Commenter: Caleb Paynter

6/4/24 10:18 am

Kratom Saved My Life don't make me a criminal for getting well.

Kratom helped me transformed my life! I am a recovering heroin addict and I have been sober for 7 years. I was a criminal before Kratom helped me change my life, if you schedule this plant you will be the reason I'm a criminal again.

CommentID: 223928

163

Commenter: Mike R Colley

6/4/24 10:18 am

Banning kratom is not the correct action

Hi, my name is Mike Colley and I wanted to express my opinion on a proposed ban for kratom in the state of Virginia. I know I'm not currently residing there but my wife and I have actually been considering Virginia as a potential place for us to retire to in the next few years, so that's why I wanted to put in my opinion on this topic.

I've been a user of kratom for the past 8 years and have found it to be a useful and good supplement for our health and lifestyle. We're currently in our late 40's and kratom is one item in our diet and nutrition that has helped us continue to be active and healthy as we age.

I understand the concerns some folks have around this product but **when used properly** and the **product is of good quality**, there should be little to no concerns on its efficacy and safety. We have never experienced negative consequences with it and have no dependency issues with it. I very much view kratom as a product that should be managed and regulated like alcohol, tobacco, and cannabis. It should not be so freely available that children or teens can purchase it and it should be held to the same health and safety standards that other consumer products are held to. Just because it has the *potential* for abuse does not mean it should be outright banned. Hundreds of thousands of people are able to use this product responsibly and in ways that benefit their lives. Please consider a rational stance on this product that will ensure it can continue to be used safely by the citizens of Virginia.

CommentID: 223929

Commenter: Jenna Miller

6/4/24 10:19 am

Please don't ban this medication

I have an untreatable chronic pain condition. Opioids are the only medications that have provided any relief. Kratom is the only alternative I've found that has worked as effectively. I have tried every alternative with my pain management doctors, and it's either kratom or opioids for me. Please don't ban my medication. I don't know what I'd do without pain relief.

CommentID: 223930

Commenter: Mr Rat

6/4/24 10:19 am

Kratom Saves Lives

i do NOT support the legislation restricting/banning kratom.

CommentID: 223931

Commenter: John

6/4/24 10:19 am

Chronic illness daily user

I suffer from rheumatoid arthritis and degenerative disc disease. I use kratom daily as a safe and effective pain management tool. I don't want to go back to pain meds. I don't want to be an addict. I want safe kratom not from the black market. Please consider my input.

CommentID: 223932

Commenter: Will Hooper

6/4/24 10:20 am

Kratom saved my life

It's crazy to think that you would ban a plant that has helped so many people, including myself. This plant needs to be studied for its medical benefits, which I believe there are many. Banning Kratom in Virginia would turn a lot of people back to a former lifestyle of addiction to opioids and create a lot more death and trauma for everyone in the community. Help people, don't hurt them.

CommentID: 223933

Commenter: Teresa Gallimore

6/4/24 10:20 am

Kratom

Please do not criminalize kratom. After 30 years of drs and meds for chronic pain I am doing so much better without them. My brain is clearer and my pain is better. Please don't take it away from all of us who need this for many reasons. It has helped so many with pain and addiction to regain our lives.

CommentID: 223934

Commenter: Eileen Philips

6/4/24 10:21 am

Kratos ban

I'D LIKE YOU TO PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO READ MY STORY ABOUT HOW KRATOM CONTINUES TO HELP ME.

I am a 63 year old woman who has a very rare auto-immune illness that stole my career as a Christian Elementary Education teacher (I have a Master's Degree in Teaching) in 2009. I developed anxiety and depression after not being able to teach. I lived with pain daily. At one point I was on 8 prescription medications, ALL that had mild to severe side effects. Then, my son told me get off my anti-depressants, (which actually caused suicidal episodes), anti-anxiety, sleep and pain meds. I have never had to increase the amount of kratom I take. It has no side effects and I have found it to be a life-saver. Please research it. The pharmaceutical companies ARE behind the push to make it illegal. They know that it has the potential to replace their money making drugs and cut into their profits. PLEASE do not ban it. If you start that ball rolling, you have know idea the harm you will be doing to people like myself who rely on it. I do not want to have to go back to the life I had on all the prescription meds I was on. Thank you for reading my message. Sincerely, Eileen Philips

CommentID: 223935

Commenter: Peter Cyr

6/4/24 10:22 am

Kratom Helps

I've been taking Kratom for over 5 years. I have a lot of nerve problems and it helps take the edge off of with pain. I'd rather take this than the straight pills that get pushed down our throats in the country. Do us a favor and leave it alone. Also if you can drink think to begin with you are on your own. I hope to begin with with because it doesn't taste good, but it does help.

CommentID: 223936

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:22 am

Kratom has no business being scheduled. Please wake up Virginia

I do not support this

CommentID: 223937

Commenter: Stephen

6/4/24 10:23 am

I do not consent to the banning of kratom

I have introduced Kratom to many people in my life, and it has had an overwhelmingly positive effect on all of them.

CommentID: 223938

Commenter: Liz

6/4/24 10:24 am

Kratom is a valuable tool for adults

Kratom is a valuable supplement for adult use. There is very little risk of dangerous consequences associated with consumption. Unlike typical opioids, Kratom does not cause respiratory depression and can be a therapeutic supplement for a number of conditions.

Making kratom illegal in Virginia would certainly impact my decision to spend tourism dollars in the state, for both practical and philosophical reasons. My goal would be to avoid Virginia permanently.

If kratom were to become illegal, many users would be driven to less safe alternatives. If public health is the driver behind the desire to make kratom illegal, then know that by removing this supplement from the legal market, some consumers of kratom will be driven by pain of chronic conditions to seek out alternatives that are objectively dangerous.

Scheduling kratom: would be a net negative for public health; would restrict adults' freedom to leverage of valuable supplement; and would negatively impact tourism and visitors of Virginia.

CommentID: 223940

Commenter: Pat M.

6/4/24 10:25 am

Kratom is the only natural answer to my pain

After knee and hip replacements doctors prescribed very addicting opioids for pain, until I discovered kratom. It was truly a God-send! I have always tried to opt for natural remedies for my medical problems, and kratom is the ONLY one that can touch my pain. I have very severe arthritis throughout my body and severe spondyloilesthes in my low back, along with several pinched nerves in my spine and neck. All of these cause severe pain that prevents me from living a productive life. Without kratom, I would literally become a cripple (I'm not exaggerating). Kratom has done for me what doctors (with their highly addicting drugs) are unable to do. I will ALWAYS choose the natural alternative. Please keep kratom legal! Thank you.

CommentID: 223941

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:25 am

Kratom has potential to help people

I have used kratom for many years and it has not impacted my health in a bad way. In fact it has enhanced my life, keeping me active and moving as I grow older and my arthritis gets worse. Maryland has passed

MD HB1229 Requiring a retailer that prepares, distributes, sells, or exposes for sale a kratom product to disclose the factual basis on which the representation is made; establishing prohibitions related to the preparation, distribution, and sale of kratom products, including prohibitions related to the sale of kratom to individuals under the age of 21 years and the marketing of kratom to minors; establishing certain penalties for violations of the Act; etc.

In a report on the findings, published in the Feb. 3 issue of Drug and Alcohol Dependence, say that U.S. drug agencies should seek to study and regulate rather than ban kratom sales outright because of its seemingly safe therapeutic potential, and as a possible alternative to opioid use.

And, Albert Garcia-Romeu, Ph.D., instructor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, the new survey findings "suggest that kratom doesn't belong in the category of a Schedule I drug, because there seems to be relatively low rate of abuse potential, and there may be medical applications to explore, including as a possible treatment for pain and opioid use disorder."

Please follow Maryland and regulate kratom for purity and age restriction to sale to over 21. And to study kratom for potential future uses.

Thank you

CommentID: 223943

Commenter: Eileen Philips

6/4/24 10:25 am

Kratom is life saving

I'D LIKE YOU TO PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO READ MY STORY ABOUT HOW KRATOM CONTINUES TO HELP ME.

I am a 63 year old woman who has a very rare auto-immune illness that stole my career as a Christian Elementary Education teacher (I have a Master's Degree in Teaching) in 2009. I developed anxiety and depression after not being able to teach. I lived with pain daily. At one point I was on 8 prescription medications, ALL that had mild to severe side effects. Then, my son told me about kratom. I began taking it 5 years ago, and I am now on only 1 RX medication. I was able to get off my anti-depressants, (which actually caused suicidal episodes), anti-anxiety, sleep and pain meds. I have never had to increase the amount of kratom I take. It has no side effects and I have found it to be a life-saver. Please research it. The pharmaceutical companies ARE behind the push to make it illegal. They know that it has the potential to replace their money making drugs and cut into their profits. PLEASE do not ban it. If you start that ball rolling, you have know idea the harm you will be doing to people like myself who rely on it. I do not want to have to go back to the life I had on all the prescription meds I was on. Thank you for reading my message. Sincerely, Eileen Philips

CommentID: 223944

Commenter: Ann R

6/4/24 10:25 am

Do not make Kratom a schedule 1 substance

I am writing to ask that you keep Kratom off the Schedule 1 list of substances. It is an all natural plant that has helped 1,000 and 1,000 of people with a multitude of issues. For myself personally it has kept me from needing to go to any kind of pain management or use anything stronger to help manage several conditions. Making Kratom impossible to purchase would make my, as well as so many other people's, lives much more difficult.

CommentID: 223945

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:25 am

Kratom is the only thing that relieves my chronic pain and allows me to function

I have a spinal injury resulting in a pinched nerve. Kratom is a safe alternative to the dangerous painkillers that have poisoned our nation over the past two decades. For less than \$80/month I can live pain free and take care of my family. If Kratom were made illegal, I would have to switch over to dangerous, highly addictive opiate painkillers. The side effects from these painkillers are awful and I would no longer be able to take care of my family in the way I currently do.

CommentID: 223946

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:26 am

Completely baffled by the way kratom has been characterized.

I am a professional, a wife, a mother, and a consumer of kratom. I consume kratom 7 days a week, and have for many years. I am the picture of health, and lead a fulfilling and successful life, free from the problems that those who are against kratom would lead you to believe plague all kratom consumers. Anything can be abused. Even everyday, ordinary things that you can find in anyone's kitchen or medicine cabinets. But we do not ban those things because we realize that doing so would not be for the greater good. Banning kratom would not be either. I urge you to reconsider and to keep kratom legal. Thank you

CommentID: 223947

Commenter: S. Hite

6/4/24 10:26 am

Please stop... Kratom is safe and works

I'm very much against this measure as kratom is very helpful in dealing with chronic debilitating arthritis pain and lupus.. please do not let this happen!

CommentID: 223948

Commenter: Lonnie Hansen

6/4/24 10:27 am

We do not support the ban

We do not support the ban

CommentID: 223949

Commenter: MG

6/4/24 10:27 am

Kratom remaining legal is essential

I am a traumatic brain and Spinal Cord Injured person from an auto accident. (Not the at fault party.)
 I have had 4 very serious SCI surgeries, and am no longer a surgical candidate.
 I still need 2 additional surgeries.
 Morphine and fentanyl were the only option for pain since this time in 2004.
 I was introduced to Kratom several years ago. It has improved the quality of my life exceeding any expectations. Kratom has not caused any negative side effects for me. I have remained on one low dose daily, and without increase while still maintaining the therapeutic benefits. I was able to eliminate all opiates. Remaining a legal option will continue to offer me the optimal opportunity for a reasonable quality of life. I pray that is the goal.
 Thank You.

CommentID: 223950

Commenter: Anonymous

Responsible kratom use can be a life saver

The responsible use of kratom has led to tremendously positive changes in my life. Please do not take away this option for people in your state. This is a substance that should remain available for anyone seeking to benefit from it responsibly.

CommentID: 223951

6/4/24 10:28 am

Commenter: Venus Usher

Kratom tea is the only thing that helps my pain

I found kratom tea in 2016. I got sick in 2000 from lupron shots prescribed by my Dr. That Dr didn't want to admit it, so started suggesting and doing surgeries causing more problems and pain. It wasn't until 2016 that I was able to drink a TEA, walk in to my drs offices and let them touch me without crying in pain. I was able to get surgery to prove my pain was real. I was able to stop all the visits to the drs and pharmacies begging for help. That's why they want it banned, not because it's dangerous. Kratom tea doesn't cause respiratory depression. I actually stopped my iv after surgery and drank tea, again, it worked better.

CommentID: 223952

Commenter: Nathan

Kratom is safe

I have been taking Kratom powder for nearly 10 years daily. Occasionally I will take a break from it, and to be honest, I've never had any issues as far as withdrawal symptoms. It is not an opioid. It is a mu opioid antagonist. Much research has proven that this does not activate the pathway that suppresses breathing.

Nearly every single reported death associated with kratom we're due to co-substances. Usually strong substances such as cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin and others. Kratom alone does not

6/4/24 10:31 am

cause death or medical problems in general any more than coffee would. In fact, Kratom is related to the coffee plant.

In fact, Tylenol, an FDA approved medication, causes liver failure and ultimately the death of nearly 500 people a year in the US alone.

I urge you to disregard the comments stating that this is a medication, it is not a medication but an herbal supplement used by many to help with chronic pain conditions. It's efficacy is life-changing. I know that it has changed my life to be a productive human, maintain a job, and helped quell my social anxiety without the need for heavy pharmaceuticals.

CommentID: 223953

Commenter: James Seewell

6/4/24 10:31 am

Consider the facts

It's clear that there's a market for this. There will continue to be a market whether it's prohibited or not. Just think back to when alcohol was prohibited. The prohibition was not effective. Instead of making those same mistakes today, let's legalize and regulate it so we can ensure that it is quality controlled, and so that we tax it and feed our economy instead of prohibiting it and sending all that money to gang members.

We have historical precedent to see that prohibition causes people to seek illegal alternatives like heroin, which may be laced with fentanyl. If we keep it legal that will not be an issue.

If you care about saving lives, do not prohibit this substance.

CommentID: 223954

Commenter: Dustin Travis

6/4/24 10:32 am

Kratom is my coffee

A lot of people drink coffee to stay alert and get themselves through the day but if I have too much caffeine it ends up making my chest and arm area feel tight and constricted. After visiting a doctor and doing an EKG he said I was fine but to lay off the caffeine. Enter kratom, which my father actually gave me. It is an amazing plant. Instead of the tightness I was feeling on caffeine and the jitters from it, I felt alert and focused and had no side effects from the kratom. Zero jitters. That was six years ago and I still take it several times a day in lieu of coffee. I also used to travel to Thailand at least once a year and kratom was (up until recently) banned there so I had to stop taking kratom cold turkey. I had zero side effects each time I had to do this. It is not an addictive drug, at least not for the majority of people. Alcohol is legal yet I can guarantee it's WAY more addictive than kratom. Kratom has helped so many people get off their opiate addictions and has helped people with pain management. Are there people addicted to kratom? Probably. But I feel the pros FAR outweigh the cons. There are people that are addicted to eating paper (xylophagia) and you don't see paper being banned. Don't ban kratom. Your actions will end up hurting more people than helping.

CommentID: 223955

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:32 am

Kratom should not be banned.

Kratom should not be banned. It's a natural solution and helps many people.

CommentID: 223956

Commenter: Heather Moss

Please protect VA citizens with chronic pain and MS who need kratom

I know many responsible users of kratom. This is a witch-hunt by big pharma.

CommentID: 223957

6/4/24 10:33 am

Commenter: Beth F

Sacrifice freedom and Bodily autonomy for fictitious claims

To whom it may concern,

I urge you to look at the science with no addiction center activity in the brain, and all rest.

I spent over 4 years waiting on a spinal surgery. during that time my doctors put me on a high dose opioid, several to be precise. My health suffered terribly and my immune system wasn't working properly, something to do with the acetaminophen which for multiple reasons, none to my benefit are partnered with opiates. Check with a doctor about long term use and immune function. I was catching every cold and I came across, couldn't help but get an infection from a cut. I got my surgery but my pain was not resolved unfortunately I had suffered permanent damage. I don't want to be in medications that make me sick or loopy. I do not drink, I do not like to be intoxicated. It makes me feel vulnerable and out of control, wholly disturbing. I went for a spinal cord stimulator in hopes of just keeping hoise and enjoying day today activities most take for granted likememploying with a grandchild on the floor. Unfortunately the spinal cord stimulator did not work. I still did not want to be in opiates so I used kratom tomween myself from opiates. It worked unfortunately the pain remained and I have put myself on a low dose of kratom 3x a day. It helps with pain, does not eliminate that pain but it's better than ibuprofen or other over the counters I have found and works almost as well as the opiates without the foggy brain. Kratom does not intoxicate. It is safer than over the counter meds. I being a free adult should be able to chose what goes in my body without government oversight if there are no victims. What is gained with a ban? Who benefits, it's not the people. I'd rather be dead than on opiates and I'd rather be dead than bed bound. I enjoy the ability to buy what I need and use it to help me have a life be it ever so limited, I cant imagine the alternative.

Thank you for listening. Please go meet people and don't be swayed by those who benefit with regulation without listening to real people.

Sincerely,

Beth

CommentID: 223958

Commenter: Dan Emory

Bill on Kratom

I am 65 and have been taking kratom for over 10 years for chronic pain from working in the trades for 40 years. I have had no negative side effects at all.

CommentID: 223959

6/4/24 10:34 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Please don't!

I am using Kratom to help me with my chronic back pain and it works! I wanted to stop using opioids because I was having to increase my intake as my body built up resistance to each dosage. I do also get epidurals and nerve ablations, but I still need pain relief. I had 2 back surgeries 13 years ago and I have been taking kratom for the past 5 years now. The only side effect I have is loss of hair but I will take that over being debilitated every day. Thank you for your consideration. Susan Todd (66 years old)

CommentID: 223960

6/4/24 10:36 am

Commenter: Anonymous

I oppose this measure

I have used kratom to manage my mood/energy for 5+ years. It is not a magic elixir but it helps me and has not caused significant mental/physical harm. I think it is wrong and misguided to schedule kratom, and such a decision would negatively impact countless people. Please do not schedule kratom.

CommentID: 223961

6/4/24 10:37 am

Commenter: Brent Flowers

Leave Kratom Alone

Do not ban a product that helps millions and millions of Americans not use big Pharmaceuticals addictive poisonous pain pills. Millions of Americans depend on keaton due to their chronic pain and are unable to work and have a normal life without this miracle herb.

CommentID: 223962

6/4/24 10:38 am

Commenter: Mary Ann Dunkel

Keep kratom legal

I am a nurse who had to retire on disability. Fibromyalgia stole my life more than 28 years ago. I have severe chronic pain and fatigue that limits my activities of daily living. I have been prescribed more pharmaceuticals than I can remember and suffered damaging side effects from them. I've participated in psychotherapy, aqua therapy, multiple pain management programs, acupuncture and hypnosis. None of these modalities brought me relief and for quite some time I was bed fast and dependent on family for care. Unless you have experienced unrelenting severe pain 24 hours a day, you cannot know the horror of it. My doctors have prescribed me morphine, fentanyl, oxycodone, tramadol and other medications to control the pain. None of them worked for very long and I could see these prescriptions were going to lead to addiction. Often I weaned myself off them and suffered through terrible withdrawal because the small amount of relief they gave was not worth addition or overdose death. Bottom line is these narcotics are not effective in treating chronic pain. There were times when I thought about taking my life because I just couldn't get a break from the pain and didn't think I could take it any longer.

6/4/24 10:38 am

A friend introduced me to kratom. She had been consuming it for more than 10 years without side effects or becoming addicted to it. I started my own journey consuming kratom. Kratom is not a drug. It is an, a supplement. It does not heal any disease but it has certainly improves my quality of life. I am having PAIN FREE days and my energy level is greatly improved. Kratom has restored my ability to life a normal life and I can enjoy all sorts of activities that make my life rich and full. Kratom does not make me high, nor do I experience side effects. I am now clear minded without the sedation caused by narcotics. I am devastated that the FDA is working to ban the ONLY thing that has helped me in the past 28years.

I am sick to death of reporters parroting the lies from the FDA. I implore you. The study they have done is full of inaccuracies and half truths. Independent studies of the autopsies in the so called kratom deaths have shown the victims had multiple medications in their systems and they also included a death caused by gun shot. Eight leading scientists have studied kratom and found it to be safe. It has been used for hundreds of years without problem. It is NOT an opioid, it is related to the coffee plant. It does attach to the same receptors in the brain as opioids but so do many other substances such as chocolate and milk.

I would suggest to you that the FDA wants it banned because it is cutting into Big Pharma's financial bottom line. People are finding the help they need without costly and deadly pharmaceuticals. I fear that if Kratom is banned this country will see an epidemic of self inflicted deaths by people who have no hope. In addition, kratom will become a black market over reach by government to protect the monies they get from the pharmaceutical lobbies.

Currently there is a movement by kratom advocates to have legislation passed called the Kratom Consumer Protection Act. This Act would protect the public by holding vendors responsible for proper handling and labeling and also would prevent sales of kratom to anyone under 18 years of age.

There are other legitimate studies available many can be found on the American Kratom website.

Science and facts about kratom from The American Kratom Association
www.americankratom.org

CommentID: 223963

Commenter: Brian, Pharmacist

6/4/24 10:39 am

Without data, you're just another person with an opinion. Also, being a plant doesn't mean 'safe'

I'm sure people like their kratom leaves; they provide a mix of stimulant and opioid - like effects. People have been using the stuff for hundreds of years - usually people in southeast Asia who have tough, physical jobs. Using the stuff for recreational or quasi - medicinal purposes is rather different. Now that kratom has gone mainstream in the USA, the problems are getting more attention.

As is usual with herbal products, there's no telling what people are actually buying due to the absence of regulation. Herbal products also have no requirement of proven benefit. The problem is that as doses are pushed higher and higher, the likelihood of problems becomes higher as well. Over failure and stupor have been caused by kratom, especially in higher doses.

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<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

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For those of you using kratom, please don't think that because the product comes from a plant that you should be confident that it's safe. Deadly nightshade and digitalis are from plants and they will consistently sicken and kill you with high enough doses. Combine that with a lack of dose or potency information due to the herbal status of the product and you have no way to manage what dose you are getting. I wish this situation was different, but these are the inconvenient facts.

In order to protect kids from this stuff, in my opinion it's best that it's regulated. We have only so many tools to do that, Schedule I status is one of those and it seems like a good idea to me.

I found this paper instructive:

<https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.7556/jaoa.2012.112.12.792/html>
 CommentID: 223964

Commenter: Jo A. Jozwiak

6/4/24 10:39 am

Kratom

To whom concerns,

Discovering Kratom saved my life & allows me to function day to day life since 2017!

Back in 2017 the medical establish got strict with their opiates they used for treating chronic pain sufferers. that action caused a lot of people with chronic pain conditions to be cut off.

I was one of those people! In the end my no longer getting opiates for my pain, I discovered Kratom! I found out about Kratom from another person recommending it instead suffering in pain.

Best thing to ever happen to me, not only did Kratom take away my chronic back pain, Kratom also helped me get off opiates for good!!!

I've been using Kratom now for 7 years! I'm able to function & I have a way to manage my pain. Kratom if it wasn't for Kratom I would be dead by now. My pain was something I could not of live with!

I can't imagine my life without Kratom, I'm free from my horrible pain!

Please understand how important Kratom is & it's uses are many for many people!

Thank you, Jo A. Jozwiak

CommentID: 223965

Commenter: Andrew

6/4/24 10:39 am

Six Years Kratom Use with No Ill Effects || Anti-Kratom Propaganda

There's a reason that the anti-kratom comments on this petition are written as second-hand sources and the pro-kratom comments are all first-hand. The vast majority of anti-kratom points all come from the same handful of biased and incorrect sources.

I have been taking kratom daily for six years with no ill effects. In this time, I've seen the anti-kratom propaganda wax and wane and have always been able to trace the source back to unscrupulous zealots. The idea that kratom is deadly is severely attenuated when you consider that each person in the examples had other substances in the body. For the hundreds of supposed kratom deaths, there are tens of thousands of people who have had their lives changed for the better.

To my personal story, I was on the verge of suicide when I found kratom. It pulled me back and gave my son a father. To take kratom away will leave blood on your hands. People will die. Don't be the antagonist of history.

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CommentID: 223966

Commenter: Billie**Kratom**

Please don't ban. Only thing that helps with my depression and panic disorder.

CommentID: 223967

6/4/24 10:40 am

Commenter: Anonymous**Don't ban Kratom**

Don't not ban kratom. This plant saved my life from addiction to perspiration opiates.

CommentID: 223968

6/4/24 10:42 am

Commenter: J Beck**Please don't ban this life saving plant!**

Kratom is a natural plant of this earth that has been used for thousands of years. Currently, there are numerous outlets feeding false information and outdated science about these life-saving leaves. Listen to the experts. The people who have put their time, money, resources, and hearts into studying this plant, and who realize the potential this plant has to save so many people from addiction and pain. Listen to the kratom advocates who have personal stories about kratom bringing them back from the brink of death from opioid use. People who have chronic pain and are unable to get pharmaceutical help. People who suffer from anxiety or depression and get natural relief from kratom.

Kratom is not inherently dangerous. The dosage makes the poison, which is true about literally everything we consume. How many people overdose on Tylenol every year? What about benadryl? Aspirin? These are all things deemed "safe" by FDA standards.

There simply is not enough evidence to say this plant needs to be banned. Quite frankly, it's a ridiculous notion. A natural remedy to the opioid epidemic, that literally saves lives, needs to be regulated. Keep it safe for people to continue to live happy, pain-free lives. Please do not ban.

CommentID: 223969

Commenter: Anonymous**Banning Kratom is harmful!**

Kratom helps millions of people including professionals, executives, government officials and employees, veterans and people from all walks of life with a myriad of ailments and disorders. To ban a legal substance which has a positive result for these people is a terrible injustice. Please consider proper research into how such a positive thing helps so many people before making a knee jerk decision to make their lives worse and turn them into criminals. A person close to you just may be one of them. Please use skill and good judgement in the use of the resources available to you.

CommentID: 223970

6/4/24 10:43 am

Commenter: PM**Competition for opioids????**

Many of us who have been helped by kratom and know that it is safe realize that the FDA's desire to ban it is solely because it poses a threat to their opioid market. We are not stupid! Kratom is a natural herbal remedy for pain, and the ONLY option for a LOT of people who cannot or will not use opioids. The FDA has no legal right to ban a plant that God gave us to help with pain. Your time and money would be much better spent on cracking down on Fentanyl - something that KILLS people (MANY of them) - rather than a natural plant that helps millions.

CommentID: 223971

6/4/24 10:44 am

Commenter: Mike S**Kratom helps with more dangerous substances**

I was a heavy drinker and marijuana smoker for years prior to trying Kratom. Near daily/daily use of it has helped me drastically reduce consumption of both. I'm a better father without hangovers and overall feel physically healthier. I run five days a week, have since starting Kratom with no ill effects. My resting heart rests with Kratom has remained in the mid-50s (measured by Fitbit) for several years. A single night of alcohol consumption drives it up into the 60s or 70s.

Kratom has been instrumental in helping me become healthier, a better father and a more productive member of society.

CommentID: 223972

6/4/24 10:45 am

Commenter: Ryan Garber**We have seen the effects of this mistake before**

Kratom has been used by an enormous amount of people to safely get off of opioids. It has no effect on the central nervous system and no one has ever been in physical injury due to overdose. Making its alkaloids illegal will simply push users onto the black market, or, more likely, back onto opioids like fentanyl. We need to better regulate the supplement market and allow kratom in it to protect people — NOT outlaw an extremely useful plant.

CommentID: 223973

6/4/24 10:45 am

Commenter: Chris Carroll**Kratom saved my life**

The scheduling of kratom is a terrible mistake. Kratom not only helps people relieve pain without using opiates but it also is a safe way to get off of opiates.

Fifteen years ago I was in a motor vehicle accident while riding my bike. I have three slipped discs and two herniated. My doctors had me on ninety oxy conton 30 mg a month just so I could in a way live as close to a normal life as possible. I was taking the prescribed medications for eight years just living in an opiate haze and I lost my insurance. I didn't know what to do the withdrawal from the medication my doctor prescribed me was absolute torture and on top of the withdrawal my body is still broken I could barely get out of bed. I ended up having to turn to heroin and that was a whole different downward spiral in its self. I was addicted to heroin for about two and a half years and I had lost everything and I still had chronic pain, depression and it was torture just existing. Then I was introduced to the wonderful plant kratom through a friend that had recently gotten clean

6/4/24 10:46 am

off of heroin. With kratom I was able to in about two weeks completely quit heroin. I still had withdrawal but it was much easier. Now I have been completely clean from heroin for over five years because of kratom. Kratom saves lives and is a solution to the opioid epidemic that is killing a whole generation. Scheduling kratom is a grave mistake. The solution is to set standards for kratom manufacturers to ensure that their are no unsafe substances tainting the pure kratom. If you do this you will be killing a lot of people. My doctors almost killed me and kratom saved my life. Please don't take away a plant that has saved so many lives of former addicts.
 CommentID: 223974

Commenter: Anonymous
 6/4/24 10:46 am

Kratom has kept me off alcohol

Kratom has successfully kept me away from alcohol and overall, helped me drink more water, eat healthier, and given me my healthy lifestyle back robbed from booze. Banning kratom is a terrible government overreach and unnecessary.

Thank you for your consideration.

CommentID: 223975

Commenter: Ward case
 6/4/24 10:48 am

Recovering alcoholic

I've been to detox 18 times in two years and two rehab facilities 20 years of drinking and drugs, 6 1/2 years off alcohol and drugs!!! And all because of GOD and this special plant KRATOM!!! It takes away the craving and helps feel that void ,please don't take away this plant that has saved so many lives including mine!!!???????

CommentID: 223976

Commenter: Andrew S
 6/4/24 10:48 am

Unacceptable

It's 100 percent unacceptable to ban a supplement that helps millions of Americans every single day. Pure unadulterated kratom has shown to be perfectly safe and this is why the kratom consumer protection act is so important and should be the answer 10 out of 10 times. You will be doing the people a HUGE disservice by banning kratom. Have a heart and dont screw over all of these people that depend on it to make life bearable. We owe it to their loved ones and to them.

CommentID: 223977

Commenter: Anonymous
 6/4/24 10:48 am

Kratom

Kratom helps people!

CommentID: 223978

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:48 am

Daily user of kratom for 9 years for chronic pain. DO NOT BAN

I have ankylosing spondylitis, and kratom is enabling me to work without having to go on disability. My spine and lower back has a lot of damage, and its been attacking since childhood. I am now 37. Doctors tend to not give enough relief, and with kratom being available, I am able to have a safe and legal alternative. If you ban it, you will force people like me into getting illegal drugs, and that will be deadly in this Fentanyl crisis.

CommentID: 223979

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:50 am

Really?

Quit overreaching. Enough is enough. Why would you make a plant that helps so many people a schedule 1? Find something useful to do with your time..

CommentID: 223981

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:51 am

Banning this is bad for the people of Virginia!

We cannot let pharmaceutical companies control what we can and cannot consume. They have interests that do not have to do with people's safety. Their interests are only on making more money from their own products, which we all know has caused more harm to people than kratom ever could.

CommentID: 223982

Commenter: Michelle Ableson

6/4/24 10:52 am

Kratom saved me from a lifetime of pain

Kratom is responsible for me being able to walk with all the back problems I have and has allowed me to continue to earn a living please don't take it away! Synthetic drugs is not the answer and letting people suffer isn't either! Shame on anyone trying to ban this you will get old one day too!

CommentID: 223984

Commenter: Rachel Tineo

6/4/24 10:53 am

Why?

The Real and most important question is why are you doing this? How does it affect you? Why would you want to ban a substance that benefits thousands? If not millions of people around the globe. Why would you want to ban a substance that helps people stay off of hard drugs and alcohol? It's almost as if the people in power in this country want to see their citizens suffer... They want them to be addicted to prescription pain medication, they want them to be out of control, alcoholics, they want them to be in pain and have a hard life. But the question is why? Why do you find pleasure in making other people suffer? Every day, in the land of free, more and more rights get taken away. The founding fathers of this country would be disgusted with this attempt to take

away something that has only benefited people. I really don't know how you can sleep at night knowing you're trying your hardest to disrupt so many peoples lives. Let us live Our lives, and you live your life. What I choose to put inside my body is absolutely NO concern to you. ??

CommentID: 223985

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:55 am

Regulate it. Have we learned nothing since prohibition?

The idea of making Kratom a schedule 1 substance is ridiculous. Regulate it to protect consumers. **All this will do is turn law abiding citizens living their lives the best way they can into criminals overnight.** Prohibition does not work, ever. With fentanyl cheap and available on every street corner, this proposal makes zero sense.

CommentID: 223987

Commenter: Sarah clapp

6/4/24 10:55 am

Do not ban Kratom

Kratom has given me the opportunity to continue to work & care for myself despite chronic pain & fatigue. I have watched family members lose themselves to prescription pain killers & I refuse to continue the cycle.

CommentID: 223988

Commenter: Chris Frone

6/4/24 10:55 am

I do NOT consent to scheduling kratom.

This is absolutely insane. Do NOT do this to us citizens. We deserve better. This has saved my life multiple times. Doing this is unbearable and not in the best interest of us.

CommentID: 223989

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:56 am

10 years of unproblematic use is not a coincidence

We keep getting told how dangerous kratom is and how it has long lasting negative affects. But it appears to me as though there are loads of us who have been consuming this plant for many many years without so much as a single problem to report. Just because we are not all doctors or scientists doesn't mean that our experiences are not valid and worthy of recognition. I also have to wonder why the doctors and pharmacists who are in opposition of kratom do not feel the same way towards alcohol? Follow the money.

CommentID: 223990

Commenter: peggy

6/4/24 10:59 am

17
kratom

Once again the lack of education and knowledge has raised it's ugly head to promote illogical and unreasonable rules. Kratom has helped many detox, provide some pain relief as the CDC used

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

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flawed reasoning and studies to take away health care from thousands of people therefore leaving them in misery, and at times suicidal.

It is my firm belief that medical care and Healthcare should be the sole purview of medically trained persons. The government has no business in medical care and agencies that are funded by private concerns often falls into the trap of powerful people who weird their money to promote personal belief. If you are well read about the CDCs guidelines you will know that their reasoning is fatally flawed.

Once again I will state that healthcare belongs to those trained in the art and science of medicine.
CommentID: 223991

Commenter: Steve. tru

6/4/24 11:02 am

Saved my life

Kratom has kept me off alcohol . With out it I will relapse and who knows where that could lead me. Please leave Kratom be. It is not a drug. It's a tool respectful herb from centuries past.

thank you !

CommentID: 223992

Commenter: Michael Hanson

6/4/24 11:02 am

Criminalizing Kratom Will Kill More People Than It Helps

If you decide to make the disastrous decision of scheduling Kratom, thousands of people will begin using unsafe, illicit drugs such as heroin and fentanyl to alleviate the pain they are using Kratom to help them with. This is will inevitably result in overdoses. You can not overdose from Kratom. Making Kratom illegal is a death sentence for many people.

CommentID: 223993

Commenter: Christine Wilds

6/4/24 11:03 am

Addition of Kratom to Schedule 1 - Please Don't!

For me, kratom has literally been a lifesaver! Due to a service- connected injury (I'm a disabled Veteran) I've been living life in a world of pain you never knew existed, and can't wrap your head around, but Kratom helps! Because of the CDC's opioid guidelines and pain management in the U.S. still being controlled by the DEA, the "Opioid Crisis" is officially over. Yet, I and many other legitimate chronic pain sufferers like me, are still under medicated. I can barely function on my prescription pain meds alone. I have been suicidal several times.

But with the right strain of kratom from a provider certified by the American Kratom Association, where I can trust that the product has not been tampered with or adulterated, this miraculous plant from God-given plant that requires no processing other than crushing, has improved my quality of life! I can take care of myself, my pets, and most things around my house. Kratom has been used for millennia by indigenous peoples for medical and relaxation purposes, and the American Kratom Society has ensured safe access in the United States for some time now.

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334/750

Unfortunately, legislators in the United States have very little knowledge of the effects of kratom. Rather than spend the money to study it, they would just as soon ban it. Legislators also have no idea what it's like to live with unrelenting, mind-bending pain or any of the other health conditions kratom is known by users to benefit. With across the board regulation of opioids prescriptions the CDC and the DEA have effectively transformed the Opioid Crisis into a much more deadly fentanyl crisis on the street and a suicide crisis in the legitimate pain community. Some people are even able to get off opioids by using the plant, kratom. Yes, kratom should be regulated by the organization that already exists. The American Kratom Association can effectively do that. Please, don't ban this natural substance with the God-given power to help us all.

CommentID: 223994

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:04 am

Kratom

Narcotic. Regulate.

CommentID: 223995

Commenter: Aamanda P

6/4/24 11:05 am

please stop banning. Instead protect.

Pharmaceutical companies are constantly trying to patent this plant. It's denied because it's "Plant". You can easily look this up online. Pharmaceutical companies really want this plant ban because it's cutting into their profits. It is part of the coffee plant area. Prohibition never has worked nor will it ever work. Please protect this by making sure distributors are forced to test it to make sure it's an adulterated without anything bad in it.

CommentID: 223996

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:06 am

Keep kratom legal

I don't live in Virginia, but I feel compelled to speak up for all of us who use this plant to stay off hard drugs and alcohol. I haven't had a drop of alcohol since I started taking kratom, and I think that speaks volumes. Don't ban this plant and push people back to opiates and alcohol. This plant allows people to live their lives safely. It would be a huge mistake to make kratom a schedule 1 substance. Good luck to my kratom advocates in Virginia, keep up the good fight.

CommentID: 223997

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:07 am

Do NOT!!

Kratom saved my life!

CommentID: 223998

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:08 am

LEAVE THE PLANTS ALONE!

"If the words life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness don't include the right to experiment with your own consciousness, then the Declaration of Independence isn't worth the hemp it was written on."

Terrence McKenna

CommentID: 223999

Commenter: Sami

6/4/24 11:11 am

Kratom keeps me alive

Hi my name is Samantha Palmer. I have a lot of health problems, and it was not for kratom I probably would not be here, kratom has saved my life. I used to be on pain management but with all the new laws that went into effect it became harder to get help for my pain. No doctors can or will help you with your pain they just treat you live you're a druggie. I hated going to pain management. Then one day my doctor's office closed down, so I was out of pain management. I was looking scared how was I going to take care of a 3-year-old by myself. So, I started to reach out to other people that were in my same boat they could not find help for their pain. So finally, one day someone told me about kratom, so I gave it a try and I've never looked back since. Honestly, I would rather take kratom for the rest of my life then have to turn to those dam pills again. Unless you're in pain every single day and you know, and I mean really know what it feels like to hurt this bad everyday then you would not even think about getting rid of kratom. Kratom really does more good, then bad. You need to get to really know the people here that actually use kratom every day, open your eyes and your mind there is more out there then wanting to make nothing but money think about the people not the paydays from the pharmacy company's.

CommentID: 224000

Commenter: Shane

6/4/24 11:11 am

Keep legal it helps so many people and it's there choice

Keaton gives people the option to manage there pain and not have to take opiates pushed my the pharmaceutical industry. If you do this you will ruin many lives and possibly cause deaths from people relapsing on illicit substances.

CommentID: 224001

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:11 am

Who are the experts?

To those commentors who think doctors, pharmacists, etc. are experts on this matter are sadly mistaken. All medical schools are funded by Big Pharma, and all that medical students are taught is that DRUGS are the only answer to our medical problems. Most medical schools never even touch on natural remedies (because there's no money in it), so drugs are all students know when they graduate. Of course they will tell you that drugs are "safe and effective" ...it was pounded into their heads for years. Even though there are next to NO credible studies on the effects of kratom (because there's no money in it), everyone's an expert. And these brainwashed "experts" continue to prescribe addicting poisons. Unless a doctor has done his/her own research and extensive study on natural/herbal remedies, he/she has no right to claim they are experts. I've been taking

kratom for years, and it's been a God-send for my severe pain.....and I am neither addicted, nor dead - so there's my "expert" opinion.
CommentID: 224002

Commenter: Drea Discussions

6/4/24 11:12 am

KRATOM SAVES LIVES!!!

Please hear me out on this. I live with multiple disorders that cause a tremendously high amount of pain. I have gained my quality of life back after being allergic to most medication or having it cause health concerns. I have been utilizing Kratom since 2015. I am healthier than ever because I can function! KRATOM saved my brother's life from fentanyl for almost 4 years. My sister's life has been saved from serious addictions thanks to the responsible use of Kratom. I live in Virginia and cannot have this taken away; it is taking my life away from me if this is ever banned. It will cause the fentanyl crisis to heighten like never seen before. Have you any idea how many have gotten off of illicit fentanyl/xylozine with Kratom? Thousands up on thousands! KRATOM SAVED MY LIFE AND THE LIVES OF MANY LOVED ONES AND FRIENDS! Do not make this grievous mistake.

Thank you for your time.

CommentID: 224003

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:12 am

KEEP KRATOM LEGAL! LEAVE OUR PLANTS ALONE!

I've been in recovery for 4 years straight because of Kratom it saved my life! Kratom also saved my Mother's life from chronic pain! Leave our Leaf Alone!

CommentID: 224004

Commenter: Mike Reising

6/4/24 11:13 am

DO NOT SCHEDULE KRATOM!

Kratom is a plant that has been used by millions of people safely for hundreds of years. It is a wonderful botanical that helps many people with many issues. Please do the research and learn about it. Do not schedule this plant.

CommentID: 224006

Commenter: Staci O.

6/4/24 11:16 am

Kratom legality

I have used kratom for many years without any harmful effects.
One of the most important things about kratom for me is that it reduces my respiratory allergies. It is more effective for me than prescription or OTC drugs like Claritin.

CommentID: 224007

Commenter: Christine Piritano

6/4/24 11:16 am

Kratom

Kratom has literally saved my life. I suffer with chronic pain. Born with a disability on both feet/legs and was hit head on by a drunk driver and lived. For almost 20 years the doctors have prescribed me morphine, methadone, oxycodone, hydromorphone, tramadol, and every other opiate you can think of. It has been a long haul dealing with my pain.....until I found KRATOM. I have been using KRATOM for 7+ years and am opiate free, with mild chronic pain. It gives me a bit of energy, well being and helps with my anxiety without extra added benzodiazepines. People who want to ban Kratom have no clue what it does and have only made up stories thru folks who think it's bad and not have used it. It does not kill you unless you have taken other drugs and/or abuse it. A person can get Benadryl over the counter, take 20 of them and die. I know folks who have and that is not a schedule 1 drug. Please do more real testing with people who use it and believe in how important it can be for us that use it responsibly. Don't just be against something you know absolutely nothing about!!!! Seriously!! Evening

CommentID: 224008

Commenter: Mike

6/4/24 11:17 am

Kratom saves lives

Myself, and several friends and family in the small group of people I know, have used Kratom for years. It is extremely useful as not only a pain reducer but also an anxiety and depression reducer. I consider it essential to my daily life for the latter reasons, and have at least one friend that would be unable to work without kratom. Please strongly consider keeping Kratom legal for all adults in the state. Thank you!

CommentID: 224009

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:18 am

keep kratom legal

Kratom saves lives

CommentID: 224010

Commenter: Lora Romney

6/4/24 11:18 am

Pain Patients Need Kratom!

I am a pain patient of 13 years (Trigeminal Neuralgia). My life was forever changed when I discovered Kratom for my chronic pain. I was able to stop taking opioids and many other medications that were giving me severe side effects. Seven years later I am still taking a low dose of kratom daily (plain powder and not extracts) to manage my daily 7-9 level pain. If kratom were to be banned, patients like me would be without pain control. Many doctors will not prescribe opioids. Patients cannot simply wish away their pain. We must have legal options! Kratom is a scientifically backed alternative to treat pain. Please do not schedule kratom. Look to reputable scientists (Johns Hopkins) to show you the great potential this plan has if it is regulated and tested for contaminants. Education is key too! Kratom saves lives!

CommentID: 224011

Commenter: Ruthie

6/4/24 11:20 am

Kratom Helps

Kratom has helped ease anxiety, depression, and physical pain. Please let it be.

CommentID: 224012

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:20 am

Stop stop hurting the people

The while pharmaceutical industry is a sham it kills millions and the very little we have to help us, like kratom saves lives.it is a never ending journey to protect our health and choice. But all the powers that be just want to harm us.if I am wrong like your actions shoe it and not your words that as we all know is nit credible.

CommentID: 224013

Commenter: C. M.

6/4/24 11:24 am

More of the War of pain patients

With the strict regulations on life saving (yes, life saving. chronic pain patients have started committing suicide du to lack of pain relief, aka TORTURE) opioids, many have turned to kratom to avoid having to resort to street drugs like fentanyl or heroin. If you want to increase overdose deaths by illegal drugs then go ahead and take away the last remaining legal options for people with severe, intractable chronic pain. the number of people suffering from chronic pain has increased drastically since covid, I myself had mild hypermobile disorder related pain, until I got covid in 2021 (I was fully vaccinated). I now have severe HSD related pain, and sometimes the only way I can sleep is to take kratom. It is well documented that over-regulation of drug use and drug-users results in more deaths and more addiction from people who could otherwise use RX or OTC drugs to help their issues. I'm all for regulating kratom purity and getting rid of adulterants, but illegal using it entirely will continue to waste taxpayer money on mass incarceration and will continue to make it so that people buying drugs can never truly know what is in them, resulting in higher rates of accidental overdose. higher rates of avoidable hospitalization of people who can't afford it (again, wasting taxpayer money) and higher rates of addiction in people who intend to take one drug (such as kratom or marijuana) and end up with something laced with fentanyl, meth, or any number of highly addictive and dangerous substances that the user never intended to ingest. This is just the follow up to anti-marijuana laws, and if passed will follow the same pattern of useless incarceration, unsafe and adulterated/laced drugs, and little to no reduction of actual usage. We as a society can be better than this. We know that harm reduction works in ways that banning never does. and taking a drug that is already being used in a harm reducing way and banning it will have very poor results.

CommentID: 224015

Commenter: Joshua Gooite

6/4/24 11:25 am

Please do not get rid of Kratom in any state

Kratom helps people get out of the debilitating addiction of opiates. If I did not have Kratom, there is a good chance I would be dead or broke and homeless.

CommentID: 224016

Commenter: Angela Kean

6/4/24 11:25 am

Freedom to Choose Herbal Remedies

Stop the interference in personal choices. Let adults decide for themselves alternatives to Big Pharm. THAT is what needs monitored.

CommentID: 224017

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:25 am

Keep kratom legal

Kratom helped me get off of suboxone. I have been taking it ever since and I am a productive member of society. I recently got my CNA certification and work a full time job. I am a recovering drug addict, and this PLANT saved my life!!

CommentID: 224018

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:25 am

Protect Kratom

I have been a kratom consumer for 10 years now. During that time, I graduated college, started a career, and lived my life to the fullest. This plant has allowed me to do so despite my chronic arthritis. Please protect this plant, and allow users to consume this safe product.

CommentID: 224019

Commenter: Karley

6/4/24 11:26 am

Do not legalize KRATOM!

I have been through 3 back surgeries, have learned to walk again after partial permanent paralysis, and will have debilitating pain my whole life. I found Kratom as a pain amnagement alternative over 5 years ago, and without it would either be hooked on opiates or dead from suicide. Kratom changed my life!! The only reason the FDA wants to have a say in Kratom use is so they can control the ppl who use it, and make money off of it, or just do away with it simply bc it works better than any of the poison they peddle!! Its alot safer, too. Dont believe the reports you see that say so and so overdosed on kratom!! Every case you will find there were benzos, narcotic pain killers, and or alcohol in the deceased's tox screen from the morgue. Govt needs to butt out, YOU WORK FOR US!! Not the other way around!!

CommentID: 224020

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:26 am

Please do not ban - Kratom allows people to live productive lives

Banning Kratom would be a tremendous mistake and cause more harm than good by creating a new black market or worse, causing people to go back to much more harmful substances. It has

helped SO many people to lead normal, productive lives than could be possible for them without it. This does not make people high, it makes them whole. Please do not ban.
CommentID: 224021

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:26 am

Kratom should be regulated, not banned

Please follow the example of Maryland and many other states, which have passed some version of the Kratom Consumer Protection Act. One bumper-sticker truth which happens to be the literal truth is that kratom is "safer than peanuts," meaning that fewer people have died, or die each year, from exposure to kratom than die from allergic reactions to peanuts. That's funny: but if you're going to measure in absolute terms, in numbers of deaths, kratom is also safer than aspirin, acetaminophen, and caffeine, not to mention cannabis, tobacco, and alcohol. The two alkaloids specifically mentioned in the petition are difficult to separate from the natural plant, in which they appear in very small quantities, which is perhaps the primary reason why the pharmaceutical industry has not successfully commercialized a kratom-based product. It is the natural plant which ought to remain legal, and regulated, just as coffee and tea and aspirin are legal and regulated. I have used kratom every day for over 10 years without serious negative side effects, whereas I choose not to drink to excess or use cannabis at all because they affect my ability to function. For me, kratom is an antidepressant; but for many friends of mine, it has been a lifesaver in transitioning AWAY from opiate addiction or for dealing privately and safely with chronic, intractable pain. Kratom has saved many of our lives. Please protect our access to it.

CommentID: 224022

Commenter: Donna Stevenson

6/4/24 11:26 am

Kratom

I had a partial vulvectomy to remove cancer from my perineum. Unfortunately it had leaked into my groin lymph nodes on the left side. After removing all this I had to have 33 rounds of radiation with the last 6 being "super" concentrated doses. These were located on my stomach/vaginal area. I was prescribed hydrocodone acetaminophen for pain but the side effects were very concerning. I only used them at night to try to help me sleep. A form of kratom, a pill form of 7oh, was the only thing that got me through this. There were no discernible side effects from kratom. I am asking to keep kratom as a legal option to help when needed. The benefits are much better than anything else available with no known side effects. I don't know how I would have managed without it.

CommentID: 224023

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:27 am

Kratom helps

I am a 41 year old plumber, I have been using kratom for a few years, it absolutely helps me in my daily work, I can not imagine being labeled a criminal and my life possibly being destroyed because I utilize this helping aid in my day to day life, I have four children and a wife, I just can not imagine people like myself being turned into felonious characters if something like this happens,ni urge you to help keep America free, and the people who utilize kratom as a help in life, it would be a great injustice god bless

CommentID: 224024

Commenter: Kyle Grannan

6/4/24 11:27 am

Don't turn us into criminals

Making Kratom a schedule 1 drug will overnight turn thousands if not millions of people into criminals and all for greed. What happened to freedom.

CommentID: 224025

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:27 am

Naturally growing tree's on our earth with many benefits by our creator

Please keep kratom legal for all who benefit from a naturally god given plant, it saves lives believe the people who use it daily & have trust & faith in such a plant.

CommentID: 224026

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:28 am

Trying to ban kratom so people get hooked on pharmaceuticals

The Board of Pharmacy is trying to ban kratom? You may ask yourself why would the Board of Pharmacy care so much about kratom? Well, kratom is a natural plant out of south east Asia that can help with aches, pain, stress, anxiety and many other symptoms, with little to no side effects. Its clear that kratom poses a threat against their drugs. People can take kratom in place of the most addictive pharmaceuticals, which are opioids, CNS depressants, stimulants and so much more. The Board of Pharmacy doesn't care about the people, they care about peoples money. You can read the news, you can read what The Board of Pharmacy says but I erg everyone to do you own REAL research. Big Pharma has been trying to attack kratom for years because it is a safe way to ease pain and mental strain, causing less people to get medications / pharmaceuticals. Did you know that neuroleptics cause over 17,000 deaths annually, benzodiazepines cause over 151,000 deaths annually, depression drugs cause over 221,000 deaths annually, so nearly 400,000 deaths a year and these numbers don't even include opioids. Lets keep kratom legal so people have a safe way to handle their physical and mental stressors without the risk of addiction and death.

CommentID: 224027

Commenter: Jennifer

6/4/24 11:29 am

Kratom saves lives

Kratom saves lives

CommentID: 224028

Commenter: Herman D Taylor

6/4/24 11:30 am

Leave naturally remedies alone

Kratom, being in the coffee family is the one safe way to control my pain from the nerve pain from 35 years of HIV. It works & it's much safer than the opioids I'd been prescribed for decades. Go

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

after alcohol and tobacco. In the end this is nothing but pharmaceutical company & 74 government overreaching to line their pockets.
CommentID: 224029

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:35 am

KRATOM SAVES

KRATOM SAVES LIVES. PUTTING KRATOM IN THE SAME SCHEDULE AS CRACK AND HEROIN WOULD ONLY PROVE THE STUPIDITY OF OUR LEGISLATORS.

CommentID: 224030

Commenter: Mickey Sneed

6/4/24 11:37 am

Leave us alone

Plants instead of pills.

CommentID: 224031

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:38 am

Speciosa/ aka kratom don't ban it

Keep kratom legal please it's a natural alternative to all the fentanyl and — that's actually ruining Keaton saves lives

CommentID: 224033

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:38 am

Natural vs pharmaceutical

Please keep kratom legal. Many of us have lives that are improved by it. The only other option is a pill, and we all know that's not a good life.

CommentID: 224034

Commenter: Jake

6/4/24 11:40 am

Kratom saved my life, do not criminalize me

I am a veteran and suffer from PTSD. Kratom has completely eliminated my symptoms. If I do not have access or become a criminal because of a harmless leaf, I'm not sure what I'll do to survive. PLEASE reconsider this.

CommentID: 224036

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:42 am

Do not schedule Kratom

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https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409

343/750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

The therapeutic benefits of Kratom far outweigh any potential risk. There is no justification for scheduling kratom other than pharmaceutical profit motive. I have seen so many lives saved and recovered from the depths of dangerous opioid, benzodiazepine, and alcohol abuse because of access to inexpensive kratom. It's been my experience and that of many 100's of thousands of Americans that Kratom does not lead to an escalation into "hard" drugs, nor does it carry a risk of overdose injuries beyond those of many OTC therapies such as acetaminophen, diphenhydramine etc. Please diligently research the enormous amount of good kratom does for our society rather than push a profit driven agenda that wrongly targets kratom for scheduling.

CommentID: 224037

Commenter: Clark Reynolds

6/4/24 11:44 am

Keep Kratom Legal!

Please keep Kratom legal in Virginia. There is already sensible and protective legislation in place.

CommentID: 224038

Commenter: Kratom saved my life

6/4/24 11:44 am

Kratom saved my life

I almost died multiple times. I used to be hooked to fentanyl. I was able to get off of it with Kratom. Thankful for the advocates who spread the truth. Media and news are making this demonized. I would be dead without Kratom. 13 yrs Kratom STRONG! I would gladly be interviewed.

CommentID: 224039

Commenter: Lisa

6/4/24 11:45 am

Kratom saves

I am a 69-year-old woman, taxpayer, and believing a natural remedies for my body and mind. If you've heard it once you should know you'll hear it again. Kratom saved my life. It is not a scheduled one because it is not a substance. it is a plant. Do not let this happen to our country. Let the people say their peace thank you.

CommentID: 224040

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:45 am

Please don't take away a supplement that is proven to be safe

Unlike typical opioids, Kratom does not cause respiratory depression and can be a therapeutic supplement for so many different conditions.

Making kratom illegal in Virginia would only negatively impact citizens of Virginia.

If kratom were to become illegal, many users would be driven to less safe alternatives. If public health is the driver behind the desire to make kratom illegal, then know that by removing this supplement from the legal market, some consumers of kratom will be driven by pain of chronic conditions to seek out alternatives that are objectively dangerous.

https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409

344/750

Scheduling kratom: would be a net negative for public health; would restrict adults' freedom to leverage of valuable supplement. Instead, propose legislation that demands safe manufacturing practices the same way other states have done to ensure constituents can only purchase from reputable vendors.

Please do not move forward with a supplement that has helped so many Virginians.
CommentID: 224041

Commenter: Leigh Ausdall

6/4/24 11:46 am

IDON'T SUPPORT Board of Pharmacy Petition "Addition of kratom to Schedule I" (CRIMINALIZE KRATOM)

IDON'T SUPPORT Board of Pharmacy Petition "Addition of kratom to Schedule I" (CRIMINALIZE KRATOM)

CommentID: 224042

Commenter: Christopher Deaney

6/4/24 11:46 am

8 Factor Analysis contradicts schedule 1. Kratom is saving lives!

The 8 Factor Analysis contradicts schedule 1 and Kratom should be studied for its therapeutic potential. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8860177/>

We should be embracing these plants and herbs as a solution to numerous issues we face as society. Opioid abuse, alcohol abuse, pain control and numerous other applications are provided by kratom. This plant needs to be studied and in fact NIDA has spent Millions studying kratom.

Schedule 1 will just be archaic in this day and age.

Thank You,

Christopher

CommentID: 224043

Commenter: Vincent

6/4/24 11:47 am

Kratom saved my wife's quality of life

My wife is a cancer patient who has been helped with this plant. Better pain control and ability to function thanks to no side effects. Why keep removing natural choices for Americans? Where are our rights? Ban ALCOHOL that kills many innocent people. Alcohol kills not Kratom. Get it right!!!!

CommentID: 224044

Commenter: Mike F

6/4/24 11:47 am

Kratom has been a life saver for so many people

There has been taking Kratom for getting off of opiates and I can tell you it really works. It has done wonders for so many people. While some people over use it, if you use this plant correctly it's a life

saver. I have read so many posts about how people would be dead without it. I feel like the methadone and suboxone clinics are pushing this bill to get passed because they are losing money. Please don't ban this plant. It has helped so many people. Thanks for you time.
CommentID: 224045

Commenter: Tanya Redfield

6/4/24 11:48 am

Don't punish people for Big Pharma profit

I wrote a very long comment about my story and how Kratom has given me my life back and how with it I have so much less pain

Then it disappeared before I could send it.

But I see so many stories just like mine in this comment section. Please read these stories and realize that this grandma will be prowling the alley for kratom if it is made illegal. This may lead me to getting Kratom laced with other things, or just running into trouble with drug dealers....who knows. But I cannot go back to the pain I had before Kratom. I am not addicted to it in any way and often just take breaks from my daily dose if I don't need to be active. It tastes so horrible that I can't imagine people taking it unless they are really in pain and need help. But having it has allowed me to do things with my kids and grandkids that I wasn't able to do before I discovered Kratom. Nothing else that I can get legally works for me. And doctors really don't want to prescribe pain pills any more. Nor do I really want to take those when a non addictive, natural alternative is available.

The people who have been using Kratom for maybe centuries haven't died out so obviously it can't be dangerous.

Anyway, please do the right thing for your constituents and not for Big Pharma 's pocketbook. Please read these stories, know that mine is very similar, and help the regular people instead of Big Pharma. Thank you!

CommentID: 224046

Commenter: Tamara King

6/4/24 11:48 am

DO NOT DO THIS. Kratom saved my life.

Do not ban Kratom or place as a scheduled drug. I had been addicted to pain meds for almost 15 years and read about kratom. I tried getting clean numerous times, too afraid of the withdrawal symptoms and kept failing. Once I discovered Kratom and how to use properly I was finally free and got my life back for myself and my family. Not only does it heal my pain symptoms, kratom has allowed me to remain drug free and has done wonders for my mental state as depression plays a role as well. Do not do this. Please.

CommentID: 224047

Commenter: Charles Parnell

6/4/24 11:50 am

Stop Banning God Given Natural Remedies that SAVE lives!

I am a casualty of the opioid epidemic. Thanks to the pharma cos (that line your pockets), and the doctors (who got vacations to Hawaii), for pushing this crap (hydrocodone/Oxycodone) onto the public by WAAY over-prescribing; millions of Americans are now either destitute, addicts, have criminal records they otherwise would never have, and have now moved on to harder opioids like

fentanyl), and now even deadlier Nitazenes (Tranq Dope) (Narcan has no effect on this drug class). Thank God I got help before it was too late for me.

But now, since the FEDERAL govt (DEA) (Last I checked the State of Virginia is a SOVEREIGN STATE) But you've sold your souls to the feds) has cracked down on these medications (Hydrocodone/Oxycodone EXTENDED RELEASE), people like myself (now, 25 years later, with a herniated disk in my back and degenerative disk and bone disorder), have to pay tons of cash to pain clinics or beg their GP/PCP to give them the meds we NEED just to do simple tasks each day, and live a semi normal life. This is no way for anyone to live. KRATOM has made a massive difference in my pain management! I don't need to use as much hydrocodone/oxycodone extend release. This is all natural plant has saved 100s of thousands, possibly millions of lives! The numbers don't lie. This plant has been used for 1000's of years for pain, anxiety and other ailments. Its all natural, and unadulterated.

We all know drugs come from plants. That's fine. That's God given! When cone head "know it alls" synthesize these compounds in a lab, and make them 1,000 stronger. That is Sorcery, or in the Greek PHARMAKIA.

STOP THE BAN OF KRATOM!
CommentID: 224048

Commenter: John D Newmark

6/4/24 11:51 am

KRATOM CHANGES LIVES - SAVES LIVES!

Please do NOT do this. Banning Kratom will cause endless suffering and deaths. There are many veterans that live here in the D.C. area that use Kratom responsibly and this would be a travesty!

CommentID: 224049

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:51 am

Leave my freedoms be - Kratom saves lives and prevents fentanyl use

Did we elect a government that takes freedoms away. Leave Kratom alone. It literally saves lives. Typical government tries to solve a problem and kills scores more than it helps in the process. My body = My choice. Take Kratom away and you will have scores more fentanyl deaths. This has already been proven in other states.

CommentID: 224050

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:52 am

Do not ban kratom

Kratom has many benefits and has not been proven to do any harm. It must remain legal in Virginia. Prohibition of many substances has caused more personal, legal, and social misery and harm and is an outdated policy. Allow responsible adults to make informed decisions about products they consume.

CommentID: 224051

Commenter: Ulick Norman Owen

6/4/24 11:52 am

Kratom is Safe, Scheduling it is Unjust

Kratom is a safe plant that I have taken for a very long time. I use it occasionally as an alternative to caffeine, and sometimes for its medicinal properties as well. I am a living example of someone who has taken this plant for 10+ years with no ill effects and without leading into dependency. My frequency of use is approximately 1-2 times a week, and I have maintained this for as long as I have used the plant, using practically the same dose even after many years of use.

Scheduling the plant is a criminal act in itself. There is a place for pharmaceuticals, and there is a place for plants. Part of upholding the freedom of our country is allowing the citizens to make their own educated decisions about what they choose to consume. Plants are a gift from the universe, and we should not condemn those who choose to take part in its beneficial uses, especially when the safety of the substance has been proven over decades of use. Education should always supersede prohibition.

CommentID: 224052

Commenter: Concerned Citizen

6/4/24 11:52 am

Support for amending 18VAC110-20-322 to include mitragynine and 7-hydroxytryptamine

I am not a proponent of the continued availability of this drug. The kratom industry is, in every sense of the word "predatory". Lives are continually being negatively impacted from the open sale of kratom products in the American market without proper warning, education, labeling, and consumption directions. Furthermore, it seems at this point the manufacturers are not interested in providing said education, and are relying on the fundamental ignorance of their consumers, and attempts at legal disclaimers regarding kratom to further sales without retribution. It is my opinion that the current marketing regulations do not appropriately cover the risks involved with a plant containing atypically structured opioid compounds. The "dietary supplement" category for kratom is entirely improper, and it should be addressed for what it is, an addictive botanical drug. The current state 'Kratom Consumer Protection Acts' leave large enough holes to drive a dump-truck full of high-powered and even metabolite based products through.

While kratom may be a safer alternative to street opioids, it is in no way proper to expose the entire US population to these compounds. Essentially by suggesting these chemicals stay on the market, we suggest they are entirely safe for every man and woman in America. This simply isn't true as evidenced not only by the copious amounts of adverse event reports as reported by FAERS, but also by the outcries of over 50,000 individuals online regarding their attempts to stop taking kratom based products, being locked into a physical addiction.

Per the Smith et al. 2022 study on Assessment of Kratom Use Disorder and Withdrawal, **47.3% of respondents met the criteria for Kratom Use Disorder**. This is, in no way, acceptable for a product to be on the open American market with this sort of addiction potential, and absolutely no warnings, all the while (in some circumstances) being sold as a "health tonic" targeted towards vulnerable individuals (<https://www.classaction.org/medial/torres-y-botanic-tonics-llc-et-al.pdf>)
Smith, Kirsten E.; Kelly E. Dunn, Jeffrey M. Rogers, Albert Garcia-Romeu, Justin C. Strickland, and David H. Epstein. 2022. "Assessment of Kratom Use Disorder and Withdrawal among an Online Convenience Sample of US Adults." *Journal of Addiction Medicine* 16 (6): 666–70.
<https://doi.org/10.1097/ADM.0000000000000986>.

CommentID: 224053

Commenter: todd martin

6/4/24 11:53 am

please do not outlaw kratom

please do not out law Kratom . i have been using it daily for over five years without any side effects... it got me off opiates for cronic testicul pain ...and for that i am very thankful, please keep it legal , Todd

CommentID: 224055

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:53 am

KRATOM SAVES LIVES

Kratom saves lives. Keep it off of schedule 1.

CommentID: 224056

Commenter: Nick Ramsey

6/4/24 11:54 am

Kratom Saved My Life

I spent my entire life since 13 years old on drugs. I have been in and out of prison and every rehab known to man. I don't even really know where to go with this. I am guessing most people that read this have never had a drug problem, but you can judge and stand on a pedestal and act like you know what your talking about. Unless you've had experience, who are to judge? There is one and only that is allowed to judge. Point being, I highly doubt you know what your talking about. I have been hooked on uppers, downers and all arounders. I am sorry to say, but kratom is not a drug. Kratom is a plant, related to the coffee family. Not sure if you have done your research, but kratom is in the same family as coffee. So if you guys ban kratom, that's very ignorant on your part. Anyway, point being kratom is not a drug. I have been hooked on every drug known to man. They are not the same. It's not physically addictive never has been and never will be. I will have to say those mental health medication I am prescribed is highly addictive and deadly. Where is your common sense, were you born with non?

CommentID: 224057

Commenter: Dan Appelbaum

6/4/24 11:54 am

keep Kratom legal

this supplement is immensely beneficial to so many people - once again it is big pharma that is trying to keep americans from taking control of their own health decisions - I do not oppose some control to ensure safety and purity - but to ban it - especially to put it into schedule 1 is absolutely ludicrous - DO NOT DO IT

CommentID: 224058

Commenter: Peter

6/4/24 11:55 am

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS BOARD OF PHARMACY PETITION

I do not support and am in fact highly against the criminalization of kratom. I'm a recovered alcoholic and I have kratom to thank for that, it saved my liver and my life. Not to mention I have a severe panic disorder and I'd much rather take kratom than never having enough benzos to stop even half of them. The idea y'all are even trying to schedule 1 such

an amazing and helpful medicinal plant is disgusting and you should all be ashamed.

CommentID: 224059

Commenter: Travis Argyle

6/4/24 11:55 am

Kratom saves lives

I have used kratom for almost 10 years and know many people that have used it to manage pain, PTSD, get off pain meds etc. It's simply a plant that has been used for hundreds of year medicinal. I will use it occasionally for pain for herniated discs instead of addictive opioids it does just as well if not better helping me to cope with the pain and still work full time and be active. It is a crime to criminalize.

CommentID: 224060

Commenter: Andrew King

6/4/24 11:57 am

Kratom makes me a better person.

I started taking kratom for the purpose of avoiding alcohol cravings. Not only do I drink less now, my mood is better. My depression is no longer a problem. Stress headaches go away when I take kratom capsules. Kratom is helpful for people such as myself and should not be banned. Please do not ban this miracle plant.

CommentID: 224061

Commenter: Wade Harman

6/4/24 11:58 am

Please do not ban kratom in Virginia

Kratom is a life saver for me. It enables me to not take opiates for pain. Please don't ban kratom and make it a Schedule I substance in Virginia. The fact that they want to take my right to pursue liberty from pain and happiness as well means they're going against my constitutional rights. Do NOT vote for this atrocious bill to make kratom schedule I.

CommentID: 224062

Commenter: Aaron

6/4/24 11:58 am

Kratom is a life-saver. DO NOT BAN.

Kratom helped me overcome addiction and continues to help me with inflammation and pain. In addition, when my wife contracted Lyme disease several years ago, nothing helped with her join pain and inflammation. Then she found kratom and it gave her a normal life as her body recovered. If you want to ban kratom you're either ignorant and need to listen to what people like us have to say or you are evil and operating on behalf of someone else's interests. Either way, DO NOT BAN. You do anything to affect the legality of kratom in Virginia and I will make it my mission in life to make sure every individual responsible for passing such a ban never holds any kind of public office ever again. We see you and we know who funds you.

CommentID: 224064

Commenter: Angie Harmon

Bless kratom

If it weren't for kratom many thriving people wouldn't be here. Plain and simple.

CommentID: 224066

6/4/24 12:00 pm

Commenter: Keith Wayson

Why are you trying to criminalize a plant that is helping people?

We cant have plants, but big pharma can produce fentanyl and other ridiculous drugs that we dont even need or have a legitimate use for.

You really don't want us to have ANY relief at all do you?

Who are you trying to protect here? Your wallets?

CommentID: 224067

6/4/24 12:03 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Please do not outlaw Kratom

Kratom was a god send when I was in recovery. I recommend it to my friends and family who have also struggled with addiction. There aren't words to describe the elation and relief that because of kratom, me and the people who choose life over addiction to hard drugs, have access to this life saving plant. Please do not outlaw this. The alternatives are caustic and expensive. It would be better to regulate rather than to outlaw.

CommentID: 224068

6/4/24 12:03 pm

Commenter: dava golino

Kratom mis information

an herb that can cure addiction with no altered state and as additive as coffee, they are trying to stop by making it schedule 1. I have used Kratom for 14 years to help sleep because over the counter sleep aid and prescription drugs made me sick in the morning. I do not drink alcohol or do recreational drugs which many have suggested I try since they are legal,now.

kratom a schedule 1 illegal substance while Pfizer sells The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved the first generic naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray, commonly known as Narcan. Kratom has the ability to combat addiction if the addict wants help. Kratom is not a mind-altering plant and may, for some cause a dependency like coffee. To much misinformation about kratom... some of the deaths claimed by folks who want to make it illegal was that a person shot by a shotgun blast to the heart because they claim kratom was in the blood of the person. All the other deaths(5) showed multiple substances besides kratom. This is another... we can not have competition with

6/4/24 12:04 pm

commercial drugs. Pfizer makes an overdose possible cure called Narcan. Maybe they don't want the competition for addiction relief, unless they make a prescription drug that costs a lot more than an inexpensive plant like Kratom.

Thank you for listening

Dava Golino

CommentID: 224069

6/4/24 12:04 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom saved my life

I am a 38 year old man who was struggled with on and off drug and alcohol addiction for most of my life. Most people, rightfully so, wrote me off years ago to be dead from meth or opiate use. I had multiple overdoses and went to rehab multiple times. Never committed any crimes, was usually employed and I was educated as well ~ more like a (dys)functional addict.

Six years ago I found kratom. I haven't touched drugs since and very occasionally will have some alcohol at times of celebration (few times a year). I went back to school and completed my Masters in computer science and am now a software engineer, working my dream job, making \$180,000 a year. I repaired my marriage, have one beautiful daughter and a son on the way (4 months out). I repaired all my relationships with my family. Some times I have to pinch myself to make sure I am not dreaming.

I take the same amount of kratom every day, approximately at the same time of day. I never have any cravings to do any more. What kratom does for me is curbs my cravings for other drugs and alcohol. It gives me a slight buzz comparable to nicotine and caffeine. It also has harm reduction built into it with a built in "ceiling effect" where diminishing returns are met quickly. Take too much, you get dizzy and can throw up.

This harm reduction profile is amazing. This is a GREAT solution for addicts. There are so many people like me with similar stories. Kratom is natural, easy to grow, simple to harvest and distribute at scale. It solves so many problems for addicts. Want people to stop dying from fentanyl? Let them take kratom. Every addict I know who switched to kratom has turned their life around.

Kratom doesn't affect your respiratory system like opiates do, so there is no risk of overdosing and dying. I take kratom before I exercise and have no issues; in fact, I am in the best shape of my life. I get bloodwork and physicals done multiple times a year, and everything looks great.

Please don't ban kratom. You will really be screwing over so many people like me. I didn't know it was possible to live a life like I am living now. I am so happy and thankful for this Kratom plant.

I already tried therapy, rehab, all the psychiatric addiction drugs, SSRIs, meditation/yoga, suboxone and methadone. Every medical treatment there is for addiction, I have tried it.

I could say more but I know you have a lot to read so I will end this here. Thanks for taking the time to hear me out.

CommentID: 224070

6/4/24 12:04 pm

Commenter: Cody

Kratom is not dangerous

I have taken kratom for several years in place of coffee. I've never once heard, or experienced, anything that would suggest kratom should be scheduled, let alone schedule 1. In 2024 we should

have better judgement on issues such as this. Unless caffeine is going to be scheduled, kratom should be left alone!

CommentID: 224071

Commenter: Christopher Johnson

6/4/24 12:07 pm

Kratom has saved me

Kratom basically saved me from suicide. I don't know what more I can say! Leave it be!

CommentID: 224072

Commenter: Payton

6/4/24 12:10 pm

Do not ban

Kratom has helped so many people. If alcohol is legal then so should Kratom. Alcohol kills thousands of people a year and there's no bill trying to ban that.

CommentID: 224073

Commenter: Brock Thomas George

6/4/24 12:11 pm

Please don't knee-jerk in a wasted effort to ban Kratom

Kratom has been a life saver for those of us who live--and would otherwise be even more limited--with chronic pain. This is especially true since the indiscriminate crack down on all opioids even for those like me who did NOT misuse them. The latter ban was done in the name of keeping kids and other safe, but *instead* has resulted in the disaster or greatly expanded and greatly *strengthened* street opioids that are now killing more kids (and other folks) than ever.

CommentID: 224074

Commenter: Eatlene R.

6/4/24 12:11 pm

Kratom is a miracle herb for millions

I'm going to keep this short; I know kratom may not be for everyone, and there are those who abuse it. Please don't allow Kratom to become a Schedule 1 drug because of the few that abuse it. I am 68 years old, and I can honestly tell you I hadn't found Kratom, I would not be alive today, enjoying retirement and my grandchildren. If we don't have access to Kratom, the only option to deal with chronic pain is going back to Methadone and Norco, which is what almost killed me. But that's really what this is all about because big pharma loses too much money when a good natural alternative is available. Kratom is a miracle herb for those who suffer from debilitating pain. There is no way I would ever go back to using opiates, so please keep Kratom legal and safe!

We keep hearing over & over again people saying Kratom saved their life. Don't you think with so many beautiful people saying something like this, there is something to it? Taking away Kratom could literally be responsible for millions of people losing their lives! Please don't let this happen.

CommentID: 224075

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Commenter: SusanTate

6/4/24 12:11 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

Making kratom illegal would be one dumb decision.

No one would buy choice choose kratom as a way to get high.

if just doesn't work like that. Please research it.

Saves lives. Not only does it help people get off active addiction or alcoholism. It also helps people who suffer with chronic pain syndrome. Please do the research. If you're a paid legal official, please do what the community ask and research before you pass laws.

CommentID: 224076

Commenter: Tony

6/4/24 12:12 pm

Kratom

For some who has frequent back pain it has helped relieved that along with suffering from high anxiety and mild depression it has 100% removed that from my life as a problem. The great part is there are no side effects or worry about addiction like with pharmaceuticals

CommentID: 224077

Commenter: Davy Savering

6/4/24 12:13 pm

Prohibition misguided. I do not support this petition to make me a criminal.

As someone who has struggled with addiction since a young age, kratom has become a saving grace for me. In my teens, I was abusing street pharmaceuticals which lead to alcoholism through my young adulthood. These substances(which all came from legal US institutions mind you) nearly destroyed my life and cost me the peace of mind that I finally enjoy today. With the help of kratom I have managed to be clean from pharmaceuticals and alcohol for 9 and 5 years, respectively. Limiting access would demonize a portion of the population that struggles with addiction that wishes to integrate, and will ultimately drive up disparities caused by addiction. I am not a criminal, I am simply a human wishing to be his best self, and kratom makes this possible for me. I have tried various psychiatric treatments to no avail, nothing they offer is a safety net to addiction. Having access to safer substances is the first step in addressing addiction in our state. If kratom were to be scheduled I may be drawn to drinking again or worse, and it is a genuine fear of mine. You don't enact prohibition on sugary drinks to counter obesity, you offer healthy alternatives and education. In addition, prohibiting kratom will only fuel the black market economy for drugs in our state, increasing crime rates. Remember what happened during the alcohol prohibition? Lawlessness should be something that is actively avoided by the state and not sought out. I do not wish to be a criminal, I am just like you.

Thank you for your time,

Davy Savering

CommentID: 224078

Commenter: Kathleen Gensman

6/4/24 12:14 pm

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Kratom

Kratom literally saved my life. Please don't ban this natural and safe option for chronic pain and mood stabilization from the public.

CommentID: 224079

Commenter: christopher Allen
Please keep Kratom legal

6/4/24 12:16 pm

I've been taking Kratom responsibly since 2014 for back pain and sciatica from a bulged disc. Kratom has enabled me to continue my job as an engineer without any of the side effects that are common with opiates. It's not morally OK to take away something that help people because others abuse it and hurt themselves. People can drive cars and use guns to commit crimes yet we don't outlaw them since they have legal uses that don't harm anyone.

Please be wise and don't restrict peoples' freedom to use Kratom that doesn't harm others.

CommentID: 224080

Commenter: Clark
Keep It Legal

6/4/24 12:16 pm

Kratom is safe and non-addictive pain relieving leaf. Making it illegal will push people unto deadly opiates which is destroying our country.

CommentID: 224081

Commenter: Anonymous

I do not support the scheduling of Kratom and/or Kratom Products.

6/4/24 12:17 pm

It (Kratom) does not fit the criteria necessary to be considered a scheduled substance of any level 1-3. Research and trials show this is a plant closely related to coffee. If this is scheduled, why don't we schedule coffee? Or tea? Or soda? Soda and Coffee alone contribute to many more health complications ie; diabetes, high blood pressure, risk of heart attack or stroke etc than Kratom. Kratom and/or Kratom products are benign in risk and users understand that the scheduling is just to push pharmaceutical companies profits higher. Thats not a good look. I and MOST others absolutely do not support this push to schedule. Listen to the people, we pay tax money.

CommentID: 224082

Commenter: Jason Schneider
Kratom is a life saver

6/4/24 12:18 pm

Keep kratom legal. For me, who has five blown discs in his back, this marvelous little plant, related to the coffee tree, has offered me the only pain relief I can get on days when my back

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6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

is flaring up and when the TENS unit doesn't help. It's the only thing that offers relief without clouding my mind. Outlawing it would be a huge mistake.

CommentID: 224083

Commenter: Tracey slack

Kratom saved my life

6/4/24 12:20 pm

Create them saved my life and let me be clean from heroin and has been for 7 yrs!
If you make this plant illegal, you are gonna be harming so many lives. It's not even gonna be funny. Please follow the science an open your minds.

CommentID: 224085

Commenter: Karin Noble
Kratom saves lives.

6/4/24 12:22 pm

Kratom has saved my life. I've gone from suffering chronic debilitating pain to a life with manageable pain. The difference in wanting it all to just be over, to being interested in what's going on around me. Wanting to engage with others. Have fun, laugh, and play. Manage daily functions. All of this is due to kratom. I felt as if I'd been left to rot in a pain filled world with no medical assistance. I've had my life back for the past 12 years thanks to kratom. Please don't take it away from the many of us it helps. Research is necessary so it's full potential can be utilized. Prohibition is just wrong, and shortsighted.

CommentID: 224086

Commenter: Chad Atchison

Kratom

6/4/24 12:22 pm

Keep kratom legal.

CommentID: 224087

Commenter: William moore
kratom helps my legs

6/4/24 12:22 pm

This is a harmless plant that I've used off and on for leg pain and arthritis since 2006. Please leave it alone.

CommentID: 224088

Commenter: Christopher Gallant

The benefits to many outweigh the risks

6/4/24 12:23 pm

This plant was put on earth by GOD for the benefit of mankind.

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

The amount of people who used Kratom to get off opioid addiction are numerous.
We the people do not need a governing body to tell us which plants we are allowed to use.
CommentID: 224089

6/4/24 12:23 pm

Commenter: Aimmee Calvano

Keep it legal and regulate for safety!!

Kratom saves lives.

CommentID: 224090

6/4/24 12:23 pm

Commenter: S Long

Kratom is an Herb

Criminalizing kratom is like criminalizing green tea, coffee or turmeric. There are medicinal benefits in herbs and i use it legally to help my pain. It helped me stop drinking and is an antiinflammatory that helps me live with spinal stenosis. Stop abusing hour powers and read the studies that were done by John Hopkins about its medicinal benefits. Thank you. -A Virginian-

CommentID: 224091

6/4/24 12:24 pm

Commenter: Russell Edmonds

Keep it legal

Alcohol and OTC NSAIDS are worse for you and Tylenol too!

CommentID: 224092

6/4/24 12:24 pm

Commenter: BOBBY HALLER

Wrongful Scheduling Potential

As someone who works in the world of alternative products, and currently dealing with my father who has stage 4 cancer, Kratom is the only thing bringing him pain relief outside of Morphine and other HIGH Dose Opiates. As someone who sells natural alternatives in my business my clientele who depend on these products are tired of being held in the clutches of Big Pharma and then told they need to undergo pain control protocols that make it impossible for them to get relief. By banning this natural product, more and more people will continue to seek pharmaceutical remedies that are proven to be more detrimental to their health. I am against banning any natural substance that when used properly can provide far better results than any man made product.

CommentID: 224093

6/4/24 12:25 pm

Commenter: Josie Lockwood

Mitra

103 **em** not in support of this action because it is a proven help to hundreds of thousands of people!
It's a fact that the pharm industry is behind this action and let's be clear about why....MONEY!

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

This plant not only helps millions of people with many different issues, it also provides small businesses with an income !

We are adults and we have the right to choose what we put in our bodies, there are side effects from Everything humans consume....ex. Tylenol injures the liver and it's still on the shelf....why? What about alcohol? It is the most harmful substance but you can find it everywhere!

Mitra(Kratom) is a brilliant alternative to pharmaceuticals and is not a danger to people!

The data is not there to support this action...the case's brought up years ago were false and the evidence showed the individuals had high amounts of controlled substances and or unknown health issues! There are risk with anything we put in our bodies, but the risk of Mitra is not there!

My question is WHY? What exactly and who exactly is benefiting from this action? It won't be those individuals that have been introduced to this remarkable plant! It will cause devastating harm to many! Who is going to benefit?

Instead of attacking people through access to this plant, Why aren't you doing something more about the drug trafficking? If the DEA can't stop drug trafficking...why are they focused on controlling Mitra? I would think the pharm industry and the govt would put all their resources towards that Gigantic problem! But, here we are once again with the battle against BIG PHARM to take away a proven solution to so much suffering all because they want control over the active ingredient in this plant and to completely control the market....This is purely about money...not helping people or saving people!

I say before you take away a plant that has been proven to aide in people's quality of life, maybe focus on the real threats like cartel drugs and human trafficking and border security!

I have stated my opinions and positions on this issue and as I did 10 years ago I will continue to use this plant! Criminalization of this plant is absolutely WRONG on all levels!

The resources being drained for this outrageous demand could be used in so many ways that would truly benefit everyone...This is just for the benefit of the Pharmaceutical industry that has been making billions off the suffering of us all!

CommentID: 224094

6/4/24 12:26 pm

Commenter: Amanda C. Williams

Don't Support

I don't support this petition. It's makes no sense. It's petty. There's something else going on here.

CommentID: 224095

6/4/24 12:26 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom Schedule I

Support scheduling this drug and regulating. Dependence, severe withdrawal, under-reported use disallows for drug drug interaction checking and full ADE/kinetics profiling.

CommentID: 224096

6/4/24 12:27 pm

Commenter: Michael Ogden

Kratom

I pray that folks have the right to buy Kratom. Kratom has made life possible for me. Without it I can hardly walk or get out of bed. I don't want to take Oxy anymore. Doctors had me on it for 14 years and my life was hell. Kratom works better for me and I am able to live. I ask with all my heart to never take Kratom away

CommentID: 224097

Commenter: Jason

6/4/24 12:27 pm

This should not be made illegal

I have used this plant for many years with great success and no issues. I have avoided the use of prescription medications that made me feel bad. Please keep it legal for Virginia.

CommentID: 224098

Commenter: Paul Kemp

6/4/24 12:28 pm

Keep this God-Given Leaf Legal

I've been consuming Kratom in moderation for 11+ years. I'm 75 now and have never been healthier. Please don't make this gentle plant, inaccessible for seniors and researchers who see great promise in the herb for military and civilian pain relief (and so many other uses).

The plain leaf has been used for centuries safely by the indigenous natives of Southeast Asia. There should be a legal distinction drawn between the natural leaf and the high-potency extracts and isolates.

We don't schedule Everclear, just because some people are foolish enough to drink an entire fifth just to achieve their 15 minutes of fame on YouTube. Why should the harmless Kratom leaf be denied to responsible adults, to prevent a few fools from drinking 2 or 3 bottles of 80% Kratom extract?

The Kratom industry needs sensible regulation, not expensive prohibition (which harms the moderate, voting, law-abiding citizens the most. Please reconsider this ban.

CommentID: 224099

Commenter: Linda

6/4/24 12:28 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

Kratom saves lives, so many lives. And it does not cause harm in the many ways that even properly prescribed opiates do.

This effort to make it illegal is just because big pharma is mad they they can't profit off of us anymore. It's the same story, most always.

This is not a partisan issue—it affects many people whose daily lives would be severely impacted by losing access to kratom.

CommentID: 224100

Commenter: Rich McKeegan

6/4/24 12:29 pm

Kratom saved me from opioids.

Hello,

On December 23rd, 2017 I had a medical procedure where the Dr left me in chronic pain. I spent the next two years on options trying to find a resolution to my pain. It could not be fixed and I was given 120 pills a month. I finally found Kratom and it helps with the pain, but also my whole life. No opioids, no depression, none of the physical issues that go with opioids. I am building my life back after years of being on a drug a Dr gave me that damaged my well being. Kratom has given me my life back, it gave my children their father back! Kratom saves lives.

CommentID: 224101

Commenter: Ramon Clark

6/4/24 12:29 pm

Keep it safe and legal

Kratom helps many users with Pain relief, energy and or withdrawals. Minor regulations for safety of consumers is ok but keep it legal and available over the counter.

CommentID: 224102

Commenter: Angela

6/4/24 12:29 pm

If you ban kratom I will have to move

I have used kratom for the past 10xyears to stay off the opioids they want to give me for a serious back injury. When I was on the high doses of opioids, I could not work. Drive or function as a mother due to being drugged up all the time. Kratom has given me my life back. I work and am extremely present in my childrens lives. To schedule this would be a terrible mistake. It has helped so many people lesd productive lives. Please listen to the A.ericn Lratom Assoxiation. The studies do not lie.

CommentID: 224104

Commenter: Bobbi

6/4/24 12:30 pm

Keep it legal

Keep Kratom legal, this plant helps people stay away from dangerous drugs and alcohol!

CommentID: 224105

Commenter: Tracey

6/4/24 12:30 pm

I do not support this petition to make kratom consumers criminals if it is a Schedule I substance

Kratom is a tree leaf that has many, many benefits. Please listen and understand what the AKA has founded as facts. This leaf is a natural substance that nature has provided for all sorts of ailments. Thank you,

Tracey

CommentID: 224106

Commenter: Jay

6/4/24 12:30 pm

Kratom a Life Saving Plant

Kratom should not be banned because it has shown potential as a natural remedy for managing pain, anxiety and opioid withdrawals.

Many rely on it including myself as a safer alternative to prescription drugs. Banning it would deny freedom of choice to individuals seeking holistic solutions. Regulatory measures to ensure quality and safety would be more beneficial than prohibition.

CommentID: 224107

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:32 pm

Keep kratom legal.

Keep Kratom legal.

CommentID: 224108

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:33 pm

Military Veteran with PTSD kratom freed me from Big Pharma

As a military member I witnessed and endured some traumatic experiences. The plethora of pills prescribed by the military, and following my separation, the VA made me a faction of myself. I suffered physical, mental, and spiritual wounds. My symptoms hadn't improved, I was dependent on pills randomly through the day. Medication scheduled controlled my life and my families. Our lives activities based around my medication scheduled. I hate life, I hated myself. I truly thought my family would be better off without me.

I was on a cocktail of pills, that seemed to cause more harm then good. Everything about me changed. My weight, my mood, my personality. I know longer knew who I was. The PTSD still haunted me controlling the portions of my life, not covered by a variety of medications. Any side effect I experienced was treated with another medication. The trauma I experienced was deep, but the trauma of finding the right "blend" of medications was worse. I doubted my sanity. The providers seemed annoyed when I tried to address issues or concerns I had. When I would mention changes to my medication, I was meant with annoyance. Changing my medication they said, would negate all the progress we had made, even though the only difference I experienced was side effects from the medication.

One appointment, my provider was so excited to tell me about a new type of medication, they believe was perfect for my situation. Turns out, they were just promoting it for the kickbacks they received. It wasn't about care or treatment, it was about business deals. Possibly using us as guinea pigs, reporting back to Big Pharma any side effects, or relative information on the medication. I tried it for two months. Ridiculous side effects. They kept urging me to stick it out. That it just needs time to take effect. They would put blame on me, saying I was not taking it correctly enough, when sometimes I forgot to it within 15-20 minutes of my scheduled time. My life revolved around the clock and medication. It was miserable. I still complained of issues I was having, gut related, and I was told my diet probably wasn't healthy enough, it of course couldn't be the medication. Then it happened, liquid diarrhea at work. I was mortified. Medication was ruining every aspect of my life. I wanted to die. I quit all medications that day, cold turkey. Stupid, I know, but it was either that, or I'd probably end up committing suicide.

1085

A friend, who also served and had PTSD told me about their luck with kratom. I researched it for a year and a half before taking it for the first time. It transformed everything. My physical pain relented. My mental pain seemed manageable. I have been using kratom on and off for 7 years. I never have an issue stopping use. I buy from a reputable source that provides lab testing, and origin information. I get the hate towards the █████ sold in gas stations, but to put a ban on this product is only beneficial for Big Pharma. What of the people?

Kratom allowed me to get my life in order. Graduate with a bachelors in social work, and help the community in ways I was failed.
CommentID: 224109

Commenter: Angela H 10 year user

6/4/24 12:34 pm

Fishy comments

Please note ALL the anti kratom comments are "anonymous" and are probably big pharmaceutical lobby shills or bots being paid to do them. Listen to your citizens, not the lobbyists!!! Kratom user here form 10 years and never once have I even got a buzz from it, passed out or even felt like I was going to nod out. The FDA and big pharma are lying to you!!! If kratom is banned I will have to move because I am not going back to a life of pain!!

CommentID: 224111

Commenter: Robbie Waters

6/4/24 12:34 pm

Keaton saves lives

Kratom saves lives. Way safer than prescribed medicine such as Xanax, Oxy's, Adderall, alcohol etc..

CommentID: 224112

Commenter: Jatan Ehrhart

6/4/24 12:37 pm

Please don't ban kratom! It saves lives.

I have chronic pain, tendonitis in both Achilles tendons and it's extremely painful. I also have fibromyalgia and lower back pain. I'm only 39 and have been prescribed painkillers for years. The pain meds stopped helping and I was ready to just give up on life because I couldn't live in pain like that. I was introduced to Kratom about 5 years ago. Before kratom I was bed bound and miserable. I wasn't able to function like everyone else. I became very isolated and depressed. When I first tried kratom is was a miracle. I have been able to lead a somewhat normal and productive life. My pain is still there but kratom gives me a break from it and now I am able to spend quality time with my son and not constantly thinking about my pain. I think there are a lot of misconceptions about kratom. I have never gotten high off of kratom, ever! It doesn't get me high, it literally helps with the pain that pain meds couldn't touch.

CommentID: 224113

Commenter: Nicholas Grus.

6/4/24 12:38 pm

Kratom legal

I oppose the scheduling of kratom. Adults should be allowed to use this supplement; the use should be reserved to people over the age of majority. ssss

CommentID: 224114

Commenter: Mike Danley

6/4/24 12:38 pm

Keep Kratom Legalized and regulated

Please keep Kratom legal and regulated. Gods plant has helped me for 10yrs!

CommentID: 224115

Commenter: Jonathan Caison

6/4/24 12:38 pm

Some people never learn...wash, repeat, wash, repeat

Kratom is a plant. Nothing less, nothing more. The War on Drugs has been a multi-decade multi-trillion-dollar disaster that has cost the taxpayer a fortune and produced absolutely zero results. The proposed solution? Add more plants to schedule I and criminalize even more people. It's particularly disgusting in the case of Kratom which contains very mild active ingredients and has been so beneficial to so many people. What? Are we going to criminalize coffee next week? Regulate the importation and testing of Kratom so that it is safe from impurities. That's all you need to do. From there let adults decide what substances we chose to put in our own bodies. Enough with the nanny state.

CommentID: 224116

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:39 pm

Safe, effective, health supplement.

Safe and effective when used responsibly. No need for government to hand it over to pharmaceutical companies just looking for more profits.

CommentID: 224117

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:39 pm

Kratom should not be scheduled

I do not support the scheduling of kratom or the active components in kratom.

CommentID: 224118

Commenter: Misty Bunkers

6/4/24 12:40 pm

Kratom
186

I don't support making Kratom a scheduled substance.

CommentID: 224119

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:41 pm

Please keep Kratom legal and safely regulated

Please do not schedule Kratom. I use Kratom as a tea. My wife uses it as a tea ti help with back pain. Please keep Kratom legal but regulated.

Thank you,

CommentID: 224120

Commenter: YANCEY EVAN LOCKHART

6/4/24 12:44 pm

Please Reschedule Kratom as a schedule 1

Kratom has modest opioid and stimulant properties and may cause serious cardiac arrhythmias. It should not be available on our street corners. As a Pharmacist, I do not recommend using it to treat any health condition.

CommentID: 224121

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:44 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

Kratom is a safe and beneficial plant. I believe it should be kept legal and left alone. There's so much misinformation out there about this plant. Please listen to the American Kratom Association about the facts.

CommentID: 224122

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:44 pm

We can quite easily contact labs and send in our samples. Why do we need to criminalize it?

We know what we're taking. Stop acting like we have no clue what's in it.

CommentID: 224123

Commenter: Tim S (23606)

6/4/24 12:46 pm

pain is no joke

As somebody who lives with chronic pain since before the age of eighteen for the last close to thirty years, There has been a war against us. People with chronic pain Have been demonized for years. We can't get help from doctors. We can't even grow plants ourselves to relieve our pain. We have very little to turn to. And now you are trying to take some of the last. Hope we have to live a normal life. to work without being on disabilities. Why is it always your aim? 2 hurt us, we are already in pain. We don't need more. We shouldn't have to fight for a right to a normal life. We should not be taking away plants that allow us to live.

If you want to fix this issue, focus on the medical industry. Focus on the pharmaceutical industry. Leave plants alone that are keeping us alive and functional. We are asking to be treated like humans. Not statistics. Restricting us from getting the minimal help we can is evilness and government corruption at its highest level. What happened to small government? This is not small government. This is micromanaging the lives of your citizens. Do better america, and more importantly do better Virginia. My body, my choice. All I ask is to survive as it is my right as a member of the human race.

CommentID: 224124

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:47 pm

Are gonna criminalize pre-workout as well? Since it's "unregulated" smh! DO NOT SUPPORT

People love to create a narrative because of buzzwords like "opioids".

CommentID: 224125

Commenter: Rj

6/4/24 12:47 pm

Do not schedule this

This is ridiculous. You people have no right to tell us what we can put into our bodies. Especially a safe, natural and effective supplement such as Kratom. Who do you think you are? It has helped far more people than 90% of the crap doctors prescribe every day. Enough!

CommentID: 224126

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:48 pm

Keep kratom legal

Please keep kratom legal in the commonwealth!

CommentID: 224127

Commenter: Michelle Adams

6/4/24 12:51 pm

Kratom Saves Lives!

Please do not ban Kratom. I have used it for years now & have not suffered any health issues because of it. It has improved my physical well being in many ways. Kratom should be regulated but not banned. Everyone in my personal circle that uses it has done so responsibly.

CommentID: 224128

Commenter: Peter

6/4/24 12:51 pm

Keep Kratom Legal!

Kratom is a wonderful plant! It's gentle benefits have helped relieve my anxiety, depression, and bowel issues. It has saved me in more ways than one! Alcohol does more harm than this wonderful

plant!

CommentID: 224129

Commenter: Michele Mitchell

6/4/24 12:51 pm

Pain

I am in a lot of pain my whole back is messed up , Kratom is the only thing keeping me from killing myself . So please leave it be it's not hurting anyone but helping millions

CommentID: 224130

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:52 pm

Please act in the best interest of the public and reclassify Kratom

As a Pharmacist, I do not recommend using it to treat any health condition and recommend its reclassification. In the face of these comments that are social media driven (reddit) from folks who may not even be Virginians, I ask the board of pharmacy to respectfully review the published evidence, including safety and efficacy information available through trusted sources, such as the FDA and NIH, when making a decision that promotes the safety and welfare of all Virginians. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/public-health-focus/fda-and-kratom>

CommentID: 224131

Commenter: Grandmother to 6 with chronic pain

6/4/24 12:54 pm

Please regulate Kratom Do not Criminalize

We hope that the Pharmacy Board reads and considers these comments seriously. We have previously worked with Senator Dr. Siobhan S. Dunnavant regarding the regulation of Kratom in the Commonwealth of Virginia and hope that you will consider those testimonies that were submitted at that time. I have personally taken Kratom for chronic pain since 2015. I have osteoarthritis from head to toe. I have fibromyalgia as well a long list of other medical conditions that cause pain including residual pain from a broken back. I have not ever taken any illegal drugs for my pain. Kratom allows me to function on a daily basis with pain from head to toe without the negative impacts of opioids. I have had over 30 surgeries and about to undergo a total knee replacement and will need the other knee done in the near future. I have had 4 back surgeries in the past 3 years and are in need of another spinal fusion which I am hesitant to do. I have not had any adverse reactions to taking Kratom other than constipation which is easily dealt with. Kratom reduces my need for additional substances to relieve the pain I live with on a daily basis. I've been taking the same amount for the past 9 years without any need to increase the amount. I can drive, do housework, cook, exercise, work in the yard, help build my retirement home, enjoy retirement and most importantly enjoy my 6 grandchildren and family with the help of Kratom. To schedule and criminalize Kratom would be detrimental to so many people living with chronic pain that would then be dependent on opioids or street drugs. It is a known fact that the supply of opioids has been limited at best. Scheduling Kratom would make a huge population in Virginia dependent on opioid drugs or cause additions to opioids and/or street drugs. I enjoy not living with the side effects of opioids. We hope that you take into consideration the side effects from opioids are far worse than any side effect from Kratom.

Please take these comments seriously and put yourself in the shoes of so many Virginians who need this plant safe and available for their use. The side effects from pain medications alone should be enough for you to ditch the plan to schedule and criminalize Kratom. There is quite a bit

of scientific studies published on Kratom available and I implore those trying to schedule this plant to educate themselves on this matter
CommentID: 224132

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:54 pm

I don't support the ban

DO NOT BAN KRATOM!! It saves lives!!

CommentID: 224133

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 12:58 pm

Kratom - Safe and life changing

I 100% do not support this petition to make kratom consumers criminals if it is a Schedule I substance.

Kratom is perfectly safe and changes lives. I have been taking it for probably 10 years. It has changed my life and there have been 0 (zero) ill effects.

It helps with crippling anxiety and has helped me tremendously. There is zero evidence of any danger. Please work with the American Kratom Association in keeping this natural plant safe and helping save lives.

CommentID: 224134

Commenter: J L Smith

6/4/24 12:58 pm

Why is "trying to make kratom illegal" even happening!?

Why is someone trying to ban kratom ... a GOD given herb on planet Earth? I don't understand that. It's not dangerous. There's unbelievable amounts of scientific evidence, data, etc. showing that kratom is totally safe! Is it because it helps so many people? Because it does! It has helped my wife and I cope with our illnesses that our doctors can NOT help with. It helps in so many ways for so many people. So, why is some agency trying to ban it? People have a right to decide for themselves what they want in their bodies. Are you going to try and ban mushrooms? Ginger? Peppermint? Valerian root? Chamomile? And, on and on. Everytime I hear of this happening it disturbs me and many others like me. "Someone" is trying to take away our rights to choose a medicinal herb. But yet, that same someone has tried their best to "force" the people to take other substances (vaccines) against our will. Where is "we the people"? Does that even exist anymore? Please quit breaking the Constitutional law of Freedom for all.

CommentID: 224135

Commenter: Lesley D

6/4/24 12:58 pm

I do not support the ban

I do not support the ban. Kratom is truly live-saving for many people. It is a safe alternative for pain.

CommentID: 224136

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Commenter: Angel kacin

6/4/24 12:59 pm

Autoimmune

I do not support ban. People have auto immune disorders and this has been better than any thing doctors have given and way less addictions. Do not have to take everyday.

CommentID: 224137

Commenter: Cory Collins

6/4/24 12:59 pm

Kratom helps me live a close to normal life

Pain pills were not working so a neighbor told me about kratom , I've been taking it 7.5 years and it's basically gave me my life back , I'm also a minister and do NOT think it should be banned . My health has actually improved since I've been taking it .

CommentID: 224138

Commenter: Jayant

6/4/24 1:00 pm

Stop the ban

Kratom has changed my life for the better. Please do not ban this substance.

CommentID: 224139

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:00 pm

Kratom is a miracle!

Please don't criminalize kratom! Most users are average people that need help with chronic pain. This includes me. I've taken kratom for 11 years with no bad side effects. Please consider how banning kratom will effect so many law abiding citizens. Thank you.

CommentID: 224140

Commenter: Brian Barndt

6/4/24 1:02 pm

Why Kratom should not be scheduled

I'm a recovering addict and if it wasn't for Kratom I would have never kicked opioids and with fentanyl it's extremely important to keep it legal and make sure there are regulations that keep the Kratom companies from putting out adulterated and pure. My fiancé also uses it to help with back pain and has not gotten addicted in the year she's been using it. I also work at a smokeshop that sells all types of Kratom and I've personally seen and deal with lots of people who if it wasn't for Kratom would be using illegal much harsher opioids and I have lost to many friends and acquaintances that overdosed on fentanyl, but I have never met someone who has had any serious health complications from taking Kratom in moderate dosages to even high dosages. The science is there and shows that Kratom works differently than most opioids And has helped millions of people with opioid addictions, and it would be a disaster if it was banned or scheduled to a schedule I. Please consider keeping this miracle plant available for people who need it because if they don't have that they will be forced to go to the streets where unregulated harmful opioids that can be contaminated possibly kill them. I am a strong supporter of the American Kratom

association, and I donate regularly and I think God for their work because from where I sit, I only see benefits. There will always be people who will try to abuse things, but that's just how the world works, but at least they won't have to worry about their heart stopping And dying. As far as harm production goes, this medicine is one of the best and it would be a shame if it got taken away from Americans.

CommentID: 224142

Commenter: Erica

6/4/24 1:04 pm

My husband receives help from kratom, please don't ban it in Va!

My husband drinks kratom tea on a regular basis for pain in his back and it has helped him tremendously. Please do not make kratom a Schedule I substance in Virginia and please allow us the discretion to decide what works and what doesn't for our bodies. Kratom has saved my husband's life. Please do not ban it.

CommentID: 224143

Commenter: Virginia Beach resident

6/4/24 1:05 pm

Do not support schedule or ban. Safer than otc medicine.

I am a person with chronic back pain. I cannot take NSAIDs and Tylenol barely works. I can use Kratom and then live as though I was normal. I don't use drugs.

CommentID: 224144

Commenter: Matthew Norris

6/4/24 1:05 pm

Life saving plant.

As the title suggests, kratom is a miracle plant that needs to be kept legal. It's brightens your mood and increases energy without making you high, it gives long lasting pain relief, it lowers cravings for other substances, it has built in abuse prevention (if you take too much it doesn't feel good). It has gotten me off heroin twice and has kept me off alcohol. It's nothing like real opioids/opiates. It would be selfish and greedy to take away something with such low abuse potential/negative side effects, that has helped so many people. Please side with the people and keep this gift legal.

CommentID: 224145

Commenter: Paul

6/4/24 1:06 pm

Let's be rational here

Let me ask you how exactly does this make sense? It makes no more sense then saying caffeine should be a schedule 1 drug. Would banning caffeine make any sense? Of course it wouldn't, now lets dive a bit deeper on this. Whoever put forth this petition is likely willfully ignorant or being paid off by a drug company or one of their cronies. I'm going to venture to say both in this case. I can also bet they have never tried kratom themselves. I can bet they haven't been in a situation either where they have some sort of issue where kratom was the only thing they found that provided any relief from. Also the people that live where this plant naturally grows have been using it for hundreds of years. Now, people wouldn't use a plant if it was totally useless now would they? The answer should be obvious in this case, of course they wouldn't. You wouldn't eat or use poison ivy either you found out there was no use for it now would you? So overlooking the beneficial qualities

of kratom (and its alkaloids) is equal parts ignorant and dumb. You should really look to regulate this and not ban it. Adopting the Kratom Consumer Protection Act would be the smart move to make here rather than banning it. Or maybe someone should put forth a petition to ban caffeine before you all see how the error of your ways. So in conclusion my question is this. Are you all rational and reasonable people with a brain and a IQ? Or are you a bunch of clowns stuffed into a clown car driving around and drooling everywhere? I know which one of those I would assume by default, but please prove me wrong. Don't show me your just a lot of feckless politicians that just give into highly distorted opinion of the FDA on the subject of kratom.

CommentID: 224147

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:07 pm

Do not ban this powerful medicine

Please do not ban this powerful medicine, I know people who have been able to stay off heroin due to this plant. We need to keep it in the hands of those who give proper education on how to utilize it!

CommentID: 224148

Commenter: Catherine

6/4/24 1:09 pm

DO NOT BAN kratom in Virginia. it's less toxic than Tylenol.

Surely this push to ban comes from Big Pharma that has demonstrated it's intent to harm humanity and increase suffering.

CommentID: 224149

Commenter: kathy wilson

6/4/24 1:10 pm

KRATOM IS SAFE when used correctly

Kratom is as safe as aspirin. It helped me to get off 6 prescription medicines for pain. I have used it safely for 12 years and have had ZERO side effects. Just like aspirin, if taken more than directed, or any other medication, of course it will cause issues. Taken as directed (no more than 4 a day) it is extremely beneficial. I am living proof of that.

KEEP KRATOM LEGAL BECAUSE IT IS EXTREMELY BENEFICIAL AND REPLACED OXY FOR HELP WITH PAIN>

CommentID: 224150

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:10 pm

Do not ban kratom

Kratom has helped many people. Banning it would be a travesty.

CommentID: 224151

Commenter: David

6/4/24 1:11 pm

Do not ban

I DON'T SUPPORT Board of Pharmacy Petition "Addition of kratom to Schedule I" (CRIMINALIZE KRATOM). It's unwarranted and unfounded.

CommentID: 224152

Commenter: David Morais

6/4/24 1:11 pm

Kratom Petition

I DO NOT support this petition!

CommentID: 224153

Commenter: Lisa Murr

6/4/24 1:13 pm

My doctor recommended Kratom and it gave this Nurse Practitioner her life back

That's right...my pain management doctor and his nursing staff recommended Kratom because it worked for them and their many patients before me. I was miserable from strong narcotics used for my back issues and fibromyalgia not working and leaving me wiped of energy. The Rx pain meds caused more pain and, and you know how deadly they are for millions.

I trusted my doctor, weaned off the meds, and replaced them with kratom. I cried in happiness when I realized my energy had returned, and the pain was much better. I'm now working again after years of not being able. Kratom helps so many people, so Big Pharma wants it scheduled because they want our money and misery. They don't care about the good of America! They only care about their bank accounts and power.

Please keep kratom legal. Don't believe their lies about it .

Thank you for reading.

CommentID: 224154

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:14 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

I suffer from pain and fatigue due to having HIV. I do not wish to be addicted to painkillers. Kratom is the only thing that helps my pain and provides energy so I can get through my day at work and basically just exist without suffering. There are also many people who cannot take opioid prescription drugs for pain due to addiction problems or allergies or various other reasons that are personal to them and kratom is an option for them that is not as debilitating as the alternative. Please allow this life-saving tree and leaf to continue to be available for those who need it.

CommentID: 224155

Commenter: kathy cagle

6/4/24 1:15 pm

Kratom should be regulated, not banned

Kratom is helpful for many pain, anxiety, depression issues. It is available in natural form as tea leaves or ground leaf powder. They are safe, and effective. Recently some companies have been making extracts, which are not as safe. Enact the KPCA to stop the harmful products. Don't ban: ban would cause more illicit opioid overdoses, from people seeking relief from pain. KCPA is the kratom consumer protection act and is passed in Texas. Keeps kids from buying it and bad extracts off the market here.

CommentID: 224156

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:15 pm

The benefits FAR outweigh the risks do not ban

Do not ban

CommentID: 224157

Commenter: Michael

6/4/24 1:16 pm

Why take something that helps so many?

It helps far more than it hurts anyone. Most use it for some form of medical benefit why take that from them? We have no problem with alcohol or nicotine for the public which has no medical benefits and kills millions every year but let's make something that helps far more than it hurts away to fit big pharma's agenda of keeping people on their opiates. I truly hope the right decision is made on this beneficial plant.

CommentID: 224158

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:17 pm

Regulate Kratom, do not ban

This herbal supplement has significant beneficial properties, please do not ban.

CommentID: 224159

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:17 pm

I Do not support the ban

I do not support the ban

CommentID: 224160

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:17 pm

Please Do Not Ban Kratom

I have a chronic illness which affects me physically and mentally. Kratom has helped me to get off pain medication and also helps immensely with my mood and energy. There are many other things

that are legal causing harm to people. Why take kratom away from those who need it for a better quality of life??

CommentID: 224161

Commenter: Aidan Kennedy

6/4/24 1:20 pm

Thailand banned kratom to sell more narcotics instead

Those in sub-acute narcotic withdrawal have no other options like Kratom offers for help. Extracts may be misused, but never in the sense that one can abuse meth or heroin and cause life threatening states of health for themselves. Kratom SAVES!

CommentID: 224162

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:23 pm

Please don't ban

Life saving for so many. Please do not ban.

CommentID: 224163

Commenter: Kenny B

6/4/24 1:24 pm

Keep Kratom off the ban list!

Why not keep a natural substance legal!!!!

CommentID: 224164

Commenter: Kathy Rais

6/4/24 1:24 pm

Kratos ban

I have been taking Kratom for 5 yrs & it has made my life so much better. I suffer from chronic pain & can not take NSAIDS & used to take Vicodin & was cut off. I usually take abt 5 gram daily but there are days I skip so know I am not addicted.

With prescription laws being so strict & there are millions of people who do not have any relief end up living very sad half lives or end up committing suicide.

Kratom is certainly a safer choice than heroin or getting something laced w/Kratos. Please leave it alone. Thank you

CommentID: 224165

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:25 pm

4 years of responsible Kratom use and no side effects or W/D's

Minimizing this plant makes 0 sense.

CommentID: 224166

191

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:26 pm

Kratos is an herbal supplement not a drug. Stop trying to limit access to safe natural supplements.

Kratom is an herbal supplement not a drug. Stop trying to limit access to safe natural supplements. Being involved in Natural Health for decades I began investigating this herbal supplement about 5 years ago. I did extensive research into the plant and it's alkaloid profile. I watched and read hundreds of testimonials (many from seniors) of those helped by the use of this plant. Many whom were able to remove themselves from harmful addictive pain medication. After years of research I determined that this was one of the most beneficial and safe plants on the planet. It has helped millions of people with various conditions the world over. We want to criminalize mitragyna speciosa (aka kratom) but legalize Marijuana. Is that really what this state has come to? No doubt your attempt to limit its availability is in conjunction with big pharma campaign contributions and I am sure it will soon be followed with their own patented expensive drug derived from some isolated Kratos alkaloid. Shame on you acting in the interest of big pharma at the expense of your constituents.

CommentID: 224167

Commenter: Chris King

6/4/24 1:26 pm

8 yrs of Kratom use and relief in good health

I've been using the herb kratom for over 8 yrs now for pain and anxiety. Helped save my life and was working full time with no problems. See Dr's regularly and everything is fine outside of pain, which ofc I use the kratom for. Ppl don't overdose on kratom, / seeing as it doesn't repress your breathing like opiates. Kratom is safe and can be regulated easily. Don't do the ppl that use it as a pain or addiction age get criminalized because they want to live life safer, in less pain or don't want to go back to using opiodes or opiates. Thank you for your time. No ban is a better way....

CommentID: 224168

Commenter: Jonathan Fisher

6/4/24 1:26 pm

Do not Support Petition

I do not support this Petition. Kratom has changed my life for the better. I know and have seen it help many others too. It is not a powerful/ dangerous substance. It is also very cheap and affordable. It costs less then a Starbucks a day habit and much less then smoking. I do not see the need to schedule these alkaloids and this plant.

CommentID: 224169

Commenter: Mike Overstreet

6/4/24 1:27 pm

THE MOST DANGEROUS THING ABOUT KRATOM IS ENFORCING A BAN!

Kratom saves lives. Prohibitions never work and only serve to enrich special interests while exasperating the problems it's claiming to fix. Kratom gave me my life back, a complete lifeline while staying clear-headed and reduced pain. The science absolutely does not support a ban.

CommentID: 224170

Commenter: Jean Sanders

6/4/24 1:28 pm

Ban Kratom

The people using this are mainly addicts so of course they don't want it scheduled. It's too dangerous to be sold over the counter. My nephew died from this and it was purchased in a gas station!!

CommentID: 224171

Commenter: Angela

6/4/24 1:30 pm

From the wife of a recovering heroin addict

My husband is a recovering heroin addict and alcoholic. Soon after he quit heroin he started to seek out other opiates in any form he could get them. As you can imagine this affected every aspect of our lives and nearly ruined our family many times. Imagine what it's like to count the spoons in your kitchen every day hoping none are missing, or having your electricity turned off because your loved one bought pills with the money. Worrying every single day if it would be the last time you saw the person you love alive. In a rock bottom scenario I convinced him to try kratom after I read about it in a support forum. Immediately his desire to get high diminished. IMMEDIATELY! Over the course of 6 months his desire for alcohol waned as well and while he occasionally enjoys a cold beer, it is just that, occasionally, instead of a 6 pack a day or more habit.

My husband is now 7 years clean and sober. He is 45 years old, on zero prescriptions and has a perfect bill of health. I truly believe he would be gone if not for kratom. If this plant were to be criminalized I fear those old demons will return and will end in the destruction of my family, whether from divorce or death.

CommentID: 224172

Commenter: Kratom Danger Awareness

6/4/24 1:31 pm

I support the schedule 1 for Kratom..

https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.tampabay.com/kratom/&sa=U&sqj=2&ved=2ahUKEwj2tpXLUVMKGaxWwFVkfHXZRD6IQFnoECBwQAQ&usq=AOvVaw2fRR31_rgbZOSgkATRMFeR
Kratom doesn't save lives . Kratom is addictive and causes deaths .
schedule 1 kratom

CommentID: 224173

Commenter: Derek

6/4/24 1:32 pm

Do not ban kratom

I do not support the ban on kratom by the Virginia board of pharmacy

CommentID: 224174

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:32 pm

Regulate Kratom

Even one death is too many. Please read the series from The Tampa Bay Times

CommentID: 224175

Commenter: Stephanie Ours

6/4/24 1:32 pm

Stop this nonsense

Ridiculous that this is actually up for a ban .. it's like wanting to ban coffee

CommentID: 224176

Commenter: Rodney Poole

6/4/24 1:33 pm

Kratom is Safe and Effective

Kratom use relieves significant back pain from spinal stenosis and has done so for 5 years with no ill effect.

CommentID: 224177

Commenter: Tony

6/4/24 1:33 pm

I support this petition to schedule Kratom

<https://www.medscape.co.uk/viewarticle/deadly-get-together-plant-based-preparation-kratom-2024a10004tp>

CommentID: 224178

Commenter: Marilyn

6/4/24 1:33 pm

Do not ban

So helpful to many people and a ban could be devastating. How, in a world where alcohol is readily available to anyone over 18, could kratom be banned?

CommentID: 224179

Commenter: Mike E

6/4/24 1:34 pm

VOTE NO on adding Kratom to Schedule 1

Kratom has been life changing for me and my parents, improving our quality of lives. We first start taking Kratom in late 2015, and have been using this natural alternative to prescription pain medication ever since. There have been no negative effects from the use of kratom for either my parents or myself.

Both of my parents deal with severe pain related to disabilities. Without kratom, my mother would no longer be able to work full time, and my father would be mostly bedridden due to his hip pain. Because of kratom, both of them are able to manage their pain and continue to be self

independent. They both were able to stop taking the multiple pain medications each was prescribed for many years.

I have an auto-immune disease and used Kratom to get off of Tramadol which I was prescribed for years. I feel better now than I did before I discovered Kratom

My parents discussed moving to Virginia when my mother retires next year. If Kratom is made a Schedule 1 drug, then my family will no longer even consider living in Virginia. Removing access to Kratom for all those who use Kratom would hurt average law-abiding citizens like my parents, and myself, and negatively impact our quality of life. I cannot stress how helpful Kratom is to our daily lives, and the improved quality of life for US citizens that rely on Kratom as a natural alternative to prescription medications

Please follow the science and evidence and support keeping Kratom legal
CommentID: 224180

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:35 pm

I find the comments from Pharmacists in favor of scheduling abhorrent

As a Kratom user of almost 10 years I find the Pharmacists posting in favor of scheduling and criminalizing Kratom abhorrent. I'd be willing to bet that less than 1% of them have in fact ingested this natural plant alternative or experienced debilitating physical symptoms that would lead one to looking for a safer alternative to opioids. I sure don't see them supporting a ban against sugar which is highly addictive nor do I see them supporting a ban against highly addictive opioids that do kill. You can't have it both ways. Pharmacists should be taking the oath that doctors take. Maybe it's because big pharma pays their bills and makes them rich. If they were truly worried about the health of Virginians then they wouldn't be working their day jobs. Some prescription medications do help but they also have horrible side effects and they do kill. So why aren't those pharmacists out here banning prescription medications?

CommentID: 224181

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:35 pm

Do not support banning Kratom

I do not support this ban, no one should

CommentID: 224182

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:35 pm

Needs regulated

There is not enough science in on the dosages or interactions. Or for that matter, a stated medical reason to us. It needs regulated. No one ever died from cannabis but look how long it's been regulated. But thousands have died from kratom. Just check Florida statistics

CommentID: 224183

Commenter: Steve Hawkins

6/4/24 1:36 pm

Kratom is good

Only way to get off opioids. It saved our family and business.

CommentID: 224184

Commenter: Will Hanger

6/4/24 1:37 pm

KRATOM ON THE STREET IS IRRESPONSIBLE FOR THE STATE TO ALLOW

Kratom is a drug that can be bought in stores, and few studies indicate that there is a safe effective dose. I think banning it all together may be the move as with schedule one, however it at least should not be for sale to the public as it is.

CommentID: 224185

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:40 pm

Kratom

Kratom is safer than the pharmaceutical drugs & that's why they want to ban it. Don't ban Kratom

CommentID: 224186

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:40 pm

Ban Kratom

I lost my dad to mitragynine toxicity. Ban it

CommentID: 224187

Commenter: Darci Jacobus

6/4/24 1:40 pm

Kratom saved lives everyday

I've struggled w fibromyalgia pain my entire life.... By the age of 20 I was ridiculously addicted to opioids, and it turned my life. By 30 years of age I lost my child and was incarcerated. Even after being sober I was still in pain and struggled to function until finding kratom. It has saved my life. I felt helpless and hopeless on opioids. Like my soul was black. Kratom is God's gift to this earth and as a human, you have NO RIGHT to take that away from us. Your only doing this bc your not able to make billions of it like big pharma did w the opioid epidemic. It's time for a change. Please don't take away the one thing that helps me and millions of Americans function naturally painlessly each and everyday.

CommentID: 224188

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:41 pm

Scientifically proven safe

- Kratom has repeatedly been proven safe and has been used for centuries. This is a ridiculous attack on a plant that has saved countless lives. In no way is kratom a dangerous drug of any kind.

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

CommentID: 224189

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:41 pm

A ban didn't work with weed, it didn't work with any drug, when will you learn

You tried this already. You tried banning weed, you tried a "war on drugs" it simply doesn't work. All you do is create criminals and force an underground market. Keep it legal, keep collecting taxes on it, and keep our court systems free from useless clutter of unnecessary non-violent drug crimes. Banning drugs has never stopped people from taking them, all you do is create criminals, and remove yourself from the money making equation.

CommentID: 224190

Commenter: Little Nap Productions LLC

6/4/24 1:41 pm

Kratom is a life-saver for many people with few to no alternatives

Kratom is safe and that has been shown time and time again. There is no good reason to have this substance banned. It's a plant that grows naturally, has been used for thousands of years, and has medicinal properties for pain, anxiety and many other issues. Please don't do this.

CommentID: 224191

Commenter: Blaire

6/4/24 1:41 pm

Kratom helped me get off painkillers

Kratom is an extremely mild drug that does NOT deserve to be placed in schedule I. It objectively does not meet the requirements, it has medical value and is NOT highly addictive. Desire for kratom is weaker than the tramadol, a schedule IV drug.

CommentID: 224192

Commenter: Emily

6/4/24 1:41 pm

Highly addictive and mind/brain-altering - destroys lives

Kratom destroyed our family. It was like watching the person you love devolve into a shell of a person, devoid of all emotions except anger/irritation/rage and despondent despair and contempt. He started taking it in an attempt to quit drinking, having been a long time alcoholic. This is how a lot of people get started on kratom - they are addicts moving from a different substance and thinking this is somehow their magical cure to help them get off of whatever else they were on. Of course it is mostly addicts supporting keeping this drug legal. It needs to be schedule 1. Every bit as harmful and mind altering as cocaine and heroin. Literally "cracks" the brain. Highly addictive. I would hate to see other families destroyed by this substance the way ours was.

CommentID: 224193

Commenter: Todd Wayne

6/4/24 1:42 pm

Give to us you have a soul

194

https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409

379/750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

CommentID: 224194

By scheduling kratom and criminalizing it you show the people that you can't be trusted and are power and money hungry. The fall will be great. It is a God given plant that should be used appropriately. The people who consume are against man made drugs and are very aware all the cures for all diseases (which are caused by man and vaccines) are all made available by nature. Thank you for your consideration. All glory to Yah. May you find the most high soon.

CommentID: 224194

Commenter: Craig

6/4/24 1:43 pm

Do not ban kratom!

Kratom is safe and affective. I was once a addict/ alcoholic but have been using Kratom for over 7 years.

CommentID: 224195

Commenter: Aleasha

6/4/24 1:43 pm

Kratom

Very useful should not be illegal. I would not be here if it were not for beautiful plant.

CommentID: 224196

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:44 pm

Ban Kratom . Has no purpose.

https://openaccess.sgu.ac.uk/id/eprint/11114/1/15/Characteristics%20of%20deaths%20associated%20with%20kratom%20use%20-%20JP%20-%20final%20version%20accepted%2017%20June%202019.docx

CommentID: 224197

Commenter: Kris

6/4/24 1:45 pm

Please do not ban kratom. It helps many to focus and stay off of adhd medications.

I ask that you do not make me a felon.

I have been taking kratom for the last five years. During these five years, I have been able to continue excelling at my current job position.

With the help of kratom, I have been able to stay on task and be productive without having to take ADHD medications.

Kratom has been able to help me stay off medications entirely.

Thank you so much,

Kris

CommentID: 224198

https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409

380/750

Commenter: Morgan

6/4/24 1:46 pm

Healthy citizen using Kratom daily

Hey there, I, along with my wife, are in the top 1/2% of wealth in the country, we have no arrests, never been fired from a job, and both have extremely successful careers.

I do not drink caffeine and instead have Kratom almost daily to fuel my workouts. I have no health issues and based on my statements above I think I would be viewed as an ideal citizen.

Kratom hasn't been proven to cause any harm. It works for me just like coffee. It's natural.

The only reason restrictions are in place is a lack of understanding. show me proof it's killing me and maybe I'll agree, but nothing shows that.

Dont restrict it

CommentID: 224199

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:46 pm

Why fix what's not broken

Hello, I would like you to know what you are doing by scheduling this plant . You are taking relief away from patients. And your community. Causing many to resort to other more dangerous alternatives and successful hurting the community and YOUR impact will forever be remembered in the Commonwealth of Virginia. ... Forever. It's not your job to take away something that is not causing any damage . This is extremely dangerous. Please don't schedule this plant. I can say myself first hand it is very safe . Very very improbable that anyone overdose and suffers damage from this simple leaf. Please consider your family before your agenda

CommentID: 224200

Commenter: Sharon

6/4/24 1:46 pm

Kratom must be banned .

<https://www.cureus.com/articles/112883-life-threatening-hyponatremia-secondary-to-chronic-kratom-use-a-case-presentation>

CommentID: 224201

Commenter: Brandon lee

6/4/24 1:48 pm

Please do not ban kratom

Please do not try and put kratom in schedule 1... it's as harmless as coffee. Next thing you know, starbucks will be put into schedule 1... and why in the world would you go after kratom something that has 100s of years of safe use.. people that "died" taking kratom had lots of other drugs in their system many many different drugs some prescribed by their doctor but kratom did not kill them.. and I don't understand why you would be going after something so harmless like kratom. when you have people dying from drunk driving accidents every night. You know over half of violent crime

committed is under the influence of alcohol?... Why not go after combustible cigarettes, the stuff that kills 100,000.. anyone that tells you their family member died from kratom is after a payday, and they know in their heart kratom had nothing to do with it. Putting kratom in schedule 1 would hurt so many and I can tell you first me and my family would move out of the state if that ever happened. There's no way I'll risk jail staying in this ass backward state that's always been about greed and not protection kratomanswers.org
If your religious at all you could say this is a god given miracle .. I know many, many people whose lives have been changed by kratom for the better and they're not going to stop because you guys day so they'll just move to a different state or risk it... why in the hell would our state not atleast regulate it?... it's coffee!! Please do your research on this before any lives are ruined!
Kratomanswers.org
CommentID: 224202

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:49 pm

Kratom saved my life from severe hard alcohol addiction after many years of failed attempts

I was severely addicted to hard alcohol for years and years. Many failed attempts at sobriety. Kratom helped me get through the physical withdrawals and the following anxiety and depression while sorted out serious trauma in life like getting randomly stabbed by a random schizophrenic. It is pure evil to keep this plant from others idk how you could ever sleep at night removing people's freedoms like using this coffee alternative with medicinal properties. Don't do this. are we really free people if we can't use a simple safe plant for our wellness?

CommentID: 224203

Commenter: Lisa

6/4/24 1:49 pm

Keep kratom legal

This plant is a saving grace. If purchased by a vetted vendor your product has been tested. Please, avoid gas station and head shop kratom. Finally, please avoid using extracts from these places. We need more funding for scientific proof that this plant is something special. Please, this plant has changed many many lives for the positive!

CommentID: 224204

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:49 pm

Kratom is a life saver. DO NOT BAN IT

Nothing is perfect, but many pharmaceutical medications are infinitely more addictive with MORE dangerous withdrawals. If you ban it, thousands will relapse on fentanyl and die, 100% guaranteed. Why break something that has worked for centuries? 99% of the death reports involve OTHER DRUGS OR ALCOHOL present in the toxicology report. DO NOT DO THIS

CommentID: 224205

Commenter: Brook

6/4/24 1:49 pm

Kratom saves

I am a kratom consumer. I have battled mental health and drug and alcohol addiction for over 25 years. Kratom has given my life back.

CommentID: 224206

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:51 pm

Science is not complete!

Science has not been completed no matter what anyone tells you.

CommentID: 224207

Commenter: Brian D

6/4/24 1:51 pm

Please do not add Kratom to Schedule 1

I have been taking Kratom daily for a couple of reasons. One, I am getting older and moderate to strenuous physical (yardwork and so forth) activity takes its toll on me more and more. A dose of a "fast" Kratom gives me an energy and outlook boost early in the day. Additionally, Kratom reduces aches and pains to a manageable level so I can avoid too much acetaminophen. I am also a recovering alcoholic and the ache relief and relaxation effect from certain strains goes a long way toward keeping me from picking up a drink and wrecking my 19 years of sobriety. Occasionally I am prescribed opiates for a major health event with a great deal of associated pain. With Kratom I can greatly reduce the needed dosage or even skip the opiate during the day and use only at night for better sleep. Even after 10 years of continuous usage I do not experience any ill effects from my Kratom dosages. I rotate strains regularly to keep from building too much tolerance to the effects. Scheduling Kratom would remove my alternative to opiates and alcohol. The only threat I see in Kratom is to Big Pharma profit margins.

CommentID: 224208

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:52 pm

Kratom helps people.

Banning a natural plant to profit more from synthetic drug is nothing but evil

CommentID: 224210

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:52 pm

This plant is proven to be safe.

Even the strongest alkaloid in kratom does not cause respiratory depression and it's in very minute amounts in the leaf. This is a ridiculously safe substance. Many people will die unnecessarily if you schedule this plant mark my words

CommentID: 224211

Commenter: Darcy

6/4/24 1:53 pm

Kratom causes seizures

It's dangerous. It's made me mean and the side effects are horrendous

CommentID: 224212

Commenter: Cynthia

6/4/24 1:53 pm

Kratom in saving my life

After cancer and brain tumor surgery my daily pain is unbearable, my doctors are scared to prescribe pain meds any more. Without Kratom to help me get through tough days I probably wouldn't be here. Use responsibly I've never witnessed anyone abuse it (is that even possible)

CommentID: 224213

Commenter: Sarah Stinespring

6/4/24 1:53 pm

Kratom Saves me from Self Inflicted Death

Without my plant medicine, I'm unable to accomplish even the most basic tasks needed to function & be a productive member of society. I've wrestled chronic depression & fatigue since age 12 and am now 45. I discovered kratom 7 years ago and it changed my entire perspective about being a participant in this world. I was an alcoholic and kratom affected me in a way that helped me to stop drinking altogether and get the pieces of my life put back together. I have been able to remain off prescription drugs for depression & fatigue because of it as well.

Please allow those of us who have a genuine desire to live and contribute to this world the opportunity to keep doing so without desperately resorting to harmful chemicals such as alcohol, street drugs & prescription drugs. Every day that I wake up and get to live is now a gift and without kratom as a supportive supplement, let's just say I'd rather be non alive than stuck in a body that makes me consciously feel & function as though I already am. Thank you for taking your time to read this and take care!

CommentID: 224214

Commenter: William F

6/4/24 1:54 pm

Please DO NOT schedule. Kratom saves lives.

Scheduling Kratom doesn't make sense. Helps millions of Americans.

CommentID: 224215

Commenter: Dean Wilson

6/4/24 1:54 pm

Kratom Scheduling

Please do not schedule Kratom in Virginia. It's been a blessing for my anxiety with no side effects.

CommentID: 224217

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:55 pm

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Keep kratom legal!

PLEASE understand how important this plant is for the safe management of pain and other conditions. Place limits on sales to minors and other common-sense measures; but please, for the love of God and for common sense, don't make THIS mistake just as the catastrophe of prohibiting cannabis is finally being corrected! This is not a partisan issue.

CommentID: 224218

Commenter: Robert Burdick

6/4/24 1:56 pm

Don't criminalize Kratom

Kratom has been shown to be a far, far safer alternative to prescription opioids. Don't deprive people of healthier, natural options.

CommentID: 224219

Commenter: Yatzi

6/4/24 1:56 pm

Kratom save lives

Banning this plant will make the community a hell of a lot worse

CommentID: 224220

Commenter: KGT

6/4/24 1:57 pm

No ban!

I have battled unchecked chronic migraines and RLS for 27 years. I've taken just about every medication for both issues without any relief; I'm either allergic to the meds, or they don't provide any relief. A few years ago, a friend told me about Kratom and urged me to try it, so I did. Kratom has provided me with significant relief of both ailments. Please, PLEASE, don't take away a person's right to make their own decisions about the method of relief they choose; don't take away the one natural remedy that has given users back some aspect of their lives. We are NOT drug addicts and we certainly do not wish to be labeled as criminals. It's incredibly unfair and unjustified. Thank you for this opportunity to address you about Kratom.

CommentID: 224221

Commenter: Clay Burris

6/4/24 1:57 pm

Kratom Saves Lives

The science is clear that kratom is safe. I know many people who kratom has helped immensely, there is no reason to ban it. Many people will suffer without it. Do not listen to the negative propaganda.

CommentID: 224222

Commenter: Jonah Smith

6/4/24 1:58 pm

Keep kratom legal

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

There's literally millions of Americans regularly using kratom in lieu of much more powerful and dangerous prescription drugs and/or already illegal street drugs.

Seriously, of the many things wrong in this nation that could be addressed, preventing people access to such a low incident, safe, and all natural, alternative to harmful prescription or street drug should not ever be considered.

How many die each year from pharmaceutical drugs?

How many die each year from dangerous illegal street drugs?

How many die each year from long term use of over the counter type drugs (Tylenol, ibuprofen, naproxen etc)?

Please do not consider any ban or scheduling of kratom.

CommentID: 224223

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:58 pm

Banning Kratom is a Mistake.

Kratom should not be banned. And S1? No way. If you read the definition of S1 it means that the substance offers no medical benefits which is 150% false. It is very helpful for energy in low doses instead a of a red bull or in higher doses helps very much with coming off an opiate addiction instead of getting on suboxone or methadone. Do not ban this. You will be making a mistake.

CommentID: 224224

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:58 pm

Keep Kratom legal!

Kratom saves lives! Keep it legal!

CommentID: 224225

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 1:59 pm

Please do not ban kratom

Because of kratom I have been able to stop using painkillers for my back. Doctor had me on them for years. I was tired of feeling horrible because of side effects. Kratom once a day keeps my pain away and I'm completely focused not dazed all day because of pain meds.

CommentID: 224226

Commenter: shayne

6/4/24 2:00 pm

kratom saves so many lives

if we truly care about the people who fight for our country like the veterans and all of the people who need relief from every day stress and problems in life and don't want to have to resort to alcohol or toxic pharmaceuticals, Kratom leaf is one of the only things natural and not toxic that

people can resort to, and The fact that people would even try to take that away from people is very communist and that's unfortunate in this country???

CommentID: 224227

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:00 pm

Most of the information about Kratom is false

I am a 100% disabled veteran that was left without pain medications (Norco) through a snafu between the VA and Medicare. A friend introduced me to Kratom. It has become the go to pain killer replacing my opioids with a safe, effective non addictive pain reliever for the last several years. The only side effects I've experienced is getting a upset stomach if I ingest too much, so I don't ingest too much. All of the so called "deaths" they are blamed as Kratom induced are people who had many other narcotics in their system. This is the safest, natural powder pain killer I've ever seen.

CommentID: 224228

Commenter: Susan

6/4/24 2:00 pm

Dangerous Drug - ER is filled with people having health issues

We have seen so many people having seizures, heart palpitations, overdoses, liver issues in our ER. Shouldn't be allowed in stores

CommentID: 224229

Commenter: Bob

6/4/24 2:02 pm

Regulate / Not Ban

People have been using plant based medicines longer than synthetics. Synthetics are made with chemicals - that cause many side-effects - so that pharmaceutical companies can patent a naturally occurring substance. They can not patent a naturally occurring substance. Kratom is a naturally occurring plant and has been used for many centuries. When used correctly, Kratom helps a lot of people with pain and even their affect. More people die from aspirin allergies every year as an over the counter pain reliever. As someone that is allergic to pharmaceutical pain meds in general I think people have a right to use an alternative that is plant based and effective. Regulation of Kratom would be an effective way to help people that want to use plant based medicines for their health and are healthy than synthetic pharmaceuticals.

CommentID: 224230

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:02 pm

If it's so wonderful, let doctors prescribed it with dosages and warnings

No noted medical use

CommentID: 224231

Commenter: John

6/4/24 2:03 pm

The evidence is clear

Just because the science isn't complete doesn't mean it's not clear that kratom is overwhelming safe. Of course there is more to learn but we know it's generally safe. Banning it would only hurt people and make it harder to study.

CommentID: 224232

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:04 pm

Saved my life

This has single handed saved my life. I was on prescription opioids. I had lost so much weight and couldn't function. If I ran out the withdrawals were horrendous. I found Keaton and quickly got off opioids. I gained my weight and color back. It helps w the pain and insomnia which were the cause of all my problems w out any of the nasty side effects and withdrawals of opioids. We know whose side the pharmaceuticals on. Please be on the side of the people. Your people

CommentID: 224233

Commenter: CB

6/4/24 2:06 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

Kratom is a beneficial plant for many reasons, with significantly less side effects that any pharmaceutical or other remedy.

CommentID: 224234

Commenter: Dale Drillhouse

6/4/24 2:06 pm

Keep it legal. It's safer than alcohol

keep it legal. We do not need more regulation. Stay out of my business.

CommentID: 224235

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:08 pm

ITS A PLANT

Kratom saves so many lives. Often it is unaltered and in its natural state. It's a literal plant that God put on earth for us.

CommentID: 224236

Commenter: Willard Loudermeit

6/4/24 2:10 pm

Time and taxpayer money better spent elsewhere

States are finally coming around to getting rid of the ridiculous marijuana laws, now this?. I guess you all need something green to outlaw! Of all the problems we face as a nation, THIS is what you're doing with your time? ??

CommentID: 224237

Commenter: Brian Kelly

6/4/24 2:10 pm

Do not make good people criminals over a plant!

I would like to voice my opinion about this bill. Making Kratom a schedule 1 drug is a bad direction. Kratom and other plants should never be deemed (illegal). How dare one person take the rights from another in order to satisfy a made up law. Making Kratom schedule 1 would open the doors to illegal black market, criminalizing good people who value it's effects for one reason or another, and would only create more problems and suffering. The science says Kratom is safe when consumed responsibly, and offers more good than bad. Kratom should be classified like alcohol where it has no scheduling, but remains regulated with somewhat rational policies to quell underage purchases etc. When you make drugs schedule 1, you create more problems for the citizens as unintended consequences are always to follow. No-one should ever tell a grown adult what they can and can and can not consume. Government should stay out of the morality and health business, and stay within the bounds of allowing choice with the least amount of coercion. Personal choice is freedom so long as the user understands the facts and research. Making something illegal is backwards and has no historic benefits. The drug war failed and Government seems fixated on holding onto the past. Please do not schedule Kratom!

CommentID: 224238

Commenter: JohnnyD

6/4/24 2:10 pm

KRATOM SAVES LIVES - REGULATION (over 21) NOT BANS!

This is a terrible thing.....I know many people who have had their life saved from this tea. Kratom helps with pain, addiction and many other health issues. Even the FDA is unable to schedule it. This is a HUGE MISTAKE.

CommentID: 224239

Commenter: Victoria

6/4/24 2:10 pm

Ban This !!

Kratom NEEDS to be banned. People are DYING. Your child, spouse or friend could be next.

CommentID: 224240

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:10 pm

Kratom is Safe

Do objective research on this topic and do not fail the public as we seek safe alternatives like Kratom vs. very dangerous pharmaceuticals. Kratom is safe and saves lives.

CommentID: 224241

Commenter: Martha Clark RN

6/4/24 2:10 pm

Kratom helps so many health issues

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<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

389/750

I'm a Registered Nurse in Texas and have personally used Kratom over past year to treat my chronic nerve pain (CRPS to left foot) with great success. No side effects when using once daily and has helped me manage pain without narcotics, spinal cord stimulators, or other invasive and potentially harmful treatments.

I'm able to work and manage my busy home. Surprisingly enough it's even helped the depression related to my chronic condition. Depriving patients of this remarkable inexpensive herbal medication is unthinkable. It may not help with all conditions and results vary from person to person, but overall I can see no reason for placing Kratom to Scheduled Drugs list.

CommentID: 224242

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:11 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

Please regulate but don't criminalize kratom. It is safer than alcohol, and many people depend on it to function normally and contribute positively to society. It is a safe and effective alternative to damaging pharmaceuticals and other lethal substances.

CommentID: 224243

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:11 pm

Please read

The few comments saying kratom causes seizures and heart palpitations is full of it. With kratom, less is more and you shouldn't mix it with drugs or alcohol. So if you're mixing, you'll probably have an issue. Kratom saves people and is not harmful.

CommentID: 224244

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:11 pm

Please don't ban this plant

Regulation should be the priority, not outright banning.

CommentID: 224245

Commenter: Virginia Pharmacy Association (VPhA)

6/4/24 2:11 pm

Protect the citizens of Virginia by making Kratom a Schedule 1 Substance

Virginia Pharmacy Association (VPhA) wishes to share our support to make Kratom a Schedule 1 substance. The push to classify Kratom as a Scheduled 1 controlled substance is about prioritizing the public health and safety of the citizens of Virginia. While Kratom is promoted as a harmless supplement, that description is dangerous and misleading.

As mentioned in the original petition, the potential for abuse of the alkaloids mitragynine and 7OHmitragynine, is well documented due to the opioid and stimulant effects when ingested orally or smoked. Hallucinogenic and sedative effects are also documented at an increased dose. The National Institute for Drug Abuse reports mitragynine and 7OHmitragynine are increasingly being used by the public to self-treat drug withdrawal symptoms and cravings and

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manage mental health problems, despite the FDA continuously ruling that these compounds have no therapeutic use. The potential for misuse and harm to the public has been so alarming, several states have banned the sale and distribution of Kratom. In addition, it can't be overlooked that the easy access and availability of Kratom at businesses such as vape shops and convenience stores target our most vulnerable populations - youth and those in distress.

In order to safeguard Virginia citizens, enhance regulatory control and maintain public health standards in the Commonwealth, VPhA urges the Board of Pharmacy to take action and move to classify Kratom as a Scheduled 1 controlled substance.

CommentID: 224246

Commenter: Trevor

6/4/24 2:12 pm

Scheduling kratom is ridiculous/ the science shows it's safe

Please do not ban kratom. People all over VA use it responsibly. Banning it just causes black market sales and unsafe product .

CommentID: 224247

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:12 pm

If you're going to ban kratom...

Then you better ban alcohol. How many alcohol related deaths happen DAILY? Tons! How can the government deem something dangerous when it helps so many people?

CommentID: 224248

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:13 pm

Kratom saved me from alcohol abuse!

Began using alcohol for chronic pain when MDs stopped prescribing to everyone. Kratom saved me from that.

CommentID: 224249

Commenter: Donna Czopiak

6/4/24 2:14 pm

Kratom is NOT a schedule 1 HERB

This is OVERREACH by the Pharmaceutical agents. A wonderful book was published on Mitrogyna Speciosa by Temple University that educated me on how Kratom does NOT Suppress my bodies ability to breathe unlike Opiates & thus is FAR SAFER for me to use for pain control for the Lyme & Co Infections that I suffer from as well as car accident traumas.

Allow me to be the Adult that I am & use this SAFER Substance which I've used for a DECADE at the SAME DOSE that I started with. Addiction is a Personality defect, not the substance/herbs fault.

This is an agency that wants to remain relevant so it seeks to trick& confuse those not educated in the use of alternatives.

I'm expected to act as an adult when I drive, consume alcohol (which I do not do), gamble, marry & have children but not allowed to consume a 100% safer plant? Must be an attempt to obfuscate the real subject is my thinking.

CommentID: 224250

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:18 pm

This isn't the right way to handle this

Kratom is used around me by illicit opioid addicts to quit, without access to it they'd be on fentanyl still, now they're on nothing.

Please don't take opportunities to escape addiction away from those trying to heal.

CommentID: 224251

Commenter: Jimmy Moses

6/4/24 2:20 pm

Kratom saves lives

Kratom has allowed me to function and live a full life. It helps so many people overcome addiction and pain. It also helps with anxiety and depression. It has no major ill effects that I have experienced. I hope you will do the right thing and keep Kratom legal.

CommentID: 224252

Commenter: Alex

6/4/24 2:23 pm

Kratom saved my father from opiate abuse

Kratom has helped my father to quit H and finally live a normal life! It is so much better than the prescriptions available for that such as suboxone and methadone which leave you with lifelong dependence, debt, and side effects!! Virginia, please don't do the Virginia thing for ONCE and ban substances you don't understand out of fear. At the very least I urge everyone here to do their OWN research instead of blindly following stories told to you by hearsay and media fear mongering. The opiate epidemic is alive and well in VA still and if you ban Kratom you might as well stomp on the hands of addicts that are still clinging to life.

CommentID: 224253

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:24 pm

Do Not Restrict Access to Safe and Legal Kratom

Please do not consider making Kratom schedule 1 in Virginia. This is a safe and effective plant with many uses. Those who say otherwise are being dishonest or are uninformed. Please see research and information available from the American Kratom Association to learn the truth about this plant. Do not being influenced by big pharma and others with their own agenda or compromised positions. Virginia has legalized marijuana which is a much more powerful and intoxicating plant. Moving to ban Kratom makes no sense.

CommentID: 224254

Commenter: Lindsay Nadratowski

6/4/24 2:24 pm

Medication VS. Kratom... in the eyes of a patient

First and foremost I want to say that I do not live in Virginia, but this ban could negatively affect many others that do live there. I have a chronic pain condition that goes along with other health issues. I have interstitial cystitis (IC), pelvic floor dysfunction, vulvodynia, and chronic fatigue syndrome. I have struggled with pain since I was very young. When it comes to treatment for my IC, I have tried pretty much everything. I did some holistic methods like following the IC diet, acupuncture, hyperbaric chamber treatments (along with taking vitamins and powdered greens), I had taken elmiron (the only medication proscribed to "treat" IC, I have taken hormone treatments because I felt better when I was pregnant, I took all sorts of medications to help with bladder pain like (pyridium and prosed DS), antibiotics on and off (since childhood), muscle relaxers (soma, vaginal valium suppositories, klonopin, mefloxicarbamol), pain medication (at my worst I was on 125mgs of fentanyl). But also tried opiana, exalgo, and oxycontin. Also was given medications for breakthrough pain like oxycodone and hydromorphone), anti-depressants, things like lycrica and gabapentin, etc. Again the list goes on and on. When it comes to medications, I always say that I'm willing to try anything at least twice. You never know what will put an IC patient into remission (as of right now there is no cause or cure to my illness). I hated taking the medications, but I also realized that I needed to take it to try to live a better quality life, until I found Kratom and cannabis. I was able to stop all of the medications I had been on at the time. I did this all on my own. This is something I'm extremely proud of because the medication that I was on; was literally was sedating me. I couldn't be a mother to my children, I couldn't leave my house, I couldn't function. Now I am able to live a life in less pain with none of the negative side effects. (I still have pain, but it's lessened. All pain medications that I was on didn't take the pain away fully either) Please consider what people would lose if Kratom is banned. I would probably be forced to go back to a life that felt nonexistent. I'd have to go back to being stuck in bed missing out with time with my children from being so doped up. That is a death sentence in and of itself... the death of my life as I know it today. Thank you for listening

CommentID: 224255

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:25 pm

My doctor says it is a SAFE plant. Do not ban.

No reason to ban. I've never felt high from it, nor bad from it. It reduces my anxiety and allows me to function day to day.

CommentID: 224256

Commenter: Dave Wood

6/4/24 2:25 pm

Kratom Ban

Please don't criminalize Kratom!

CommentID: 224257

Commenter: PSheh

6/4/24 2:26 pm

Not a Drug do not ban

I would attest that Kratom is very helpful especially for people coming off of opiates and also medication used to treat it.

CommentID: 224258

Commenter: Jeff S

6/4/24 2:28 pm

Kratom is an unadulterated plant with a proven safety profile

I am strongly against the scheduling of kratom. It is an unadulterated plant with a proven safety profile. All deaths involving kratom (of which there are incredibly few) also involved strong pharmaceuticals like tramadol, which ironically is not even schedule 1. This proposal is a huge government overreach and as a virginian who votes (and donates!) in every election - local, primary, etc - if this passes, it will be remembered, and I (and many others) will vote accordingly. There is no valid reason for this scheduling other than regulatory capture and pharma corruption. The fact that it's even up for debate concerns me. This is reefer madness all over again, and will be remembered that way. Regulators, please research this well studied plant and don't just believe the cherry picked, misleading info that I'm sure pharma lobbyists are telling you. The American Kratom Association has outlined what sensible legislation around this plant looks like, and it's not prohibition/scheduling.

CommentID: 224259

Commenter: Margaret Rood

6/4/24 2:28 pm

Please do not make kratom a Schedule 1 substance

Kratom has helped me substantially with some personal challenges, and I know that it has helped many other people. It has also helped me with managing chronic pain. Please don't make this product effectively unavailable to the people it is helping.

CommentID: 224260

Commenter: Erik Lund

6/4/24 2:29 pm

DO NOT BAN KRATOM

Kratom is a wonderful substance that has made my life dramatically better. It's a stimulant similar to caffeine and provides tangible mood-boosting effects. It has made my life dramatically better since I started using it, I'm happier, more energetic, more productive. It's also part of a sober community and you can often consume it at kava bars and other alcohol alternative spaces, it's an important part of the sober community.

CommentID: 224261

Commenter: Travis

6/4/24 2:29 pm

Kratom is safe!!

Kratom is safe. Of course not everybody's body reacts to it the same but that happens with all supplements/ medications. You do t just ban it because some people out of thousands had adverse reactions . Do you know if they had real kratom not mixed with anything? We should work on kratom consumer protection act , not a ban. Look at alcohol and cigarettes . They kill thousands and are legal. This is not the right move

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

CommentID: 224262

Commenter: Tara Nejjar
Kratom natural benefits

Virginia's citizens deserve access to this beneficial herbal tea to support nervous system function. Continue to be the land of the free allow all the right to take care of themselves in the safest way they can find for their lifestyle.

CommentID: 224263

6/4/24 2:31 pm

Commenter: Fr. John Goelz

Only Legal and Effective Pain Medication for My Migraines

Due to the opiate fiasco, doctors will no longer prescribe opiates for migraines even though they have a long history of safety and effectiveness. This I have now on numerous occasions been forced to the ER to be given intravenously morphine. This is absurd and a vastly expensive way to medicate. At least with kratom I can stay at home and with some dignity, live my life.

CommentID: 224264

6/4/24 2:31 pm

Commenter: Joe Warren

Kratom saves lives

As a recovering addict with serious pain issues, kratom has helped me maintain a clean life pain free.

CommentID: 224265

6/4/24 2:32 pm

Commenter: Stephanie

Kratom

Kratom actually saved my life. I've been clean from prescriptions drugs that I was prescribed by my Dr. I've been off them now for 4 years. Kratom is a life saver. Don't ban Kratom!!!!

CommentID: 224266

6/4/24 2:32 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom saves lives

Keep kratom legal instead implement the KCPA to keep unadulterated

CommentID: 224267

6/4/24 2:33 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

PLEASE do not ban kratom! Research & regulate it!

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6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

CommentID: 224268

This plant helps so many people. Alcohol is a KNOWN killer and it's legal. PLEASE do not let this turn into a fully unregulated vs fully banned situation, as was done so disastrously with marijuana. Add label warnings, ban sales to anyone under 21, and RESEARCH IT!

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom is a blessing

I'm 76yo, heart patient, and rely daily on kratom for an improved quality of life. Please do not interfere with this safe and natural remedy. Kratom is a blessing from God. Thanks ei

CommentID: 224269

6/4/24 2:33 pm

Commenter: Lauren Dubovsky

Herbalist in Support of Kratom

I am a certified Clinical Herbalist, and currently completing my undergrad in Plant Biology and Biochemistry. Kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*) is a life saving plant. It's a great alternative, natural supplement for people suffering from chronic pain, who do not want prescription analgesics. This country is currently in the midst of an opioid epidemic. This epidemic has affected every family, and every community in this country. Buprenorphine, methadone, and naltrexone (all used to help addicts get clean), have been known to cause changes to the brain, and damage to key organs. Many addicts in this country don't even have access to those because of economic reasons. Kratom should be accessible to people who want to improve their quality of life be it from pain, or addiction. As someone who has lost many friends to opioid addiction, and as a natural health provider caring for chronic pain sufferers, I beg of you not to classify Kratom as a Schedule I. The results of doing such would mean losing the most valuable tool to fight the opioid epidemic. Kratom saves lives.

CommentID: 224270

6/4/24 2:34 pm

Commenter: Kevin C

Kratom is safe! Do not ban

Kratom has helped me with numerous issues to include substance abuse. It is a life saver for many. Please do not ban.

CommentID: 224271

6/4/24 2:37 pm

Commenter: Dr. Christopher Fisher, PharmD, BCNP

Kratom is a safe and effective plant leaf that should be regulated, not banned.

Please read Dr. Grundmann's, of the University of Florida, research on kratom. Dr. Grundmann is one of the leading researchers of kratom in the US. He has issued a policy recommendation statement, below. In addition to being a practicing pharmacist, I also own a "kava bar" where we serve kava tea and kratom tea. I have heavily researched these plants myself to make sure this business is ethical. Kratom is far less harmful than alcohol and street drugs, and many people use kava and kratom successfully as stepping stones to sobriety. Kratom importantly does not cause or contribute to respiratory depression. I am available for further discussion. Florida has enacted

6/4/24 2:37 pm

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effective regulation of kratom, with age restrictions amongst other provisions, and could serve as a model for regulation in Virginia.

https://assets.website-files.com/618158fcec654303987617512/660d76df95f338f4831e7f92_Statement%20on%20the%20science%20of%20kratom%20products_FINAL.pdf
CommentID: 224272

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:38 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

Kratom should not be anywhere near schedule 1.

CommentID: 224273

Commenter: John Grigsby

6/4/24 2:38 pm

If you ban Kratom, you will be pulling the trigger on thousands of Virginia opiate survivors

This will be on your conscience, Virginia. Will you feed your own people to the wolves for pharmaceutical payouts or will you stand up for your people??? Kratom legitimately saves lives. I have family who were only able to finally quit heroin with the help of this wonderful plant. At the very least regulate it for safety, but schedule 1 is complete insanity. It is cannabis prohibition all over again.

CommentID: 224274

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:38 pm

Do not make KRATOM illegal.

KRATOM helps my pain immensely! It helped me from taking opioids. It is not addicting. I no longer take pain medication that was very addictive. Why would you change the law about this?

CommentID: 224276

Commenter: Dan Boyd

6/4/24 2:40 pm

PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME A CRIMINAL!

Although I don't live in Virginia -- I live in North Carolina -- I am concerned about the possibility that kratom might be made illegal in Virginia, because I have many kratom-using friends in your state. I know that kratom is safe, because I've been using it daily for about 10 years now. I use it to treat my lifelong case of restless legs syndrome (RLS) which used to keep me awake every night and leave me unrested in the morning. Whatever it is that causes RLS, kratom very successfully treats the condition. I'm 75 years old, but -- thanks to kratom -- I now sleep like a baby and wake up -- without any hangover-like effects -- each morning, ready for an active day. I worry about what I would do if I could no longer buy kratom. So, please don't criminalize the sale of kratom or turn kratom users like myself into criminals. The better approach is to regulate the quality and sale of kratom. Kratom is a godsend for my health.

CommentID: 224277

203

Commenter: Becky

6/4/24 2:41 pm

Keep kratom legal

What you should be focused on is a consumer protection agency to allow for regulation and widespread testing. There is absolutely no reason to schedule Kratom, it saves lives and helps so many people. Kratom has been around for many years and it is just now getting on your radar due to rampant misinformation. I OBJECT TO YOUR PROPOSITION TO SCHEDULE KRATOM.

CommentID: 224278

Commenter: Janice Coppola

6/4/24 2:42 pm

Kratom killed my son

My son had just got his dream job in Virginia as a pharmacist in the University of Virginia. He would be able to teach as well as save lives. But kratom took his life according to the coroner. The information out there is misleading and dangerous. It is not safe and the people commenting here will realize this harsh reality soon. I'm sorry for them, but kratom is not "a miracle cure". If it seems too good to be true IT IS! I encourage these people to stop now before their lives are taken and their families' lives are destroyed.

CommentID: 224279

Commenter: Witt C.

6/4/24 2:43 pm

KRATOM HAS DRASTICALLY IMPROVED MY LIFE. PLEASE DO NOT BAN/CRIMINALIZE.

As a college student studying neuroscience who also works out, kratom has helped me immensely. I suffer from treatment resistant depression, and while some medications and other interventions are somewhat effective, I have found that kratom is what gives me true relief, energy, and allows me to once again enjoy exercising, food, and spending time with my loved ones. Criminalization and/or banning kratom would be incredibly detrimental to myself, and to millions of other Americans who have found this plant to be hugely beneficial to their mental and/or physical wellbeing. Kratom holds immense therapeutic potential, and it must be further researched, NOT banned or criminalized

CommentID: 224280

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:44 pm

If you study the science, you will NOT Schedule!

There is absolutely no need to schedule Kratom. The science does NOT support it. Those who are calling for scheduling have NOT studied the science and are being misled or are misleading on purpose!

CommentID: 224281

Commenter: Dr. M. L. Boyle

6/4/24 2:44 pm

I support my Husband and Kratom

I watched my husband transform his life with this amazing plant. As a physician myself I completely support keeping Kratom legal in all states, but particularly Virginia, because we spend a lot of time (and money) in your state each Summer. Bans create black markets and that is when the problems begin. I give my full support to the KCPA which has already been passed and is enough regulation. Please DO NOT schedule Kratom. Thank you.

CommentID: 224282

Commenter: Sky Kozinski

6/4/24 2:44 pm

This is cannabis prohibition all over again!!! Don't make my GRANDMOTHER a criminal!

My grandma uses kratom as relief for her severe rheumatoid arthritis and back pain. Without kratom she would be back on seven different medications that drastically affected her quality of life. Kratom is a medicine, like cannabis, and also like cannabis it is being banned out of fear instead of scientific research and understanding. Please don't make my 84 year old grandmother a criminal for seeking a better life....

CommentID: 224283

Commenter: George Bosse

6/4/24 2:48 pm

Kratom is MUCH safer than Alcohol

Please do not criminalize this plant. It has helped millions of people with chronic pain, ptsd, addiction and deserves to be studied. Pass the Kratom Consumer Protection Act in your state instead. There is much hyperbole and mis-information about Kratom in the media and politicians are not properly armed with fact and science. Alcohol is a deadly, toxic poison that ruins countless lives each year and it is legal on every street corner. Criminalizing Kratom makes no sense. Please do not make Kratom illegal. Learn the facts first, not the gossip.

CommentID: 224285

Commenter: Amanda

6/4/24 2:49 pm

Kratom saved my life

After many years of being on prescription opioids my pain management doctor was dismissed from the clinic. I had no choice but to go through complete torture by WD cold turkey or going to the streets. So I went to the streets to buy my pain medication. That's when I was introduced to heroin. After years of use,losing my kids, my family, my friends, my home,my vehicle,my license and almost my life I decided to get clean. I was homeless living on the street. I laid in the woods for days sick and in pain but was determined to get clean. Few weeks after getting clean an acquaintance told me I could stay at their abandoned house. So I did. I was in so much pain but did not want to go back to the streets for meds. I couldn't go to the doctor and truly never considered it. It was hard to get clean in the first place and I didn't want to go back to that hell. After several months the pain had become debilitating. I didn't want to move it hurt. I didn't want to do anything at all. I started contemplating ending it all. See in 2013 after losing everything and going through WD from pain meds I tried taking my life. I jumped off a bridge falling over 70 ft. I broke everything from my hips up. That on top of my pre diagnosed issues it was just too much. Then I watched leaf of faith. A documentary about kratom. I thought it was worth a try. What could hurt. So I went and got some and haven't looked back since. I am able to do normal things. I have a home now. I am able to take walks, work, travel, play with my dog, cook, bake just normal things that at one time I was unable to do. Six years flew by and then I started to see all the hate that kratom was getting. So I decided to stop taking it cold turkey. Just to see what would happen. I

stopped for 8 days. I had no WD. My pain returned,as expected and my energy level was low but nothing I couldn't handle. I have maintained the same low dose since I started. I do not take extracts. I only buy from reputable vendors who test their products. I go 12 hrs every night with out even dosing. I have never woken up sick. I have never sold my belongings to buy it. I have never done sexual favors. I do not feel for it. I take it to help manage my pain. It helps with my depression. Haven't thought about suicide since I started taking it. It helps my anxiety. It helps me sleep. I use to stay up for weeks at a time. It helps me accomplish things I would not accomplish with out it. If you respect the plant it will respect you. It's a way better option for some than opiates. Honestly it works better on my pain than any pain pill I ever did. Taking this option away from people is literally signing their death certificate.

CommentID: 224286

Commenter: Edward shinn

6/4/24 2:50 pm

Kratom saved my life

I was gonna off myself cause depression and my anxiety wouldnt let me do anything or even have a friend this stuff let me leave me own house and actually make friends and daily use gets rid of the suicidal thoughts that permanently stuck in my head for yrs. It clears my mind it helps me actually be like everyone else.

CommentID: 224287

Commenter: Doctor Elliot Smith

6/4/24 2:50 pm

Kratom is effective and safe

I recommend Kratom to patients for mild pain management. It is not addictive at low and medium dosing, and carries none of the harsh side effects of pharmaceuticals.

I also recommend it to recovering addicts, and it has literally saved lives, with typically no side effects. Atypical side effects exist, but scheduling the substance is not required.

I recommend regulation, stringent testing, and age restrictions, at most.

CommentID: 224288

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 2:54 pm

I support kratom

Don't ban kratom this is not right

CommentID: 224289

Commenter: Wayne Clodfelter

6/4/24 2:54 pm

Kratom is safer than most over the counter drugs and caffeine drinks

Kratom is no different than caffeine pills , except more healthy and pleasant. It serves no street drug purpose and is a natural herb, that if you made illegal you will only create more suffering .

CommentID: 224290

Commenter: Sasha Mortimer

6/4/24 2:55 pm

Banning kratom will do nothing but harm to thousands of Virginians

I, like many others in Virginia, depend on kratom in order to live a normal life. With crippling, chronic pain, I would be near-permanently bed-ridden if kratom was made illegal.

This would be the case for many others as well. I personally know of several disabled veterans who depend on kratom after all their sacrifices in service to our country. Banning kratom would only hurt these people who have already given up so much as it is.

CommentID: 224291

Commenter: Bulidawg K

6/4/24 2:56 pm

Keep leaves legal to eat or swallow

First doctors abruptly take everyone off of their medication then put you on Suboxone and then sell you a medicinal medical card to smoke pot and they want \$350 so the next best thing is and was Kratom it definitely helps with pain with no side effects or you can get energy Kratom and or something in between but the Red Bali helps alot with pain relaxation and a good night sleep and I been on Kratom since 2017 and it works wonderful , thank you very much you all have a great day.....

CommentID: 224292

Commenter: Kyle

6/4/24 2:58 pm

DO NOT ban kratom

Please stop this nonsense in Virginia. Kratom is not only safe when used correctly but I have seen it change so many lives for the better. It is the only reason I have made it through bouts of extreme anxiety and insomnia. This is a plant with so much therapeutic value I could write an entire essay listing them. If kratom should be schedule 1 then so should alcohol, which kills hundreds of thousands of more people than kratom. All these pharmacists on here have no idea. One of them said people smoke kratom.....I have never once heard of anybody smoking kratom. it is ingested orally or made into a tea...not smoked. Half the drugs these pharmacists are peddling are far more dangerous than kratom, which has been used safely for hundreds of years. If anything, there should be some regulations and possibly getting rid of kratom extracts which cause most of the negative issues you hear about. Raw unadulterated kratom leaf is 100% safe. This state needs to stop putting regulations on what people chose to use for their health, especially if it's a proven natural plant like kratom. Enough is enough. No not make kratom schedule 1.

CommentID: 224293

Commenter: Melissa Almas

6/4/24 2:59 pm

Safe
NO

need to ban kratom, it doesn't cause respiratory depression or any health issues and I personally don't obsess over it. It's not causing people consequences, to me it's like caffeine.

CommentID: 224294

Commenter: M Walker

6/4/24 3:00 pm

Kratom saves

Kratom saves lives!

CommentID: 224295

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 3:00 pm

Kratom saves lives. Keep it legal.

Keep kratom legal. It's saves lives. It saved mine

CommentID: 224296

Commenter: Dustin Williams

6/4/24 3:00 pm

Kratom saves lives

Kratom has save many people I have first hand experience with one person they were on the verge of death from proscription drug use until he found kratom full turn around doing better then ever holding a full time job active member of the community keep this stuff in mind it's saving people and helping with drug use disorder

CommentID: 224297

Commenter: Correctional Officer

6/4/24 3:01 pm

Efficacy vs harm/addiction

In the correctional institution I work in we have programs of treatment for addictions such as the MAT program (Medications for addictions treatment) where subutex is issued while an inmate is in the facility. The program also sets up the inmate to continue on the subutex program while on the street. Drug courts in the area offer as an option, but not a requirement, vivitrol shots which block opioid uptake. Opioid addiction killed my mother in law, and was one more step that pimps used to get my step sister into prostitution (slavery tolerated in California by the action of lawyers, if not on the books). Opioid addiction even claimed my wife for a time after a drunk driver almost killed her and she was barely cut out of her burning car in time by passing firefighters. She had terrible injuries and the California prosecutors didn't even use those against he drunk driver to increase his sentence. Her addiction was only thwarted with Kratom which we found from a reputable farm. Kratom helped her deal with the intense pain she had and still has to a limited extent in her back, shoulders neck and chest. Kratom primarily treated the pain but also numbed the opioid receptor which craves more drugs. And when she felt enough pain had gone away due to \$130,000 of medical treatment and years of physical therapy, she stopped taking Kratom. And had no withdrawal. None. I know others that have taken Kratom and felt it help their pain, and they had no withdrawal or cravings. If you try and get high on it you will fail. It doesn't do that. You have to swallow the stuff and you will vomit it up long before you feel any high. So its not recreational. We didn't see any addiction qualities. Any it helped with pain but did not get rid of it entirely. It made it manageable. At an extremely low price. And it hasn't damaged her liver or kidneys or mind in any way. She received a 4.0 in her psychology major and has spoken for mothers against drunk driving. From what I've seen of opioid addiction in the correctional institutions many of the world's worst people abuse fentanyl because they want to numb everything. They very rarely have any

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

kind of pain. The biggest abusers of fentanyl I've seen are our local homeless, who were struck by cars after attacking moving vehicles in the street. They have destroyed joints and bones and infected injuries they don't ever deal with. They have degenerated their minds and bodies to where they are barely human. I have no sympathy for them. I have no sympathy for the career criminal, felonious drug dealing gang member or low level habitual misdemeanor offender who steals from a home depot and sells his loot to organized crime rings or illegal immigrants who sell their untaxed labors to communities that welcome semi-skilled labor and don't care where the materials come from as long as they get their new gazebo. I have no sympathy for the politician taking bribes from pharmaceutical companies, whether it is blocking plants like Kratom which are overwhelmingly bought by law abiding working class people with their own aches and pains who don't want liver toxicity from Ibuprofen and Tylenol, who don't have the time to sit in pain management centers for hours every month for pills that will kill them. These same politicians will push for programs like the MAT program that simply trade the drug addictions of Heroin, fentanyl, and Tranq for a product sold to the government by pharmaceutical companies like subutex. In the institutions we are giving subutex to inmates who will never leave the system. They will go from jail to prison on life sentences and never see an opioid product again (in a respectable prison) and yet the government wants to put dozens of nurses, prescribers, and managers in each correctional facility to help run these drug operations where subutex and its like are fed to inmates day after day with no plan to ever get them off the drugs, and the tax payer pays for it all. All the while the feel good nonsense of local politicians got these policies pushed through and they take their cut from the drug companies. It is disgusting and this will change. I would implore the people of Virginia and it's regulatory boards to think very carefully about which friends they make and where they get their information. The ridiculous "kratom products" sold by smoke shops is probably a mix of drugs like any other spice product they try to get away with. I have always been a proponent of people avoiding smoke shops and getting kratom from a reputable farm. I do not believe any level of American Government has the skill or common sense to regulate Kratom because the people they listen to are simply criminals themselves. From what I've seen many government peons like myself are retiring to places where they can turn away from American over-regulations. And they are taking their retirement funds with them. American Samoa, the Philippines, Thailand, and failing that.....deep into Florida with the uber snakes. Please dont make people like me move into the swamps with the dinosaurs. We are just eating plants here. CommentID: 224298

Commenter: Richard

kratom ban

Please do not schedule kratom.

CommentID: 224299

6/4/24 3:01 pm

Commenter: john cona

For those looking to ban Kratom, please learn the facts...

I believe that groups like the American Kratom Association have done a terrific job in educating collecting and distilling all the research and relevant fact-based knowledge required to make decisions like these. Because of that, I find the knee-jerk "ban Kratom!" type comments to be disappointing because it is so easy to see the good it does vs. the limited harm, and how even those risks are easily mitigated, if people would only educate themselves.

200 Thank you!
John
CommentID: 224300

https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409

403/750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom Has Saved Me from Crippling Mental Health Issues.

I have suffered from a countless number of Mental Health issues for most of my life and been put through the wringer of meds and hospitals over and over again. Of course there are a few medications that are essential for me to just function normally and just get out of bed. Since I started taking Kratom responsibly I have slowly gone off of the 10+ medications I was on and am now down to only a few. I do not live in Virginia but support safe Kratom use for anyone that needs/wants it. If you look at the science and tests that been done and REALLY do the research you will see thousands of people in my same situation. Please keep Kratom Legal in Virginia, all that it will do if made illegal is have these people suffer like I did before discovering what this wonderful plant can do. I urge you to look at all the positive stories as many times the negative ones get all the attention due to there shock value and impact on the public. AGAIN, IF YOU MAKE THIS ILLEGAL YOU WILL BE DOING MORE HARM THAN GOOD. Thank you for listening.

-J

CommentID: 224301

6/4/24 3:04 pm

Commenter: John

Banning Tree Leaves doesn't help addicts

The acidity of Suboxone rots people's teeth & Methadone destroys the body when used over long periods of time after getting off opiates/opioids. Kratom is a great last step down to return to a normal life free of addiction, and a return to a productive life

CommentID: 224302

6/4/24 3:04 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom saved my life

Kratom saved me from 20 years of opioid addiction. It changed my life for the better. I am healthy and happy now.

CommentID: 224303

6/4/24 3:04 pm

Commenter: Chrystal Beeman

Kratom saves

Kratom saves people's lives, helps in ways like no other. Everyone deserves access to this leaf.

CommentID: 224304

6/4/24 3:05 pm

Commenter: Chris

Adult veteran

Please stop trying to take rights away from Americans, especially those that have served their country. Leave people alone, and for the love of God, stop trying to create new criminals!

6/4/24 3:06 pm

https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409

404/750

CommentID: 224305

Commenter: Sean**Don't schedule kratom**

We do not support scheduling Kratom. Keep the consumer legislation as it stands.

CommentID: 224306

6/4/24 3:06 pm

Commenter: Shawn McCall**I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS BAN**

Kratom has changed the life of myself and many friends and family. Please do not pass this ban and turn so many people who are members of society into criminals. As a life long V.A citizen it hurts my heart and soul that this is even being considered. I beg you to read the comments of the people who came out sharing their stories about how much Kratom has helped them. Please make the right call.

Thank You

Shawn McCall

CommentID: 224307

6/4/24 3:06 pm

Commenter: Ian**Do not schedule**

Do not schedule Kratom, it saves lives and the WHO doesn't seem it an issues what so ever.

CommentID: 224308

6/4/24 3:07 pm

Commenter: Kennyg**Kratom**

Kratom is safe and has a positive medicinal affect. Follow the science please.

CommentID: 224309

6/4/24 3:07 pm

Commenter: Anonymous**This plant saves people from Pain, Addiction, anxiety and SO MUCH ELSE**

It helped me get off a host of conflicting and awful prescriptions for PTSD, and pain. I use it healthy and steadily (as does my partner) for years without issue.

CommentID: 224310

6/4/24 3:08 pm

Commenter: Government Is Purposely Evil**NASA LIES ABOUT EVERYTHING THEY SAY ABOUT OUTER SPACE.**

Why don't y'all focus on something else. Kratom is not making ppl go do crime. Aren't cigarettes and alcohol dangerous too? Where's your ban on that? What if all of us told your government secrets on this petition? Like if we all had on the title that NASA lies about literally everything while taxing us \$80 million per day? (For Proof of NASA lying just go to Instagram and search #NASALies .. or what if we all typed 9/11 was an inside job as the subject line? Or that Presidents are selected not elected and it's all a sham. If ppl were critical thinkers they would think to themselves..

"Why would the people who murdered, pillaged, and stole lands then go and set up a system in which they can be voted out of that power? Wouldn't they instead give us candidates that are all secretly working together but publicly have disagreements in order to divide the people to be conquered?..." this is how government works.

y'all need to ban yourselves.. then the world would be free... y'all are lucky the people are idiots and y'all trained others to call the truth tellers.. conspiracy theorists.

government is the cause of ALL chaos in the world...but they fool the ppl into trusting them by staging a fake situation, like terrorism, then they "fix" the Situation which fools the people into thinking government is needed. Faking terrorism also allows government to create new laws and also makes the ppl agree with going to war.

CommentID: 224311

6/4/24 3:08 pm

Commenter: Anonymous**Making Kratom a Schedule 1 Substance is Irresponsible and Doesn't Make Sense**

It's clear that Kratom is nothing like Amy schedule I drug. Having people in the government that do not have any background or knowledge on how drugs/substances work should not even be allowed. The fact its being considered schedule 1 right off the bat is proof there is none or very little guidance on scheduling. It is nothing like meth, heroin, Crack, etc.

CommentID: 224312

6/4/24 3:09 pm

Commenter: Billy Alley**Not necessary. 100% safe helpful tea leave**

Simply has helped me have energy a couple times a day and focus on work. Plus I don't have to take any drugs or medication for lethargy as a result. Stop the foolish propaganda on Kratos. Read Chris's article on Happy Hippo Herbals blog about his 17 years use and his blood work and health. Absolutely nothing wrong with Kratom. I'm drug free and never have used any drugs. I have never smoked weed. Never been high. Kratom is simply useful for energy and focus at work. Can't get any simpler than that.

CommentID: 224313

6/4/24 3:12 pm

Commenter: Margaret Swift**Do not make kratom a schedule 1 drug**

Do not make kratom a schedule 1 drug

CommentID: 224314

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 3:13 pm

Kratom saved me from opioid pill addiction! Regulate DO NOT BAN!

Most health incidents and emergencies involving kratom are due to multiple consumption of other illegal drugs and alcohol. There are many thousands of kratom users who take it safely. It enriches their lives does not harm them. I am one of them!

CommentID: 224315

Commenter: Theresa

6/4/24 3:14 pm

Kratom

Please, do not make Kratom a schedule one offense.

CommentID: 224316

Commenter: Amy Pretty

6/4/24 3:14 pm

Please do not change this is not an addictive drug.

1. I have Fibromyagia. It is a difficult chronic pain condition to manage.

A lot of prescription medication does not successfully manage it.

I found Kratom in 2015. To this day it has helped me and others manage our pain. I have never experienced any kind of high or addiction in 9 years. I take it in powder form 2 to 3 times a day. So I can work and care for my family. I have taken the same amount of Kratom from the beginning 2015 to date.

There is absolutely no reason to change this!

Back in my early days it was being viewed to do this very same action.

The USDA admitted they did not report this correctly. The people who died had controlled substances in their system according to their autopsy along with Kratom. Not Kratom alone.

This would be a horrible mistake!

CommentID: 224317

Commenter: Sam

6/4/24 3:14 pm

Kratom saves lives

I was addicted to pain pills for 10 years. Kratom helped me get off of them. I was withering away, my family was feeling the affects of my addiction. I will never understand how we want to ban marijuana, kratom, etc but nobody bats an eye at alcohol. Kratom does not ruin lives, it saves them.

CommentID: 224318

Commenter: Jordan

6/4/24 3:18 pm

Keep kratom legal

My mother has multiple fractures in her back that keep her in constant pain. Without kratom she would be stuck in bed all day suffering in agony. Kratom is the only safe and effective treatment we've found to give her any quality of life. While there are some kratom users who don't really NEED kratom in their lives, there are many more who actually DEPEND on it to make it through the day. Please don't take this medicinal herb away from the people who truly rely on it!

CommentID: 224319

Commenter: Retired Health Care Professional

6/4/24 3:18 pm

Kratom Give Me Quality of Life

I am a retired health care professional with chronic Diabetic Neuropathy in both my feet. I understand the disaster of over prescribing opiates. However, due to this situation, I cannot get a prescription for adequate pain relief. Fortunately, I live in Arizona where we have the Kratom Consumer Protection Act which guarantees me legal access to pure, unadulterated Kratom. I have complete pain relief without any mind-altering affects from Kratom. My life has a normal quality of life with Kratom. Please allow your citizen's access to this life saving alkaloid. If you ban Kratom, I will never visit Virginia. Along, with the other archaic states controlled by the Pharmaceutical Industry that is the impetus for the current opiate crisis in the first place. Do what is best for your citizens and give them pain relief and quality of life.

CommentID: 224320

Commenter: Robert Windsor

6/4/24 3:20 pm

Preserving Individual Choice: The Case for Keeping Kratom Legal in Virginia

Maintaining kratom's legal status in Virginia is imperative to uphold principles of legal autonomy, cultural respect, and harm reduction. Kratom holds promise as a natural alternative for pain management and addiction treatment, rooted in centuries of traditional use and emerging scientific evidence. Rather than succumbing to knee-jerk reactions and blanket bans, you, the policy-makers, should prioritize evidence-based regulation that balances public health concerns with individual freedoms. By doing so, Virginia can set a precedent for an informed and responsible drug policy that respects the rights and choices of its citizens, keeping people safe and saving lives at the same time.

CommentID: 224321

Commenter: Lisa Ramsey

6/4/24 3:21 pm

Kratom is a lifesaver. Please DO NOT criminalize it!

Please do not criminalized Krato, it saved my life from unnecessary meds

CommentID: 224322

Commenter: Alex Urquhart

6/4/24 3:21 pm

Do NOT Schedule Kratom!!! You do not know how good this plant is.

Kratom saved my life. I was once an opiate addict for 8 years and then I was stuck on Suboxone for 3 years and tried to ween myself off of that for 2 years after that. I finally found kratom and made sure I did my research on it. It allowed me to come off of subprime completely and I am now better than I have ever been in my life. Taking our freedoms away is wrong. Don't do this. You know better.

CommentID: 224323

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 3:22 pm

Protect Kratom!

Kratom has literally been a lifesaver for chronic pain sufferers and others, since many lost access to other forms of effective pain management. Please heed the actual science and not the scare tactics of a few uninformed people. Kratom is safe and effective. Thank you for your attention to science and not hysteria.

CommentID: 224324

Commenter: Jeff

6/4/24 3:23 pm

Nonsense.

Make it age 18 or even 21 to buy (if it is not already) but rescheduling it is ridiculous, and makes the politicians who support doing that look like ignorant fearmongers. Get a grip, it's green tea.

CommentID: 224325

Commenter: Jordan

6/4/24 3:26 pm

Kratom is the only thing stopping people from dying from fentanyl and nitazenes

Do you really want more people to die from fentanyl/? Keep it legal!

CommentID: 224326

Commenter: Ken szymczyk

6/4/24 3:26 pm

Kratom. It's a miracle.

We own 3 stores in Illinois that sell kratom exclusively. Customers don't come in to get high. They come in to buy a natural alternative to big Pharma addictive pain pills.

My customers are functional tax paying workers. Can you say the same about oxycontin takers?

CommentID: 224327

Commenter: Terri

6/4/24 3:30 pm

It's not going to beg. I know what you're up to.

You are in Big Pharma's pocket. I get that. You follow the shekels, as most politicians do, and they don't give a damn about people, just their wallets. Stupid laws were made to be broken, and if you ban this MEDICINE, we'll just find other ways of getting it. There are other countries that have more sense and compassion than "The Land Of The Free". This medicine is necessary for a lot of people, but Big Pharma would rather us be entangled in a web of opioild addiction so they can make their profits. NOT happening on my watch!!

CommentID: 224328

Commenter: Tori

6/4/24 3:32 pm

Keep Kratom legal

Keep Kratos legal

CommentID: 224329

Commenter: Josh

6/4/24 3:36 pm

Keep kratom legal!

MANY Americans use kratom responsibly for pain management and/or for their well-being. Our country is in the middle of an opiate epidemic with tens of thousands of Americans dying every year, and kratom IS a natural and safer alternative to prescription pain killers! I've known people who quit heroin using kratom! I do believe kratom needs to be better regulated and the American Kratom Association has been pushing for a kratom consumer safety act that would do just that. Please don't take kratom away from Americans! Please educate yourself on kratom by visiting the AKA's website. <https://www.americankratom.org/>

CommentID: 224330

Commenter: Nicole

6/4/24 3:37 pm

Kratom is life-saving!

Kratom has kept me clean from prescription opiates for over 7 years now. I have my life on track, I have money saved, and I am a contributing member of society, rather than a drain on it. There is absolutely no reason to schedule Kratom as a drug. It is plant medicine with a wide range of benefits. There are many safe and reputable companies out there that provide safe products

CommentID: 224331

Commenter: Andrea Kelman

6/4/24 3:37 pm

Kratom schedule 1

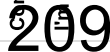
Kratom helps so many people from anxiety, depression, opioild addiction! It changed my life for the better!

CommentID: 224332

Commenter: Brandy Hall

6/4/24 3:41 pm

Please don't schedule kratom it saved this 60 year old woman



I've had fibromyalgia for many years. My pain management doctor all but cut me off about 5 years ago. It was bad. I was bed ridden, depressed, and hopeless. I found out about kratom through a Facebook group and tried it. Not only did it work, it worked better than any of the pharmaceuticals I had been prescribed previously. Other than my 20s and early 30s, kratom has given me my absolute best years. I'm a mother, grandmother, wife, and I'm also able to be very active in my church.

I was able to tell a few people at church how amazing this plant was and that it had given me my life back, because they were asking and never seen me this active. My best friends husband decided to try it because he has serious back issues, that was 3 years ago. He still thanks me to this day. I was also able to help out my neighbor by introducing kratom to her.

If you decide to schedule this plant, I will go back to suffering and hopeless. I can't imagine what kind of devastation this will bring to fellow kratom consumers. Many of these consumers have used to fight addiction. I'm afraid many of these people will turn back to the streets and become a statistic. We just passed the Kratom Consumer Protection Act this year!

CommentID: 224333

Commenter: Richard Freed

Kratom

My name is Richard Freed, and I am a 78-year-old retired full professor at a Land Grant university as well as a retired management consultant.

I had never heard of kratom until the US Drug Enforcement Agency first threatened to schedule it in 2016. Because my daughter is disabled with a severely painful and incurable bladder disease, I immediately began to research this plant. After reading many scientific studies and hundreds of positive (mostly glowing) anecdotal accounts, I bought some kratom for her. No pharmaceutical medication, including opioids, has significantly helped her in the 26 years she has suffered from her debilitating disease. I am stunned to report that two teaspoons of kratom relieved her pain and bladder pressure for five hours.

In September 2016, I had a five-hour surgery that involved multiple spinal fusions, and I was in the hospital for eight nights. I came home with fentanyl patches, which left me light-headed and dazed and which I stopped using after about a week, and tablets of oxycodone. I am thankful that the doctor provided the post-surgical pain relief that I needed. Concerned, however, about using the opioids with another CNS depressant I am prescribed, I decided to take two teaspoons of kratom in the evening. The two teaspoons of kratom controlled my pain much better than 10 mg. of oxycodone. My understanding is that although kratom works on opioid receptors to kill pain, it does not also work, at least like opioids, on dopamine receptors and therefore cause people to want more.

I have had back problems all my adult life and have had three surgeries to attempt to address them. Although the surgeries were considered successful, they did not eliminate the chronic pain I had been and continue to be living with. In the seven years, I have been using kratom, I have never had to increase my two-teaspoon dose. Unlike opioids, that is, I have not become increasingly dependent upon kratom. Without this substance, and I believe this unreservedly, I would not have been able to provide three and one-half years of care for my dying wife or for my disabled daughter.

In interdicting kratom shipments and in attempting throughout the US to convince pharmacy boards and other state-affiliated agencies to ban kratom, the Food and Drug Administration is acting as if nothing has been learned by the decades-long War on Drugs that has ruined the lives of millions. Making the plant illegal will not stop people from using it any more than the illegality of

6/4/24 3:46 pm

any number of substances has prevented people from using those drugs. We can't even prevent prisoners, people watched day and night, from using illegal drugs.

Kratom has been used for centuries to help people be more productive and to control their pain. Yes, we must try as best we can to regulate kratom's quality and purity. Yes, we must study its effects and consequences so that if it is harmful in some ways, we can treat those harms medically rather than criminally. Most importantly, we must study this plant because it could lead to breakthroughs in pain management that are far less addictive and lethal than opioids.

Outlawing kratom will make such breakthroughs almost impossible. If some states and pharmacy boards and the FDA are successful in their attempts to ban kratom, it will prevent tens of thousands (more likely, hundreds of thousands or millions) of law-abiding citizens from treating their pain, controlling their anxiety, enhancing their sense of well being, and weaning themselves from the scourge of opioid addiction. Scheduling this herb or its alkaloids will not stop people from using it; it will make criminals of huge numbers of those citizens who will continue to use the plant, illegally, because they find it safer and more efficacious than anything that can now be prescribed.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Freed

CommentID: 224334

Commenter: D

Harm reduction

Kratom has positively impacted not only mine, but countless others. I do not believe it should be banned as it is a great source of harm reduction. There are way worse things out there some of which are completely legal (alcohol, tobacco, etc.). I have seen people who are on the path towards a bad place mentally change and get their life on track after trying kratom. At the end of the day, it is an opportunity for harm reduction. Let people live their life!

CommentID: 224335

Commenter: Anonymous

Since November of 2014, using KRATOM has stopped me from continuing to abuse opiates/opioids.

I am a female in my mid 50's. In 2010, I had to have multiple, abdominal surgeries and my doctor was prescribing me large amounts of oxycodone pills for my pain before and after each surgery. When the prescriptions stopped, I started buying the pills from the streets. I eventually went broke in doing so, but it was too hard to stop using oxycodone because of the horrible withdrawals I'd have when I could no longer obtain those little blue pills. Luckily, a friend of mine introduced me to KRATOM and finally I made the switch from "oxy's" to kratom. I have been using kratom since November of 2014 and I haven't had a problem with oxycodone addiction ever since. Not only does kratom help stop my daily, chronic pain, but it also helps prevent recurrences of IBD that I have suffered from since childhood. Blood lab tests for my kidneys and liver function are always within the NORMAL range every 6 months I get tested since 2015. My doctors in Ohio have nothing against me using kratom, either, as it has been duly noted in my medical files as a "dietary supplement." Kratom also literally STOPPED me from switching to heroin or to fentanyl analogs like a lot of my friends did - some of which died as a result. Please keep kratom LEGAL. Thank you.

CommentID: 224336

6/4/24 3:49 pm

6/4/24 3:53 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Regulate

Don't criminalize

CommentID: 224337

6/4/24 3:58 pm

Commenter: Kyle Spalding

Don't Schedule Kratom

By scheduling Kratom you are agreeing to be part of the problem with drug addiction. This scheduling will Gove power to the pharmaceutical companies who have made a killing off of opiate addiction!

CommentID: 224338

6/4/24 3:59 pm

Commenter: S. Anderson

Do Not Schedule Kratom

I am begging Virginia not to do this. I have Lupus and Kratom changed my life. Without it, I am in constant pain and so fatigued I can hardly get out of bed. Kratom made it possible for me to go back to work. I do not want to take opioids and even if I did, good luck even getting them prescribed these days. I don't have good health insurance and could not afford to go to pain management and pay high pharmaceutical prices. Please don't do this. Just last year, we tried to get Virginia's help in regulating it and making sure it was safe. Virginia refused but now wants to take it away.

We also have a major opioid problem in this state and Kratom has been successfully used to get people off of opioids. Just please don't do this. Virginia will be turning a lot of folks into criminals if Kratom becomes scheduled and a black market will most certainly open up as it is legal in states surrounding us. The black market is already thriving selling cannabis because Virginia hates tax revenue and refuses to give us retail shops.

CommentID: 224339

6/4/24 4:00 pm

Commenter: Dain Deutschman

Do NOT regulate Kratom!

The medical establishment has failed millions of people leaving millions of people without recourse. Kratom is a inexpensive effective alternative. People who use Kratom typically do research and know how to use it safely. Regulating it will only make life more difficult for thousands of people who are finally finding a way to be functional through the use of Kratom.

CommentID: 224340

6/4/24 4:02 pm

Commenter: Christina Baughman

Please stop and consider...

Due to a mold exposure in a VA state building, I have suffered from daily migraines and flu like symptoms for the past 12 years. I can no longer work as a healthcare professional but don't qualify for disability. I have used other pain medications, in the past. They have all been regulated so much that physicians are terrified to prescribe them, manufacturers are no longer producing them due to cost, or they're simply illegal. My question for you is what do you want those of us who suffer from daily pain to do?

If you want illegal drug use to stop, then don't take every other option away. I take Kratom, just 1- small capsule when advil, Tylenol, benadryl, ice, dark room, silence, and sleep has failed. It immediately takes the pain away. As you can see, it isn't part of my first or even second line of treatment. My life has been so significantly impacted by chronic pain that I cannot even explain the difference to you. I'm tired of fighting those who are supposed to help people. I have never been so disappointed in our healthcare system as I have since becoming a patient. I certainly am now. Please stop and think before you regulate these plants that help so many live a slightly more tolerable life.

CommentID: 224341

Commenter: Jon

6/4/24 4:04 pm

I have chronic pain, but can't afford insurance or prescriptions

The primary reason I use kratom products is because I suffered a back injury as a firefighter many years ago when I fell through a few floors. I cannot afford surgery or the inactive heat time afterward. I did not want to have to take opioid painkillers, and none of the non-opioid painkillers were effective. When I had insurance, I tried everything, including 5 chiropractor visits per week for a year, and NOTHING gave me the relief that Kratom did. I also found that it had several other benefits, like good quality sleep, and nausea when smoking cigarettes - so naturally I quit smoking as a result. I have been taking kratom for over 12 years, and restricting my access to it now would quite literally ruin my life and my ability to work and sleep. Who knows what kind of solution I'll have to turn to, but I promise it won't be as safe and effective as this simple organic plant matter.

CommentID: 224342

Commenter: Jason

6/4/24 4:05 pm

Kratom has been proven to be beneficial

Kratom has been used to effectively treat addiction, provide pain management, and as a natural energy booster. These benefits have a track record of objective success with very little negative impact on health and a net gain on society when weighed against the impact on our current drug epidemic. The "dangers" posed can be effectively mitigated with legislation focused on proper labeling and age verification. Penalizing use of this naturally occurring plant will have severe, negative impacts on Virginians.

CommentID: 224344

Commenter: Thaddeus Andronicus

6/4/24 4:08 pm

Please Keep Kratom Legal

Greetings. I know you get hundreds of these letters and a lot of people writing in. I want to short cut what I have to say and implore you to please keep kratom legal. I would not be alive if it weren't for kratom. I suffer from extreme pain from a congenital spinal condition and it works better than any kind of pill does. Pain pills are not affective, believe it or not, and ironically, kratom is very

effective, and safe. No one ever OD's from kratom. It's been around for hundreds of years and it's safe.

Here's the thing you're going to find: There is a TREMENDOUS amount of false information and misinformation going around about kratom. People mistake it for other substances or say that it's dangerous when they don't even know what it is. Please look in to the science of kratom instead of just a knee-jerk reaction of banning it. If you ban it, you will cut off a safe supply of this herbal medicine and many will have no choice but to turn to drugs or alcohol. It's a very scary place to be knowing that they could take my pain relief away at any time - and by mostly all legislators who don't even know what kratom is. Please don't do it, you will be hurting me and my family and you will put me in a very bad situation. Think of everyone, not just these people that are crying wolf about kratom.

Keep kratom legal, it saved my life!

Thaddeus

CommentID: 224345

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:09 pm

Keep it legal

I started using SSRIS to try and treat depression and anxiety when I was 28 but had to stop use after a very bad reaction to a SSRI when I was 31. The SSRIS also gave me more anxiety and depression. I started using kratom a few years ago and it has helped me out immensely with my anxiety and depression. It has also helped improve my immune system. One time my fiance got COVID and I tested negative despite not being vaccinated. The only thing I was taking that could help prevent me from getting Covid was kratom.

It started also using kratom to help relieve pain as well. I'm 36 and I have a bit of arthritis as a result of my job in food service. Kratom helps relieve my symptoms of arthritis immensely. I want kratom to stay legal to help others who have similar health issues.

CommentID: 224346

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:09 pm

Kratom

Don't regulate kratom

CommentID: 224347

Commenter: Bryan

6/4/24 4:10 pm

Kratom is Too Beneficial to Schedule

I have been taking Kratom daily for a couple of reasons. One, I am getting older and moderate to strenuous physical (yardwork and so forth) activity takes its toll on me more and more. A dose of a "fast" Kratom gives me an energy and outlook boost early in the day. Additionally, Kratom reduces aches and pains to a manageable level so I can avoid too much acetaminophen. I am also recovering alcoholic and the ache relief and relaxation effect from certain strains goes a long way toward keeping me from picking up a drink and wrecking my 19 years of sobriety. Occasionally I am prescribed opiates for a major health event with a great deal of associated pain. With Kratom I

can greatly reduce the needed dosage or even skip the opiate during the day, and use only at night for better sleep. Even after 10 years of continuous usage I do not experience any ill effects from my Kratom dosages. I rotate strains regularly to keep from building too much tolerance to the effects. Scheduling Kratom would remove my alternative to opiates and alcohol. The only threat I see in Kratom is to Big Pharma profit margins.

CommentID: 224348

Commenter: David Berg

6/4/24 4:10 pm

Kratom is not safe!

Two years ago our son (18 at that time) started using kratom for energy and anxiety. We don't like it because it just felt like a gimmick, but when we looked online we saw glowing reviews about how safe it is and how beneficial it is, we didn't think anymore about it until October 27, 2023 when a chaplain arrived at our door to tell us our son was dead. In a further instance of cruelty, it took almost six months before we got the autopsy and toxicology report showing he died from a toxic overdose of mitragynine (kratom). When we got his bank records we could see a steady increase in the amount he was purchasing, which lines up with what we've now learned that kratom will sooner or later become ineffective at the original doses and so people tend to start using more quantity, or they will use more concentrated versions (OPMS shots). Our boy died because nobody told him it was dangerous and to be careful, but when you can buy it at dozens of places in town without any restrictions, it is seen as safe or even worse, healthy. I can provide more details to anyone who is genuinely interested.

in memory of Josiah David Berg 04/25/03 - 10/27/23

CommentID: 224349

Commenter: Colton

6/4/24 4:11 pm

I do not support the board of pharmacy's decision to schedule kratom.

I do not support the board's petition to schedule kratom.

CommentID: 224350

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:11 pm

Please don't take away relief for physical pain

Please don't take away relief for people who are in physical pain. Pharmaceutical meds many times do not help. Please take that into consideration!

CommentID: 224351

Commenter: SavedByKratom

6/4/24 4:12 pm

Better Health With Kratom

Banning this life-saving plant is dangerous & will kill people. It is that simple. Alcohol, Tylenol, tobacco and even sugar harm way more people than Kratom. This is a terrifying proposal and will be a huge mistake. Kratom is safer than COFFEE.

CommentID: 224352

Commenter: Shawn Abbott

6/4/24 4:12 pm

Keep plants safe

I encourage all lawmakers to explore the public benefits of regulating a plant versus criminalizing it ... kratom is safe and on par with coffee , full the science !

CommentID: 224353

Commenter: Charlotte Black

6/4/24 4:12 pm

Big Pharma Sucks

Leave Kratom alone, anything that takes money away from big pharmaceutical pill mills is illegal right? We don't need big daddy government holding our hand .

CommentID: 224354

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:14 pm

Protect Kratom

Certainly! Here's a letter advocating for the continued legality of kratom in Virginia:

Subject: The Importance of Keeping Kratom Legal in Virginia

I am writing to express my strong support for maintaining the legal status of kratom in Virginia. Kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*) has gained popularity as an herbal supplement for pain relief, anxiety management, and opiate withdrawal. It is crucial that we recognize its potential benefits and avoid classifying it as a Schedule I drug.

Here are several reasons why kratom should remain legal:

- Natural Alternative:** Kratom is a natural plant native to Southeast Asia. Its leaves contain alkaloids that interact with opioid receptors, providing pain relief without the dangerous side effects associated with synthetic opioids. Many individuals rely on kratom as a safer alternative to prescription painkillers.
- Harm Reduction:** By keeping kratom legal, we promote harm reduction. Individuals seeking relief from chronic pain or opioid withdrawal may turn to kratom instead of more harmful substances. Prohibiting kratom could drive users toward riskier options.
- Consumer Protection:** The recently implemented Kratom Consumer Protection Act (SB1108) in Virginia ensures that kratom products meet specific labeling and packaging requirements. This regulation protects consumers by providing clear information about ingredients and potential risks.
- Personal Freedom:** Adults should have the right to make informed choices about their health and well-being. Banning kratom restricts personal freedom and denies individuals

access to a natural remedy.

- Research and Education:** Rather than scheduling kratom as a controlled substance, we should encourage research and education. Understanding its effects, risks, and benefits will lead to better-informed decisions.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider the positive impact of kratom on individuals' lives and maintain its legal status in Virginia. Let us prioritize harm reduction, consumer safety, and personal freedom.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

CommentID: 224356

Commenter: Nick steuart

6/4/24 4:16 pm

Regulate, don't criminalize

Regulate, don't criminalize

CommentID: 224357

Commenter: Anne

6/4/24 4:18 pm

Kratom needs to be regulated not scheduled

First and foremost, there is a lot of misinformation and paid propaganda on the internet regarding Kratom. There are scientific studies available on Kratom and I urge the Board of Pharmacy to look into each and every legit study (not funded by organizations that has the FDA interests at heart, etc.) There are more harmful substances on the market that are legal and regulated. I urge this organization to really follow the science on this petition before making harsh decisions. There are everyday substances, i.e. caffeine, sugar that have caused more harm than this unadulterated plant. I would hope this board realizes that Kratom itself will cause less deaths and harm than many of the pharmaceuticals on the market right now. Tobacco - regulated not scheduled. Alcohol - regulated not scheduled. Pharmaceuticals - regulated not banned. Need I go on? This plant is a blessing that helps so many Virginians that should not be scheduled by the proposed petition from the Board of Pharmacy.

We support regulation not criminalization and scheduling for a natural plant that helps so many

CommentID: 224358

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:19 pm

Schedule I is an Overreaction

Attempting to ban kratom is not going to help anyone, least of all those that abuse it. Consigning it to Schedule I, thereby making it nearly impossible to research, will only ensure that it becomes another black-market product sold in unsafe and unregulated forms.

Please do not criminalize a substance that could, with proper research, regulation, and testing, become a natural medicine.

CommentID: 224359

Commenter: Darrell george
Kratom saved my life!

6/4/24 4:19 pm

Hello,

I'm a 40 yr old male who has had substance abuse and I use kratom to help with my everyday life. This is a wonderful plant and I've been sober 2 yrs now and all I take is kratom to get through my day. I've been in 12 rehab programs and I've stayed clean for about a yr at the most. I always relapsed because I get wore down and my mind plays trick on me to convince me that I need drugs to keep me going. Until I found kratom I was stuck in the viscous cycle destined to die alone on my bedroom floor...kratom saved me so please don't take the one thing that gets to success and a great life. I have a full time job at automotive assembly plant and happily married for 2 yrs. Usually I would be taking Suboxone if im not in treatment to keep me honest and functional sound. First time since I was 17 that I haven't smoked pot. Thank you for our time and god bless

CommentID: 224360

Commenter: Rayannr

6/4/24 4:20 pm

Please keep kratom legal

Nothing helps for my chronic pain as much as kratom

CommentID: 224361

Commenter: Chris Rhodes

6/4/24 4:20 pm

Please do not ban kratom

Kratom is not deadly, it hardly gets you high, and it relieves chronic pain for millions of people who have no choice aside from heavy duty painkillers. It is less psychoactive than opiates while still alleviating pain with the same efficiency. Banning kratom will cause much unneeded pain, suffering, and death. It also alleviates opiate withdrawal and many addicts use kratom as a safe way to avoid more dangerous street drugs like fentanyl.

CommentID: 224362

Commenter: Sandy

6/4/24 4:20 pm

I support this ban. Classify Kratom as a schedule 1

Kratom killed my nephew . A father of 3 . Was told this supplement was safe to use for energy.

Ban it... Schedule Kratom .

it's addictive, it causes death .

CommentID: 224363

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:20 pm

KRATOM SAVES LIVES

Kratom is a blessing for many individuals. I have personally benefited from its use in several ways. I have a bone disease that required me to be put on opioid medications. I now use kratom for pain management, and don't need to put prescription poison in my body.

CommentID: 224364

Commenter: Hector

6/4/24 4:23 pm

Kratom saves lives

Kratom saved my life. I come from a broken home and have always depended on something to help with my severe anxiety. I would self medicate with pain meds to help but since I found Kratom I no longer depend on those substances. Kratom is not for everyone but to those that use it as intended it should not be made illegal. I survived drugs and depression because of Kratom.

CommentID: 224365

Commenter: Andy Casiello

6/4/24 4:26 pm

I do not support the Board of Pharmacy petition

I have chronic back pain due to a broken back 30 years ago. I have had 5 back fusion surgeries to try to fix my back and reduce my pain. If I can't use Kratom I'll have to begin taking narcotic medications, which I do not want to do. Narcotic pain medications are a much more serious problem than Kratom. If you take away Kratom you will promote a huge increase in the narcotics problem.

CommentID: 224366

Commenter: Trey

6/4/24 4:26 pm

I do not support the scheduling of kratom

I'm one of many people that owe their life to this plant. It helped me succeed where numerous addiction professionals have failed me.

CommentID: 224367

Commenter: Stetson Stevens

6/4/24 4:28 pm

Kratom saves lives

Kratom saved my life. Got me off the drugs and I will fight for its legality

CommentID: 224368

Commenter: California Consumer

6/4/24 4:29 pm

Kratom is a safe supplement

Why all the disinformation about a supplement that subdues pain, gets people away from opiates that can cause respiratory distress and death. I know many seniors that have used it for years safely instead of being hooked on opiates and the risk of fentanyl poisoning. It's a no brainer.

There can be no other reason other than that Big Pharma can't control it and make big money on keeping patients on dangerous opiates. A schedule 1 ruling is outrageous.
CommentID: 224369

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:29 pm

I support this petition to schedule Kratom

- The FDA has reported several kratom seizures, including ^{1 2 3} ?:
- *May 2021*: FDA seized more than 207,000 units of dietary supplements and bulk dietary ingredients containing kratom, including over 34,000 kilograms of bulk kratom.
 - *August 2016*: U.S. Marshals seized more than 100 cases of products labeled as containing kratom.
 - *January 2016*: U.S. Marshals seized an estimated 90,000 bottles of dietary supplements labeled as containing kratom valued at over \$400,000.
 - *September 2014*: U.S. Marshals seized more than 25,000 pounds of raw kratom material valued at over \$5 million.

Here are some FDA kratom seizures in 2023 ¹:

- On Tuesday, the U.S. Department of Justice announced the United States Marshals, acting with investigators from the FDA, seized nearly 250,000 bottles of liquid product containing kratom and 1.0 tank of liquid product containing kratom.

Here are some FDA kratom seizures in 2021 ²:

- U.S. Marshals, at the agency's request, seized more than 207,000 units of dietary supplements and bulk dietary ingredients that are or contain kratom, including over 34,000 kilograms of bulk kratom.
- The dietary supplements are manufactured by Atofil, LLC, which is located in Fort Myers, Florida, and is a subsidiary of Premier Manufacturing Products.
- The dietary supplements are marketed under the brand names Boosted Kratom, The Devil's Kratom, Terra Kratom, Sembuh, Bio Botanical, and El Diablo.
- The seized products are worth approximately \$1.3 million.

CommentID: 224370

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:30 pm

Kratom seems more beneficial

I have had personal experience of getting off of opioids by using kratom. It was easier to get off of the pills by easing withdrawal symptoms and also it was easier to wean down off of kratom. I have also read quite a few testimonials of people who were addicted to heroin and others who were opioid addicts get off of those substances by using kratom.

CommentID: 224371

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:30 pm

Many comments are from the same industry paid influencers

215
Many of these comments are repeats from the same industry few paid mfustey influencers
The KCPA is a joke bill pushed by felon Haddow, schedule kratom.

CommentID: 224373

Commenter: Steve

6/4/24 4:31 pm

Ban Kratom

<https://www.kalb.com/2022/10/13/rapides-parish-police-jury-unanimously-votes-ban-kratom/>
<https://patch.com/illinois/orlandpark/orland-bans-kratom-gas-station-heroin-other-substances>
CommentID: 224374

Commenter: Jill

6/4/24 4:33 pm

This is ridiculous

I'm really at a lost as to why a board who is supposed to care about the people want to ban something that helps people. This has allowed thousands of people to not have to use narcotics for pain. No one wants to be in narcotics and feeling like death all the time. Kratom has allowed me to be able to function in everyday life. Before I was in pharmaceutical pain pills and couldn't take while at work therefore be in pain all day. Now I can actually go about my life like a normal person. I have had no bad experiences with Kratom. It has been a true life saver. So please stop worrying about the loss of money in your pockets and actually care about the person who is suffering.

CommentID: 224375

Commenter: Rusty Ragan

6/4/24 4:34 pm

This Is Evil

Virginia politicians should be ashamed of themselves that they are attempting to deprive their constituents of a SAFE way to effectively combat serious drug withdrawal symptoms. Kratom also stops RLS dead in its tracks. Kratom is also a great general-body-pain analgesic. Shame on you, you politicians paid for by big pharma. Shame.

CommentID: 224376

Commenter: Mark

6/4/24 4:34 pm

Kratom saves lives

Kratom saves lives.

CommentID: 224377

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:35 pm

Kratom is not safe

Kratom killed my son 12/2024
no other substances in his system. COD was mitragynine toxicity
Schedule Kratom

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

The AKA lies and takes advantage of the vulnerable.

Follow the money

CommentID: 224378

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:35 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

This plant is such a life saver. I have successfully lived a healthy life free of all medication for almost 6 years. Tylenol is more toxic than this plant.

CommentID: 224379

Commenter: Tanya

6/4/24 4:35 pm

Ban Kratom

This drug has ruined my son's life and EVERYONE. around him. He now has drug induced schizophrenia and is in a treatment facility. Clean of all other drugs. Ask me and our county that committed him to an in patient psych facility what this has done.

CommentID: 224380

Commenter: Debbie

6/4/24 4:36 pm

Kratom saved my life!

If it wasn't for Kratom I would be bedridden in pain. I'm a 50 year old wife and mother that has several chronic autoimmune diseases that has no cure. Pharmaceuticals only make my situation worse. Without Kratom I would be in bed all day long in the fetal position in tears. This is the face of responsible Kratom consumption and to ban it would be a really bad idea. I have been taking it on a regular basis for over 8 years now and my quality of life is greatly improved because of it. My 78 year old mother takes it as well and has been for about 4 years now without any issues as well. It is a life changing, life saving, much needed supplement in our community. Without it people will turn to hard illegal drugs for relief from pain and it won't be pretty. It has also brought down my blood sugar levels to normal and my blood pressure levels so that I no longer have to take blood pressure medication. It should really be studied for its medicinal properties and not placed on schedule I.

CommentID: 224381

Commenter: K Hammond

6/4/24 4:37 pm

Kratom helps a lot of people with chronic pain issues and opiate addiction

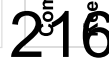
Making Kratom inaccessible to people w/ chronic pain or trying to recover from opiate addiction will do so much harm

CommentID: 224382

Commenter: David

6/4/24 4:38 pm

Keep Kratom legal.



6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

I was diagnosed with Fibromyalgia and chronic pain over 16yrs years ago, leading to opiate prescriptions. Witnessing the addiction and deaths of loved ones due to opiates, I sought a natural solution and discovered Kratom. While it can be addictive, I haven't encountered reports of fatal overdoses unless other chemicals were present. PLEASE keep Kratom legal!

CommentID: 224383

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:38 pm

Ban Kratom. Support evidence based medicine!

Allegedly 15 million users and not a single study for safety or efficacy

CommentID: 224384

Commenter: Heidi B.

6/4/24 4:38 pm

Kratom helps me live a normal life

Kratom is the only thing I have found to combat my fibromyalgia pain. When I was on medicine from the Dr I was dizzy, I'd forget words, I felt impaired and had to stop taking them. Kratom helps me lead a normal life, it helps me keep my job, it helps me be involved with my family and friends. It brings my pain down to a manageable level.

CommentID: 224385

Commenter: Lisha Adcock

6/4/24 4:39 pm

Kratom

Banning a plant as beneficial as Kratom would be a travesty Ally is travesty . This plant saved my life and many others. It's helped my husband to continue to work while needing double knee replacement for the last 11 years. It has helped me turn my life around from being a opioid addict. This plant has truly been a God send and I thank him everyday for it.

CommentID: 224386

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:43 pm

63 times more likely to kill you - FDA

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10264943/>

CommentID: 224387

Commenter: Misty Gersley, Cygnus Community Care

6/4/24 4:45 pm

Support Kratom

This very effective and safe plant material has been used for a variety of maladies over the years. It's greatest strength, in my opinion, is to assist addicts to go off of opiate medication in a safe way requiring minimal withdrawal while still addressing pain.

CommentID: 224388

Commenter: Aggie
Kratom saved my life

6/4/24 4:45 pm

Please do your homework before acting on any decisions on kratom. I was a 23+ year alcoholic and now use kratom 3 times a day (2.5 grams each dose) and haven't had a drink in almost 2 years! Kratom is safe - it is ground up tree leaves and anything that grows in the ground was given to us by God and it is totally safe! Please do your due diligence before making any further decisions.

CommentID: 224389

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:46 pm

Schedule I placement for this opioid agonist

Kratom poses significant risks due to its opioid-like effects, which can lead to addiction and abuse.

CommentID: 224390

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:47 pm

Kratom

Kratom saved my life and has controlled my pain so well that I can continue to work full-time and be a contributing member of society. Chronic pain patients need something to keep us comfortable. Please don't take this away from us too.

CommentID: 224391

Commenter: Tyler

6/4/24 4:47 pm

Science says keep Kratom legal

Thank you for your support of consumer freedom and choice.

Kratom is a safe and beneficial herbal supplement that helps millions of Americans work and live. I am a 36 year old father of 3. I am a business owner and by all accounts a productive member of society. I know many veterans and business partners who also consume or support Kratom's legal availability.

Please follow the science and not the scare stories perpetuated by big pharma.

CommentID: 224392

Commenter: Nat

6/4/24 4:48 pm

Kratom saved me

I am a recovering alcoholic with a severe anxiety disorder. Kratom has kept me from going back to alcohol to self medicate my anxiety. Kratom allows me to minimize my use of highly addictive benzodiazepines. If kratom was scheduled and made illegal many people would go back to using

hard drugs and alcohol resulting in loss of life. Kratom does not kill. I repeat kratom does not kill. You would literally have to eat pounds of the leaf in order to reach any kind of toxic levels which is absolutely impossible to consume that much. Please do not schedule kratom but regulate it if need be.

CommentID: 224394

Commenter: Cynthia Krzywowski

6/4/24 4:50 pm

Kratom

My smart, healthy, handsome, much loved nephew was at the best place in his life. In a new role in his job, following a long, difficult day, he drank orange juice with Kratom powder that he had received in the mail that day. He had read the manufacturer's claims that it was safe. He then drank a second serving. Soon after, he felt nauseated moments later had a seizure. He then had a second seizure. His wife started CPR but could not revive him. Paramedics & the ER could not revive him. The hospital found no other drug in his system. The autopsy was delivered to me. The only substance in his system was Kratom, as stated in the autopsy. Kratom must be regulated to protect the public. If it has useful properties, those can be experienced under the supervision of a healthcare professional.

CommentID: 224395

Commenter: Paula

6/4/24 4:50 pm

I cannot leave my home if Kratos is taken away

I cannot take narcotics and Kratos is the only thing that helps with the pain I endure on a daily basis. It will lose my job and then my home and then my children. It is about how it's taken so, people who are not familiar with Kratos have no idea the good that comes from it. I am not not have I ever been an addict. I can live a normal life. I don't want to go back to the way I once lived before I found Kratom. I was sick from pain for many years, in and out of doctors and specialists. I plead to you. Don't take away my life. I am finally normal.

CommentID: 224396

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:51 pm

489 ADR's reported to FDA. Most common reaction was death.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10264943/>

CommentID: 224397

Commenter: kathryn fielder

6/4/24 4:52 pm

kratom saves lives

Kratom has been a lifesaver for me and so many others! I suffer from chronic pain and kratom makes it to where i'm able to function and almost have a normal life.

CommentID: 224398

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:53 pm

A horrible idea

Kratom helps millions of people, its all natural and not dangerous. Hopefully you'll do the right thing and not let pharma get their way.

CommentID: 224399

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:54 pm

I am NOT in favor of scheduling!

Kratom is a miracle to me and dozens of people that I know. The plant is completely safe and in the coffee family. Scheduling would be a huge mistake and devastating to so many.

CommentID: 224400

Commenter: David Woolf

6/4/24 4:54 pm

Kratom is beneficial

I urge you not to support this scheduling of Kratom, effectively criminalizing thousands of innocent citizens that responsibly use this beneficial herbal as a non-narcotic method to mitigate chronic pain and anxiety. My wife has used it successfully for 10 years, and it has basically give her her life back after a fibromyalgia diagnosis.

I urge you to instead support a "Kratom Consumers Protection Act" to make sure this herbal can be purchased free from adulterants such as "shots" containing large amounts of caffeine, unnatural concentrations of its alkyloloids, or 7-hydroxy mitragynine (a metabolite derived from one chemical in Kratom).

Kratom should not be scheduled any more than Kava.

CommentID: 224401

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 4:56 pm

We are not banning Kratos...We are banning Kratom

Kratom is known to cause cognitive function impairment. What is "kratos"? If it's contaminated with Salmonella I support it's ban as well.

CommentID: 224402

Commenter: Ashley

6/4/24 4:57 pm

Kratom saved my life

I struggled with addiction and alcoholism for 20 years. Kratom is the only thing I've ever tried that somehow blocked my need for the drugs/alcohol AND helped me get through the day to day living, like working a steady job, that got my life on track. I am happy and healthy now all because of this angel of a plant. And believe me I tried everything I could for years and always went back to the substances. Clean for 5 years now

CommentID: 224404

Commenter: Bryan O,

6/4/24 4:58 pm

Don't let big pharma choose profits over people I... again.

I have seen this plant save lives working as a peer recovery specialist. I have seen chronic pain issues relieved exponentially, completely shifting someone's quality of life. I have seen people who could not focus due to severe adhd be able to sit and read a book. Please research FACTS and visit pages/websites to see how amazing this plant related to the coffee plant can be for people that don't want or cannot take narcotics. It would make sense the pharmacy board would attempt this. Big Pharma loses money when you find natural cures. Capitalism at its core. Just like with EVERYTHING, too much can be bad, but taking 30 Tylenol is going to kill you whereas in all my research, the deaths from Kratom are never just from Kratom. Decipher through the noise and don't let big pharma choose profits over people like ALWAYS!!!

CommentID: 224405

Commenter: Robby

6/4/24 5:00 pm

Once again government stepping in where they don't belong

Government has no right to ban an adult choice to take herbal supplements. We all know government support this band, because they're bot and paid for by pharmaceutical industries. Of course you want to ban it so big pharma can then take make a chemical version and put it on the market. It's disgusting and we're all tired of it. Anybody that supports this is a status and does not support freedom this is a trash regulation supported by a trash government.

CommentID: 224406

Commenter: Tracy smith

6/4/24 5:02 pm

Don't ban Kratom

It is a wonderful plant that has helped thousands of citizens. It has helped me as well to live a great and healthy life. Thank you for your time.

CommentID: 224407

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 5:02 pm

Support for a temporary classification of kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance

I am here to advocate for a temporary classification of kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance, until the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) can either approve its use or implement a complete ban

CommentID: 224408

Commenter: Gary T. Cooper

6/4/24 5:03 pm

Don't do it!

Kratom is the only reason I was able to work as long as I did. The pain I was in and still am is made manageable by a simple and natural leaf. Making this a schedule 1 drug is terribly short sighted, once again criminalizing a group of people who are NOT criminals, and creating horrendous complications in the lives of people who otherwise would never be involved in the justice system. Kratom doesn't kill people. Every death attributed to this involves the concentrated extracts and combinations of other drugs and alcohol. Kratom in it's natural form is not harmful, and this would be just another miscarriage of justice if they follow through with this madness.

CommentID: 224409

Commenter: Robin Cantor

6/4/24 5:04 pm

Kratom saved my heart

Before taking kratom, I had unstable angina, but for the past year I was cleared by my cardiologist who told me my heart was stronger than previously and whatever I was doing to continue (I take kratom twice daily for my RA and neuropathy pain) and it strengthened my heart muscle. Since taking it, I have not had an attack in almost two years. Do not take this herb away. The pharmaceutical companies do not want us to use it because it is taking money away from them. It is true that not everyone can use it, but do not penalize those of us that it benefits greatly

CommentID: 224410

Commenter: Cameron Hall

6/4/24 5:05 pm

Kratom, is not what you think

Hello, legislators. I've been on kratom for 6 years now and have taken it everyday. I just want to clear up any misconceptions about this plant. I was addicted to Pharmaceuticals given by doctors for ADHD. It was a substance called Vyvanse... I was eventually cut off from my medication and fell into a deep depression, Kratom helped me immediately. Going through withdrawals from anything is horrible and I wanted to die if weren't for kratom. I want you people to understand. Kratom is not Heroin or cocaine, fentanyl or any of those things. I understand its not without it risks, similar to any drug. I however, work full time and have a girlfriend... Pay all my bills, and I spend 90\$ every two months on a kilo of kratom. You must consider the facts regarding this plant and let me tell you some.... Kratom has not killed anybody more than alcohol and Tobacco. You may try to deny this, but kratom leaf thats pure is completely safe.... Don't you think it would be better to regulate kratom to assure its not tampered with? You method is to schedule 1 it, just like cocaine or heroin however im sure some of you will go home and drink a 6 pack of beer, everyday or every otherday. That's completely okay, I have no problem with you people smoking ciggarettes, or drinking because its your body, your choice! Please don't ban our plant, it would only do more harm than good and best believe if schedule 1, people are going to move away and some may even die. Please consider that. To say doing this plant, will cause a criminal charge is insane and it would do nothing compared to alcohol which irrational decisions are being made constantly such as murders, beatings and suicide.... Please keep our plant legal, and I appreciate your read! You may do any substance you want, we wont stop you. Please don't stop us. Kratom is safer, effective and saves lives! Thank you!

CommentID: 224411

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 5:10 pm

Kratom is an urgent public health concern

Please do not allow the continued sale and use of this substance in Virginia

CommentID: 224413

Commenter: Michael White

6/4/24 5:12 pm

Heroin almost killed me Kratom got me off Heroin

If it was not for Kratom I would still be doing heroin. Kratom is a far more viable option than Suboxone or Methadone both of which can kill you. Kratom is not a central nervous system depressant. Kratom was something I could afford and rely on without intoxicating me beyond all functionality. It was like a cup of coffee. I could hold down a job I could maintain my relationships I could have a normal life. Banning kratom or over scheduling kratom will act as rocket fuel to the current opiate epidemic. People will go back to painkillers and heroin and people will die. America needs to stop making the WRONG decisions over and over again in the fight against substance abuse.

CommentID: 224414

Commenter: Patricia G. Mattingly

6/4/24 5:14 pm

Kratom saves lives.

On behalf of people who have been there and for every parent who has lost a child or family or friends, please don't ban it. I beg you.

CommentID: 224415

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 5:14 pm

Support Schedule I Classification. Kratom is falsely marketed as safe

Kratom, a substance that acts like an opioid, has been falsely marketed as a safe alternative for pain relief and opioid withdrawal

CommentID: 224416

Commenter: Launa Golt

6/4/24 5:15 pm

Kratom Needs To Stay Legal!

Kratom is a life changer! When the DEA started threatening doctors for prescribing narcotics, I lost pain management. Kratom was the only thing that I found that would help my chronic pain of 30 years.

I DO NOT SUPPORT SCHEDULING KRATOM!

CommentID: 224418

Commenter: Antonio F.

6/4/24 5:20 pm

Kratom saved my life from narcotic addiction

In 2014 I had let a sciatic nerve go untreated which almost left me permanently disabled. In 2015 I had to have an emergency back surgery in the lumbar region to remove ruptured disk fragments, I could not walk on my own without a cane, I slept for months sitting upright on a recliner due to the pain. The doctors had me on pain killers (norco) I found myself addicted to these stupid pills prescribed by the doctor which he wanted me to continue even after my surgery. I needed relief with no side effects, I discovered kratom through my former colleagues I read about it and studied about kratom this natural earth grown plant which helped me to kick the habit of narcotics. It helps me with pain management which I have had to continue because my back surgery fixed the sciatic pain but only made things worse in my opinion. It helps me with my energy levels and my focus and I don't know where I would be without kratom. Had I continued with the doctors orders to keep refilling my pain meds I would have created more issues and could have damaged my organs due to the narcotics prescribed.

Because of Kratom, I don't need pain killers! I can manage every day with back pain because this natural plant herb helps me day in and day out. Even when I experience pain from a toothache or a bad migraine it is kratom that's assists me to manage life. I thank God for Kratom and so many others can benefit from all the great health benefits of this plant!

CommentID: 224420

Commenter: KT

Please don't make a huge mistake by scheduling kratom

Kratom is a plant. Just like marijuana. Look at marijuana today: legal in several states for recreational use and many more for medicinal. Look how long it has taken for the powers that be to acknowledge that marijuana DOES have medicinal value! How many people could have been helped in those years?! Please don't do the same thing with kratom. It is a plant that has saved many, many lives because it too has medicinal value. I have used kratom personally to get off of opiates. True, pharmaceutical-grade, CNS depressing opiates. And guess what? I've been sober for ten years.

CommentID: 224421

Commenter: Anonymous

Schedule 1 is not appropriate for Kratom

Schedule 1 classification is for the most harmful drugs with no medical value. Kratom and it's active ingredients do not fit into this category. Schedule 1 drugs are near impossible to study and prove their medical value and efficacy. Kratom should not be placed in this category. Kratom needs to be properly regulated and in so doing, plain leaf Kratom and it's active ingredients can continue to be studied. Kratom is responsibly used by millions of Americans everyday, and through proper regulation, these American Citizens can continue to have access to plain leaf only Kratom.

CommentID: 224422

Commenter: Roy Belletete

Kratom is needed for natural alternative to Drug company Control of pain medication.

I am 64 and married forty years, I have two adult children and two grandkids, who I see and hug often. We have lived at the same address for seventeen years and are responsible citizens. I have no record, not even a current driving infraction or parking ticket.

I was plagued by an allergic reaction to some metal in a belt buckle. But before I figured it out, on my own... I had ALREADY been to my own doctor, a specialist, my dentist, and had a MRI of my head and neck and even went to a psychiatrist. The effect of the metal allergy was in my facial area. It became so sensitive that it actually became painful. And the amount of sensations my face was giving me, was about to make me crazy.

I could feel each hair growing through my skin on my beard. Not individually but in mass, my face was just crazy with these sensations, that when taken together, was literally driving me crazy.

My teeth felt like they were covered with scum, my gums felt like they were cancerous and my tongue so sensitive, it felt like it was too large for my throat, threatening to choke me when I was laying in the wrong position.

Every single hair touching my face, I could feel. I could feel the wind brushing each blowing, blowing it against my skin. Again, by itself it would have been okay, but with everything else going on, it was too much.

My brain could not accept all the signals and I could not block any out. I watched nonstop Netflix, trying to think about something else, anything else. When not watching TV, I was constantly talking. By my talking, it somewhat took my mind off the sensations, as long as I was talking. As soon as I stopped, the sensations were back in full force.

I was taking every kind of over-the-counter pain medication. I was taking them by the handful. I knew this would give me an ulcer, if nothing worse, but I figured an ulcer was a good thing, because maybe then I'd get an answer for my condition, or at least some relief, as they treated the ulcer. An ulcer was a better path forward than nothing. I couldn't do nothing. Even with handfuls of every over the counter pain med. Every four hours, day and night, the sensations were sort of blurred, but never removed or eased to the point of having comfort in life.

My doctor suggested I go to a psychiatrist, since he could find nothing wrong, and he thought the problem was emotional, something in my brain. I went but the psychiatrist felt the sensations were due to some physical cause, not created by my brain.

So there I was, being driven crazy and the medical community COULD NOT prescribe anything, because they did not have a diagnosis. No diagnoses, means nothing can be prescribed. I was left to myself and my condition. Good thing I don't drink, or I'd probably have become addicted to alcohol at that time. I understand that's what happens when people's only salvation is in the bottle, no medical help available. Or the black-market drug dealers and whatever they might be selling that day.

A friend suggested I try kratom. She's some 60 years old at the time, and Kratom helped her with back pain so great she barely did anything special anymore. But after kratom, she could go out and participate in life. Her son suggested kratom to her, after he used it for tooth pain, that could not be handled by anything else.

I tried the kratom, after many months of this sensation and a level of life satisfaction near zero. It worked. The pain for around four hours was gone, well, almost gone. I could tell it was there, but it was certainly livable. I could again engage in life.

After about a year, I changed that belt whose metal in the buckle was causing the reaction in my body. As the days and weeks passed, my face got better and better. After maybe six weeks and becoming normal, I put the same belt on to test the theory. In a week or two, my face became more and more sensitive, to the point I knew it was coming back... all those sensations.

I stopped using that belt buckle, went to a non-metallic belt all together. I've never had that problem again, since then.

So I had been using Kratom for almost a year before I figured it out. I was an extremely heavy user at that point, often on the verge of throwing up or actually throwing up because the amount of kratom needed, was on the edge of what the body will accept.

When the body gets too much kratom, the user pukes it up. This is long before that kratom could ever get to the blood by being digested. It's barely in the stomach before the stomach throws it up.

Five minutes after puking, I would feel normally, right after puking, I felt immediate relief.

After I no longer needed kratom for pain or sensation stopping, I changed the type of kratom to White, which has a different ratio of natural components making it up. This is more for the mind.

I began to use kratom in more measured amounts for mind and mood. This allowed my mind to work better than on coffee, and my coffee consumption went way down. There is not drop off or anxiety like with too much caffeine. If a person does take too much, the first thing that happens is the person gets tired, next they will puke. Kratom in the stomach of a dead person does not mean the person died from it and more than pizza in the stomach of a dead person would be the reason for death. It's coincidence, not cause.

I've been on kratom now pretty much daily for five years plus. Twice I've had stopped, once for a hospital stay on an unassociated reason. I knew medical people are told kratom is deadly, so I did not want to use or ask for kratom in the hospital.

Even though I would have appreciated the use of kratom most immensely during the hospital stay, for slight pain and the anxiety of hospital, I did not use any. Not only could I do this rather easily, but I didn't even ask for any pain meds while in the hospital., when I knew I could have requested Tylenol anyhow. I don't know any hard drug where the user can stop and though they may feel like total Crap, they can still decide to either take or not take the substance.

And now five years plus after starting kratom, I am better than ever. I am taking no prescription for anything, I am not using excess coffee or anything else. Kratom is a nice addition to my life. I have not been able to willingly stop coffee, but I could stop kratom; what does that tell you?

My doctor when I told him I used kratom, said I should be careful because I "might just drop dead." That was his official position. I knew this was due to the EPA and DEA's intentional maligning of kratom, to save the drug companies existence.

If the world finds out about kratom, the pain medication isles would be empty, people would not be using pain prescription. The drug company's would lose billions.

If a company knows that a certain drug company can lose billions of dollars if something is discovered, it makes good sense, business sense that is, to pay off people to keep the thing a secret, even if it means paying out millions and millions of dollars. This is what I think happened.

My own doctor did think Kratom could kill me, once I told him I was using it. He did though, also allow me to provide him with info on kratom from the medical community who are testing kratom seriously. These are double blind published tests.

After almost a year of providing him with info with every visit I went, (I no longer need to go at all) he finally one day said something along the lines of "I never believed in conspiracy theories, but after what I've learned, that seems the best explanation of the DEA and FDA's actions.

If this plant is as good as the user believe, would it not be a valid threat to drug companies? What do you think a billion-dollar drug company would do, to stay in business?

This is all true to my own best belief and memory.

Should this product become illegal, users will be forced into a life's of torture, should anything happen to

them like my own allergic reaction. No diagnoses, no medicine. Touch luck, the drug company's say. Buy our product, or suffer seems to be their philosophy.

Please please please, allow others to have this ability to treat their own problems with a more natural than coffee plant. (It doesn't have to be heated in water and such.) And please allow me to have something that acts better than coffee and have kratom available should I ever need severe pain management, but don't want to be addicted to the drugs the drug company intentionally got millions of people addicted to. They cannot be trusted. Fool me once shame on you, fool me twice shame on me.

Roy Bellelete
CommentID: 224423

Commenter: C

Keep Kratom Legal

Kratom is beneficial and completely voluntary. We need to stop taking away people's rights to do as they please, especially when it's not harming others.

CommentID: 224424

6/4/24 5:27 pm

Commenter: Ronny McHale

Kratom saves lives

As evidenced by many of the comments and associated/ verified research Kratom does save lives. It saved my son from a 15 year opioid addiction. Failure after failure with traditional treatments from rehab to suboxone treatment until a doctor suggested looking into Kratom. It wasn't easy and there were relapses, but after 16 months he was stable on Kratom. He stayed on Kratom for 2 years weening down in year 2. Happy to say he has been drug free for 5 years now with no relapses.

'Research and support groups have also led me to thousands of other similar stories with a tremendous success rate reported by others. Nothing is perfect, but Kratom is a proven tool in the opioid crisis. Why take that away.

CommentID: 224425

6/4/24 5:27 pm

Commenter: Garrett

Kratom saves lives

Kratom is a natural non toxic plant that has helped give me my life back after struggling for years as an opiate addict. I live a healthy productive life working full time providing for my family. Kratom saved my life.

CommentID: 224426

6/4/24 5:30 pm

Commenter: James Connelly

Kratom is a life saving plant

Kratom without a doubt has saved untold numbers of people and it would be an absolute travesty to make it illegal and would cause much more harm than good. This plant is a life saver for alot of us and helps me personally live a happy healthy and productive life. It's shocking that anyone

6/4/24 5:31 pm

would want to make it illegal and absurd. Without being able to access this life saving medicine alot of people would suffer for absolutely no reason. Stop trying to criminalize plants and go after the CARTELS who are spreading heroine and fentanyl on our streets. Priorities are all messed up.
CommentID: 224427

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 5:32 pm

As a resident of Virginia, I do NOT consent to making Kratom illegal.

Kratom has saved so many lives, and helped so many addicts!

CommentID: 224428

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 5:33 pm

I oppose criminalizing kratom

I have both physical and mental health challenges. I rely on kratom to help me function. I use a reputable and ethical vendor who sells safe product that works for me. Please keep it legal.

CommentID: 224429

Commenter: Susan Mohr

6/4/24 5:34 pm

Kratom Helps Me Immensely

I depend on Kratom to combat restless leg syndrome. My RLS is severe and I am unable to take the more common medications for it. I do take pregabalin (Lyrica), but that only helps a little. By adding Kratom, I am able (at least on most days) to get to sleep for a few hours at a time. Without it, I would be unable to manage RLS. Although RLS sounds like it should be a minor problem, in my case it is absolutely NOT. Without the Kratom/pregabalin combination, I am unable to sleep, indeed, unable to do much besides walk around or sit and pound my feet into the floor. I couldn't live like that.

CommentID: 224430

Commenter: Carrie K

6/4/24 5:36 pm

Kratom

I got physically addicted! I'm off it, but still suffering some effects. It's readily available @18 and cheap to buy in most of US now. This problem is likely to EXPLODE!

CommentID: 224431

Commenter: Lynne Bozlee-Weilborn

6/4/24 5:36 pm

Kratom is safe

222
I'm an 66 yr old and I rely on the benefits I get from using kratom for chronic pain! I was on opiates for several years before looking for a better options. I tried legal cannabis but when I found kratom I knew that it was the best thing for me! I believe that there are many natural ways to manage disease and kratom is safe and an awesome option!

CommentID: 224432

Commenter: Johnny

6/4/24 5:36 pm

I use kratom to treat my chronic pain. I do not like pain meds

I was hoping never to go back to pain medications to treat my chronic pain from a car accident several years ago. I have been blessed to be able to use kratom for this long. I guess. I have had side effects from pain medicines. I have no side effects from kratom. Please think about all the people that this supplement helps before banning it. Thanks

CommentID: 224433

Commenter: John Frangelli

6/4/24 5:37 pm

Kratom may have saved my lif

I have advanced arthritis and severe nerve damage from a fall 15 years ago. I tried everything and eventually ended up with a pain management specialist. Treatment started conservative, but without success and moved to more aggressive treatment with opioids. After approximately 28 months I realized I was addicted and needed help. I went through rehab twice and tried Suboxone. The problem was that the pain and discomfort from my injuries did not go away and I found myself back on opioids. I decided to try Kratom and after some research and finding the right dosage I have been opioid free for 2 years. Kratom has allowed me to control my pain and nerve damage with responsible dosage and I can now function and actually do many physical things I could no longer do. Kratom saved me and has allowed me to lead a productive life including returning to work.

CommentID: 224434

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 5:37 pm

Kratom saves lives

Kratom is hugely important to the lives and well-being of many!.Keep it safe and legal!

CommentID: 224435

Commenter: J Francesca

6/4/24 5:40 pm

Kratom is ultimately safe.

There is nothing wrong with kratom. I've been using it for a number of years and I am reminded each day why I take it. It helps with the few things that are wrong with me very much. Please do the right thing and leave kratom legal.

CommentID: 224436

Commenter: Corinne V

6/4/24 5:41 pm

Kratom is a healing medicinal plant not schedule 1

Hello.

I used to be a heavy alcoholic and opiate user. I almost died in the hospital 6 years ago. Kratom enabled me to manage my cravings and go back to school after almost dying for a second career in medical assisting. I now work in an autism clinic helping people everyday and I feel fulfilled and at peace. I use a little bit of powdered kratom as a tea once a day before my morning workout. It helps keep me calm and curbs any kind of cravings for other substances. It also has helped with my anxiety and depression. Please realize that this is a medicinal helpful herb when use responsibly can enrich and help people into a healthier lifestyle. Thank you
CommentID: 224437

Commenter: Sayeg Blanquet

6/4/24 5:42 pm

Kratom helps people

Don't ban kratom please! Kratom has helped me in my everyday life just as it has helped many people.

CommentID: 224438

Commenter: Justin M

6/4/24 5:42 pm

Keep Kratom UNSCHEDULED

Kratom has been available for hundreds of years if not longer in Indonesia. Its leaves of a tree used as a folk treatment for a variety of illness and for stamina during long work.

i have been using Kratom off and on since 2009. It helps with my depression and mood issues. It is a very mild effect comparable to coffee. I recently stopped taking for over 3 months and at the end of the period I felt taking it was more positive than negative. Many people use Kratom to get off dangerous opioid drugs. People use to avoid alcohol. In the future I think many will choose plant medicine instead of alcohol or pharmaceuticals. Alcohol and pharma companies will have to compete, not dominate.

People need to be able to make their own decisions. The war on drugs has been a failure! In fact many lawmakers are starting to realize that the war is over. People will still get what they want to, and being illegal makes the products more dangerous.

If pharma companies want to COMPETE fine, but don't outlaw and cheat people out of plants. Regulate would be better.

Thank you for reading,

Justin M

CommentID: 224439

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 5:43 pm

Kratom in depth research needed

Who people in my family have had issues with Kratom. One had severe intestinal issues. Had to use another prescription drug to finally wean off Kratom. The other person is still taking Kratom along with adderall. We have been to many Drs and none of them know anything about Kratom - issues, the symptoms of use, how to stop taking it. It is very difficult to stop taking . This

person is in jeopardy of losing their job - they cannot think, they cannot eat, cannot sleep, they cannot function.

CommentID: 224440

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 5:43 pm

Please do not criminalize kratom

Kratom is the most helpful source of relief from severe pain and panic attacks. The prescriptions my doctors give me give side effects that cause other health conditions. So I started with three meds and because of the side effects I now take 7. It's making it hard for me to afford the meds but all get real relief from my conditions.

CommentID: 224441

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 5:47 pm

Don't schedule Kratom

Kratom doesn't need to be scheduled.

CommentID: 224442

Commenter: Nicole

6/4/24 5:47 pm

Keep Kratom Unscheduled

Kratom is hugely important to the lives and well-being of many! This will keep them from going to the streets for pain relief!! Don't let big pharma get there greedy hands on it, like everything else.

Keep it safe and legal!

CommentID: 224443

Commenter: Matthew A

6/4/24 5:47 pm

Ignore The Pharmaceutical Industry Shills

We see that the earliest entries/comments (and a few others throughout) on this petition are from shills for Big Pharma. The usual folks who have their own profit driven interests at heart. These people are evil in trying to take away a well proven herb that helps millions of Americans who suffer from a variety of ailments. Kratom has gone through rigorous testing and is no more addicting than coffee; in fact it is in the same family.

CommentID: 224444

Commenter: Nick Brown

6/4/24 5:49 pm

Kratom saves lives

Kratom has saved my life. It keeps me off the needle and the bottle, as well as keeping me out of pain. Keep kratom unscheduled, please.

CommentID: 224445

Commenter: Anonymous

Support this petition

FDA's rigorous analysis through their Public Health Assessment via Structural Evaluation (PHASE) methodology clearly found no evidence to indicate that kratom is safe or effective for any medical use.

CommentID: 224446

6/4/24 5:52 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Please Do NOT Ban Kratom

Hello,

I am a Virginia resident who works over forty hours a week. I receive health insurance through my employer. However, in today's economy, medical expenses are extremely expensive and in some cases unaffordable. Kratom is an affordable alternative that has multiple health benefits. Additionally, the sale of Kratom is how many individuals earn a living.

Please do not regulate or ban Kratom from the state of Virginia. Kindly relay this information to the appropriate individuals.

CommentID: 224447

6/4/24 5:53 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Make Kratom Schedule I

kratom is a controlled substance in 16 countries, including its native lands like Thailand and Malaysia, and is banned in several U.S. states and cities. This global stance reflects the seriousness with which the dangers of kratom are regarded. Yet, in our communities, kratom is easily accessible in gas stations and smoke shops, often packaged in ways that deceptively lure young people.

CommentID: 224448

6/4/24 5:54 pm

Commenter: Tina Denton

Protect kratom

I am writing to whom it may concern

Kratom has created the ability for me to continue to get up out of bed and work everyday due to 24/7 pain. After years of strenuous physical labor has left my body in daily pain. As a kratom consumer I ask for the misinformation on this plant to cease and to allow kratom to remain legalized for people like me. Thank you for your time. Tina Denton

CommentID: 224449

6/4/24 5:55 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom saved me

I'm writing to include my perspective on the issue at hand. I have chronic back pain, that's been ailing me for over 10 years. I used to be in pain management and the program was no longer helping me, in fact it made my situation worse. My family deserved a better version of myself. One day I was scrolling a pain support group, and someone mentioned kratom. That was 8 years ago. Ever since I've been utilizing kratom. I am a better wife and mom, friend and daughter. Kratom helped more than the opiates ever did, and it gave me a clear head, something that was impossible with medication. Please let people make their own choices. It's done far more good for me and countless others. Thank you

CommentID: 224450

6/4/24 5:55 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Don't ban kratom

Kratom is not bad, don't ban it!

CommentID: 224451

6/4/24 5:57 pm

Commenter: Corey Raucheisen

Kratom should not be a Schedule 1 Drug

Kratom is used responsibly by thousands of Virginians, including myself. I use it as an alternative to alcohol, a terrible drug that killed my grandmother and ruins the lives of millions. People need more healthy alternatives to alcohol and other drugs. Kratom, when used responsibly, is nontoxic and safe. I hope you all look into the facts and science before you vote. Taking away Kratom would impact the lives of many hardworking and responsible people needlessly. Don't listen to the shrill voices of the alarmists and continue to keep the government out of the personal lives of responsible Virginians. Thank you.

CommentID: 224452

6/4/24 5:58 pm

Commenter: Big Pharma

Big Pharma has no interest in Kratom due to its dangers. Support Schedule I Classification

It's alarming that despite the clear risks and the absence of any FDA-approved medicinal use, no marketer has sought to develop a drug that includes kratom. This lack of interest in pursuing legitimate, regulated medical applications only further casts doubt on kratom's purported benefits.

thanks but no thanks

CommentID: 224453

6/4/24 5:58 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Keep Kratom available

6/4/24 5:59 pm

I have been using Kratom for many years and do not want to go back to the pharmacy for pain medicine. Kratom works great and is safe!

CommentID: 224455

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 5:59 pm

Keep Kratom legal

Kratom has saved me from a debilitating life of pharmaceutical opiate addiction for pain management. What more is there to say? Kratom helps millions, it's a threat to the industry; citizens should have the right to access plants that give them relief.

CommentID: 224456

Commenter: Jodi Domingue

6/4/24 6:01 pm

Please do not bend kratom my life depends on it

After years of struggling with the devastating effects of meth, I discovered kratom and found that it effectively managed my cravings and withdrawal symptoms. The relief it provided allowed me to focus on my recovery and rebuild my relationships with family members who had been deeply impacted by my addiction.

In addition to the physical benefits, kratom also helped me manage the chronic pain and discomfort associated with my degenerative disc disorder. The pain-relieving properties of kratom enabled me to find relief and improve my overall quality of life, allowing me to be more present and engaged in my daily activities.

Alongside the practical benefits of kratom, my faith also played a vital role in my recovery. Finding strength and solace in my spiritual beliefs provided me with the inner fortitude to persevere through the challenges of addiction and rebuild my life. I am deeply grateful for the second chance I have been given and strive to inspire others who are facing similar struggles, sharing my story as a testament to the power of resilience and the transformative potential of both natural remedies and faith-based healing.

My journey to sobriety has not been an easy one, but with the help of kratom and my faith, I have been able to overcome the seemingly insurmountable obstacles of addiction. Kratom provided me with the physical and emotional support I needed to break free from the grip of methamphetamine, while my spiritual beliefs gave me the inner strength and resilience to persevere.

Through this experience, I have gained a deeper appreciation for the power of natural remedies and the transformative potential of faith-based healing. I am now dedicated to sharing my story and inspiring others who are facing similar challenges, in the hopes that they too can find the courage and the tools to reclaim their lives and achieve lasting recovery.

CommentID: 224457

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:02 pm

No kratom ban

Please do not ban kratom. I take it every day for chronic pain, and have been doing so for over 10 years.

CommentID: 224458

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:03 pm

We need kratom in Virginia

We need kratom in virginia

CommentID: 224459

Commenter: Dan

6/4/24 6:04 pm

Don't Do It!

Kratom got me off pain medication and greatly improved my quality of life. Schedule 1? Uninformed and moronic.

CommentID: 224460

Commenter: Sonya Hutchinson

6/4/24 6:05 pm

Kratom saves lives

Please do not ban Kratom because big pharma wants you too!

I started drinking tea in 2008 because I wanted an alternative to the spinal injections, Tramadol, Hydrocodone cocktail my doctors had me on.

This plant has the ability to save lives, especially those suffering from addiction if you truly care and want to help those suffering from the "opioid epidemic" created by doctors and big pharma you will leave this leaf alone. It is just as harmless as THC.

CommentID: 224461

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:05 pm

Do not ban!

1. This has kept my husband from doing street drugs and "legal" pharmaceuticals. If Suboxone is legal, Kratom should be as well.

CommentID: 224462

Commenter: John

6/4/24 6:06 pm

Without Kratom I'd be dead

Kratom is the only thing keeping me sober. Suboxone made me high. Methadone made me a functional addict. Kratom got me clean and has kept me clean. It saved my life

CommentID: 224463

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:07 pm

Please do not ban Kratom

Please do not ban or schedule Kratom. It saves lives, it has given me personally a better quality of life. Instead of criminalization let's aim for better regulation in the industry.

CommentID: 224464

Commenter: Tim carson

6/4/24 6:07 pm

Do not ban Kratom

Do not ban Kratom, it helps people with pain and so many other things. Why ban something that helps people coping with pain. Would you rather people get addicted to opioids.

CommentID: 224465

Commenter: John Ramone

6/4/24 6:07 pm

DO NOT BAN KRATOM

Kratom is safe and effective and has helped millions get off of dangerous PHARMACY PRESCRIBED opioids. If you ban Kratom you are sentencing thousands to OD death from dangerous street fentanyl.

CommentID: 224466

Commenter: Alex Dill

6/4/24 6:09 pm

Kratom is medication

Do not criminalize Kratom. It is a life saving medication, used by many to have a productive life.

CommentID: 224467

Commenter: Arlette Pippin

6/4/24 6:09 pm

Town Hall Meeting

So wonderful when one see those that are unbiased and actually listen! The subject about Kratom is so misunderstood and many just spew propaganda and not the truth! Although I am fortunate not to need it at this time, I have witnessed many that it has helped. With NO side effects. Just make sure when someone needs this miracle plant it's products come from reputable vendors!

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CommentID: 224468

Commenter: Thankful for Kratom

6/4/24 6:10 pm

Thankful for Kratom

Kratom has allowed me to be a functioning and contributing member of society. It has kept many people off opioids and opiate substances- both legal and illegal and has actually helped positively with the opiate crisis in America by being an alternative for people to those substances.

CommentID: 224469

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:11 pm

Keep Kratom safe and available

I dont know if i can stress enough how this decision could negatively impact thousands of Virginians like myself. I had spent 15 years in and out of institutions and jails as a slave to drugs before discovering kratom. I have been clean for 5 years and can finally live my life without worry thanks to this plant. Im no longer a slave to the high prices of costly big pharma poisons like suboxone and methadone that drain the bank accounts of already poor people. If this plant was taken away i would be essentially thrown to the wolves once again. There has never been a death from just kratom use ever. Only from synergistic reactions with hard drugs. Which means the hard drugs did it. Because thats what hard drugs do. They kill people. And these pharma reps want to take away the most effective tool in the fight against opioids because they dont control it. If you take this plant away hundreds of people will die. I cant say it any more plainly than that. And hopefully im not one of them.

CommentID: 224470

Commenter: Ashton George

6/4/24 6:12 pm

You are misinformed

If you were to take a moment and look into the research done on myragamine, you would see that it's fairly harmless. Certainly less harmful than substances we already allow for adults to consume, alcohol, tobacco, fast food etc... Allow adults to make their own educated decisions on substances that are inarguably less harmful than alcohol at least.

CommentID: 224471

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:13 pm

Kratom helps me

I have serious anxiety and depression that meds don't address. Kratom makes it so I can function day to day. Scheduling kratom would hurt so many people like me who are helped by this plant. Other folks use it for coming off of serious drugs like fentanyl. Please reconsider this harmful action.

CommentID: 224472

Commenter: Drew

6/4/24 6:14 pm

Kratom is my saving grace

As a person with chronic pain and pisd that has been ignored by doctors, I don't know what I would do without Kratom. Doctors look at me as a drug seeker when I just wanted help for my conditions. I see many people get prescriptions for things than doctors simply deny me based on my race. Without Kratom, I may have already committed suicide because I'm so desperate for relief. Please do not schedule this medicine.

CommentID: 224473

Commenter: Brian Gallagher

6/4/24 6:15 pm

Criminalizing kratom consumers is horrific

Throwing people in jail for using substances has never helped, only hurt. Whoever votes to prohibit more substances isn't fit to serve the public.

Regulating of the kratom industry is the only rational option.

CommentID: 224474

Commenter: Arlette Pippin

6/4/24 6:16 pm

Kratom Saves Lives

Kratom Saves Lives without getting a high! Oh except the hug from being able to function normally! Have an open mind and learn from those it has helped! See through the negative propoganda. Thank You

CommentID: 224475

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:21 pm

The most wonderful, natural aid to ever exist

Kratom, derived from the leaves of the Mitragyna speciosa tree native to Southeast Asia, has garnered significant attention for its wide-ranging benefits and its ability to aid numerous individuals in various aspects of their lives. This herbal supplement has earned a loyal following due to its remarkable versatility and effectiveness.

One of the primary reasons people turn to Kratom is for its pain-relieving properties. Many users report significant relief from chronic pain conditions, which can be life-changing for those who have struggled to find effective treatments through conventional medicine. The analgesic effects of Kratom are often compared to those of prescription painkillers, but without the severe side effects and addiction risks associated with opioids.

Kratom is also praised for its ability to enhance mood and provide a sense of well-being. For individuals dealing with anxiety, depression, or stress, Kratom can offer a natural way to alleviate these symptoms. Many users feel more relaxed, uplifted, and mentally balanced after taking Kratom, making it a valuable tool for mental health support.

Another notable benefit of Kratom is its energy-boosting and focus-enhancing qualities. Kratom can act as a mild stimulant, providing increased energy, improved concentration, and greater productivity. This makes it an excellent option for those looking to enhance their performance at work or in their daily activities without resorting to caffeine or other stimulants.

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Furthermore, Kratom has been used to assist individuals in overcoming addiction, particularly to opioids. By mimicking some of the effects of opioids without the same risk of dependency, Kratom can help manage withdrawal symptoms and reduce cravings, offering a potential pathway to recovery for those struggling with substance abuse.

The diverse range of strains available allows users to tailor their Kratom experience to their specific needs. Whether seeking pain relief, mood enhancement, or an energy boost, there is a Kratom strain that can cater to those requirements.

In summary, Kratom has proven to be a wonderful natural remedy that helps many people manage pain, improve mood, enhance focus, and even combat addiction. Its versatility and effectiveness make it a valuable addition to the wellness routines of those who seek alternative treatments and holistic health solutions.

Why would anyone want to take that away from us? In the midst of an opioid epidemic, why make natural options harder to find. For our health, for our happiness, for our lives.

CommentID: 224476

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:21 pm

Kratom Is A God Send

Hello,

Please do not criminalize this plant. I have used it for 9 years and it alleviates my chronic pain and bowels from a rare immune disease. My parents uses it to treat acute dental pain when waiting for the dentist.

Please follow the science and keep kratom legal.

CommentID: 224477

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:23 pm

No schedule 1 for Kratom

There is a lack of knowledge concerning Kratom and it's usage and benefits in those who would consider supporting Kratom as a schedule 1 drug. This is nonsense. Those holding the power should know the facts before deciding.

CommentID: 224478

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:24 pm

Kratom is helpful for millions of people

Kratom is a godsend for me because it has helped me with getting off pain and anxiety medications. I no longer rely on pharmaceutical drugs and I have never felt better.

CommentID: 224479

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:26 pm

Please do not criminalize kratom!

Please do not criminalize kratom! For many of us chronic pain sufferers this is the one thing that helps us live our lives relatively pain free. Taking away this option is akin to cruel and unusual punishment!

Kratom is safe and effective for so many who depend on it for quality of life. Like anything there are those who will abuse it and cause harm to themselves but for the large percentage of people who use it to help minimize pain that is not the case. Do not punish the many because of the few.

Thank you for your consideration.

CommentID: 224480

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:26 pm

We're still warring against drugs?

Who in their right mind in 2024 thinks, oh yes let's take ANOTHER PLANT, that is used WIDELY medicinally. There is hardly anybody using kratom recreationally (and why is it a big deal if they are?) And let's make it schedule 1? This plant has saved lives, helped addicts recover, treated depression, and anxiety and totally turned peoples lives around. Whoever is pushing this is a disgusting human being and either misinformed or willfully ignorant to the facts. No one wants this. Stop the war on drugs. Stop the war on medicinal alternatives to big pharma

CommentID: 224481

Commenter: Donald Simmons

6/4/24 6:30 pm

If you ban kratom, you will have a public health crisis on your hands

I'm a former addict. I was addicted to pain medication in the early 2000's after a surgery. At some point, I couldn't afford it anymore. In 2010 I tried heroin. My life became a complete train wreck. I was in and out of rehabs. Meetings were countless. In 2014, I was prescribed methadone which made me a functioning addict, still high, but I felt empty. I tried suboxone in 2016 and in 3 years time, my teeth were starting to rot. Not only that, but I felt soulless. In 2020, I watched a documentary called "A Leaf of Faith" about kratom. I did some research asking many questions, and on October 2, 2020, I first tried kratom. I was able to kick the suboxone with this. Not only that, I felt like me. A me that I hadn't felt in almost 20 years. Kratom gave me a new life. It boosts your mood, and depression was gone without making me "high". This plant is a gift from God. I honestly did not think my life would ever be the way it has been in the last 4 years. So much so, that I let others that are struggling with addiction issues know about it (those that aren't dead yet anyway) I've successfully introduced kratom to 4 addicts, and all 4 are still taking it to this day and excelling in life like they never had before.

If you schedule this, how many people utilizing this will end up returning to the streets with Fentanyl laced drugs? They aren't left with alot of choices. We are losing people left and right, and the scheduling of kratom would only propel those numbers into unknown territory.

Please, let us live our lives. We already have age restrictions of 21 and older.

CommentID: 224482

Commenter: Concerned citizen

6/4/24 6:31 pm

Please save access to this amazing plant

Please do not schedule this. It is very important for consumers to make informed decisions about their own healthcare. Please consider regulation as an alternative.

CommentID: 224483

Commenter: Scott Massimi

6/4/24 6:32 pm

Kratom shouldn't be scheduled

Kratom should not be scheduled. There is no evidence that is more harmful than something like alcohol or tobacco. In fact it there is evidence to the contrary and that it actually helps people.

CommentID: 224484

Commenter: Josh Way

6/4/24 6:33 pm

No ban

I beg you not to ban Keaton in Virginia! It's too beneficial for too many people! Pharmacy must be losing \$\$

CommentID: 224485

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:33 pm

Kratom isn't the boogeyman here

With respect, it's easy to understand how difficult the task of sifting through misinformation and fear to get to the truth, to discern the right thing, and be able to stand next to your actions with the consequences. And there are real consequences to overaction. This is the moment where we ask you not to be swayed by fear, overreaction, propaganda, and misinformation. Criminality isn't the answer here; as you're aware that will only divide you from your constituency and create a bureaucratic nightmare, freeze progress, and halt the real benefit that the study and good this has already brought and will continue to yield.

CommentID: 224486

Commenter: Brian

6/4/24 6:34 pm

I support kratom

Don't roll back the Kratom and consumer act legislation, it's already passed

CommentID: 224487

Commenter: Jenny

6/4/24 6:35 pm

Don't ban

Keep Kratom legal

CommentID: 224488

Commenter: Anonymous

Please don't make kratom users criminals

Please don't make kratom illegal. I've been a kratom user for years and know it's safe. If it wasn't available, I would have to turn to drugs to control my chronic pain and anxiety. I would hate to see Virginia take this freedom away.

CommentID: 224489

Commenter: Matt L.

Kratom is a panacea

Kratom has helped many of my friends beat or avoid addiction to chemical substances. More importantly, many of the people I know that are vets who have seen the elephant use it to help alleviate PTSD and function normally after being exposed to the horror of war, ostensibly for the "freedom" we enjoy in this country. Banning a natural substance that helps people like them and so many others is the exact opposite of freedom.

CommentID: 224490

Commenter: Sam

No ban

Don't ban, Virginia does not support that. This plant helps and saves

CommentID: 224491

Commenter: Anonymous

Please DO NOT make kratom schedule 1

Please let the AKA inform you of the benefits of this plant. Please look at the University of Florida and other independent studies. I have been using it for a decade, due to extra energy it gives me I exercise more. My labs have never been better. It's such a tragedy that these pro comments are so misinformed. This plant could help millions and alleviate suffering. Don't let the scare tactics work.

CommentID: 224492

Commenter: Nola

Please listen

Please stop being afraid of what you don't know or understand. Medications have all come from the derivative of plants. This is all about money! People, like myself, lives depend on this plant

to live my day to day life. I do not like being classified as a drug seeker, I do not like living my life with continuous pain, because no one wants to look into the benefits of using this plant and why because they cannot market it?? The continuous and overwhelming evidence is right in front of you. Please don't close your eyes to it! I am not looking to get high as 99% of us are not. Of course there are going to be users who abuse it just like everything ever! I am tired of paying the price for other peoples issues. People that deal with constant pain have the worst time just trying to live because everything gets taken away. I started this plant because after a huge abdominal surgery they gave me 3 days of pain meds and that was it. I couldn't even stand straight up for 9 months and they said take Tylenol!! It's just not far! Please don't just throw it away, study it think about the people that actual rely on it! Please! I don't know what will happen if this is banned!

CommentID: 224493

Commenter: Sereatha Griffith

Kratom saves Lives !

This plant , natural and of this earth saves lives of those who would otherwise be consumed with depression , pain and anxiety . Putting any type of limitation on it would force those that depend on it for a normal existence , to turn to physicians for pain medication which would contribute to the opioid epidemic! This is serious ! You are misinformed if you think it's dangerous ! Please understand .it is related to the coffee plant! It saves so many lives daily !

CommentID: 224494

Commenter: Eric

Kratom

Weed is becoming legal yet you want to criminalize kratom. Think about how silly that is.

CommentID: 224495

Commenter: Josh Thompson

Banning Kratom is Morally Wrong

Would we ban coffee bc people use it daily? And maybe rely on it to wake up in the mornings instead of Adderall? I surely hope not, yet you're proposing to do just that on a separate plant, also *within the coffee family*.

That's right folks, kratom isn't something you take to get *high* or a party drug, instead it's something that helps you through the day.

There are multitudes of uses from focus to pain relief, but again I stress that you are never high nor do you have almost any risk when taking kratom. This plant from the coffee family does not cause respiratory depression (what kills you on standard opiates) and many people like myself experience no withdrawal symptoms.

Banning this would truly hurt a community of people committed to staying off of (the actually harmful) pharmaceuticals via plants and force them back into dangerous predicaments. Do what is right and seriously consider those people and consider proper regulation instead.

Without kratom I wouldn't be here, I would have probably passed back in 2015 or so before I got off opiates.

Kratom saves lives. If you have an opinion on this yet know nothing about kratom, i suggest you have a good long thought about how absolutely ridiculous that is.
CommentID: 224496

Commenter: Sara Bonnet

6/4/24 6:48 pm

There is no reason to limit access to Kratom

The DEA couldn't find any reason to schedule Kratom. It's not an opioid and its worst side effects is nausea. I get worse side effects from over indulging in coffee or chamomile tea. We don't need laws for everything. We especially don't need laws against Kratom. They are only pushing this now because it's become popular and they don't like citizens exercising their own decision making.
Keep America Free!

CommentID: 224497

Commenter: Noah

6/4/24 6:48 pm

Kratom is an natural medicine

Kratom is a natural, safe, and inexpensive substitute for prescription painkillers, anxiety and depression medication. Not only is it a healthy substitute for many drugs prescribed by doctors, it can help people overcome opiate addiction, one of the worst issues our country faces today. If you were to ban Kratom you might as well ban tea and coffee, it is that innocent. This medicine is important to many people's daily lives as a means to function. It would be unconstitutional to ban something that helps some and does not affect any others negatively.

CommentID: 224498

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:48 pm

Make schedule 1

Please make kratom schedule 1.

CommentID: 224499

Commenter: Darren

6/4/24 6:49 pm

Properly regulated kratom is the answer to the opioid crisis.

Kratom is a safe alternative to prescription medications and allowed me to stop taking dangerous opioids that were prescribed by my pain management doctor. I am much healthier than when I was taking oxycodone for the condition I now treat with kratom.

Instead of making it illegal, I implore you to seek sensible regulation and engage the industry to fund safety and efficacy testing. Properly regulated kratom is the answer to the opioid crisis.

CommentID: 224500

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:50 pm

Keep Kratom accessible

As someone who has used Kratom over a period of years, I feel compelled to comment in favor of the widest availability. I have found it to be safe and effective against pain, with negligible side effects or negative outcomes. It has made it possible for me to continue to work productively in a vocational field dominated by younger, more athletic men and women. It has been a Godsend in my life.
CommentID: 224501

Commenter: Lynn Stevens

6/4/24 6:50 pm

Leave kratom alone! It has saved the lives of millions including mine & given me safe pain relief.

Kratom has saved my life by giving me safe, natural pain relief for 7 years with no problems, no side effects, it does not get you "high" or anything else. Kratom has given me my life back by giving me my functioning so I can complete the small chores & things I need to do each day with minimal pain.

CommentID: 224502

Commenter: Nick

6/4/24 6:52 pm

Former user of Kratom...Let adults make their own decisions

I am writing as someone who has not used kratom in almost 2 years and has no desire to ever use it again. In my experience after years of daily use, it is mild and tame compared to alcohol and other drugs I've used. I used it daily for years and was able to stop pretty easily. Caffeine and nicotine were much, much harder to quit. All that aside though, I don't think the government should be able to tell adults what they can and can't use for whatever ails them if it is not hurting anyone else. Please stop trying to control grown adults. Thanks

CommentID: 224503

Commenter: Martha P

6/4/24 6:53 pm

Scheduling Kratom will ruin countless lives and cause exponentially more harm than good

Please consider working with the American Kratom Association to understand how complex and crucial this situation is. You can do better than knee jerk criminalization and penalization - actions taken from the failed War on Drugs playbook, when millions are suffering with untreated chronic pain and/or addiction and this plant offers safe and easy relief and the return of quality of life for so many.

CommentID: 224504

Commenter: John Doe, American taxpayer

6/4/24 6:55 pm

Kratom legislation

I type this comment in protest of the state of Virginia passing yet another law that targets the working class in our state. I will not waiver on this position because ALCOHOL causes the majority of OWI crashes and incidents. Yes, Kratom may be abused to a small extent, but for the state of Virginia to outright ban such a thing that also saves many from opioid addiction is RIDICULOUS!

Does the State of Virginia care about liberty? Or would they rather foster heroin addicts with their free hypodermic needle clinics and drop offs? Do better for the people!
CommentID: 224505

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 6:56 pm

This beautiful plant

As a cosumer of this plant for over a decade i can attest to what it had done to bring me and many others a quality of life that we would otherwise not have. Its allowed me to be a productive citizen and also allowed me to have a life and be there for my wife and children. Please keep this plant as it it and not schedule it as a narcotic. It is nothing of the sort.

CommentID: 224506

Commenter: Soul LeChance

6/4/24 6:59 pm

DO NOT SUPPORT

I, a Kratom user for almost a decade, whose life has been drastically bettered because of it, **do not support this petition to make kratom a Schedule I criminal substance.** I was raised in Maryland and would like to be able to travel the whole East Coast without having to worry about being labeled a criminal for using a product that has caused no negative effects, but has only increased my quality of life.

CommentID: 224507

Commenter: Rosa Walston

6/4/24 7:00 pm

Help

I work in a Kratom shop. I see people every day that would probably not be here without Kratom. It got them off of fentanyl, heroin, pills, meth, and other things. I see people who weretaking 12 prescribed pain pills a day. Thanks to Kratom, they can enjoy life with less pain, without being stuck in an opiate fog, and without the detriment to their kidneys and livers that are caused by prescription opiates. They can actually live, not just survive, because of Kratom.

CommentID: 224508

Commenter: Justin

6/4/24 7:00 pm

Keep kratom legal

As many other comments have stated, banning kratom will cause much more harm than good. This plant has been used for centuries, and has helped countless people fight pain, anxiety, and opioid addiction.

CommentID: 224509

Commenter: Carolyn Matthews

6/4/24 7:01 pm

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Do not make kratom a schedule 1!

It is safe, non addictive and improves quality of life for those with incurable pain.
CommentID: 224510

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:02 pm

Supporter of kratom use

I began using kratom years ago to help with paun due to endometriosis and anxiety/stress. It has helped me immensely continue on with my day to day life like working and being active. My usage is therapeutical and has had less side effects than many SSRIs doctors prescribed me. I've never suffered from any withdrawals or ended up in a state that I needed to go to the ER. It is possibly to use kratom responsibly, just like people use alcohol.

I can't speak from a stand point on helping others stay off opiates, but I hear wonderful stories from people who could of potentially been dead due to using drugs like heroin and prescribed pharmaceuticals like hydrocodone and percocet.

Consider kratom a helpful herb for many people who choose to go a natural route instead of being prescribed multiple medications that cause a plethora of side effects.

CommentID: 224511

Commenter: Adam W

6/4/24 7:02 pm

Scheduling kratom will ruin so many lives

Scheduling kratom will ruin countless lives, especially those who depend on it to manage their pain and want to avoid opiates. It is a much safer alternative and should be accessible to adults. Please do not take this away from people who need it to live fulfilling daily lives.

CommentID: 224512

Commenter: Danny

6/4/24 7:04 pm

Please don't ban Kratom

I have used Kratom to manage chronic pain for a year. Banning it in Virginia will result in having to seek out prescription narcotics which are highly addictive and more detrimental to the body. Please keep Kratom legal in Virginia!!

CommentID: 224513

Commenter: Luke

6/4/24 7:05 pm

Kratom = Freedom

Kratom is one of the best medicines I have ever had in my life. I have been taking it for 7 years with no side effects unlike so many medications I was prescribed to throughout my life. I have also helped many people find kratom, and they also have found a way to live their life comfortably. It is a miracle plant, and this banning campaign needs to stop. This is not up to you to decide if we can have Kratom. Virginia Already voted for the KCPA. It's crazy that you would try to come in behind it and take it away as if the people of this state didn't already voice their opinion. Very sad day in

America once again with people who know absolutely nothing about kratom trying to take it away from us. Shameful to say the least, and you will hurt so many people trying to do this. I hope you find the courage to do the right thing and just leave all of us who take it alone.

Thank you,

Luke
 CommentID: 224514

Commenter: Fred Cook

Kratom legality

I use Kratom on a regular basis in order to control pain that I can't otherwise control with opioids being as I'm a truck driver. If you criminalize it then I would no longer be able to legally operate in your state while taking this obviously beneficial supplement.

CommentID: 224515

Commenter: Valerie

Kratom

Against the Ban

CommentID: 224516

6/4/24 7:06 pm

Commenter: Ryan Scott Harvey

Kratom Criminalization

- What are you going to do with all of the dead people who kill themselves or overdose on opioids because you took away kratom? Kratom is helping people manage their pain, overcome addiction, and prevent addiction. You should read the human clinical research that demonstrated coffee to be more addictive than kratom but you allow coffee to be sold everywhere and even to children. Kratom and caffeine should both be restricted from children having access to them. Kratom isn't a public health concern. The only threat kratom imposes is to the profits of the alcohol and pharmaceutical industries. Your job isn't to push your own conscious it's to push the conscious of the people you represent as a part of your oath of office. The people want safe alternatives to dangerously addictive opioids to manage their pain. Pain is the number one reason people go the doctor. It's against my religion to use pharmaceutical medications so if you criminalize kratom then you're going to open yourself up to a whole bunch of lawsuits. People also have the right to try alternative healing modalities and if you interfere with that then you'll be opening yourself up for a federal lawsuit. My church is going to protect everyone and anyone who wants to safely use kratom as a religious sacrament.

CommentID: 224517

Commenter: Kristen Schuh

Kratom is a plant

Kratom is a plant. Not a drug. There is no reason to classify it as such. You can't overdose on it. You just puke it back up. Kratom has given me my quality of life back. I have muscular dystrophy and wsd practically immobile for years. Now I can actively be a part of my life. My children's lives. I still have bad days. But I have way more days where I can get out of my bed and experience the world. Please don't make it harder for people who need this plant to get it. The entire chronic pain community had been completely miss handled. We finally found an answer to our pain and now the pharmaceutical industry wants us back on pain killers that most doctors won't even prescribe anymore.

CommentID: 224518

Commenter: TT

KRATOM

This is crazy! I don't agree with this at all.

CommentID: 224519

6/4/24 7:07 pm

Commenter: Thomas

Keep kratom safe and legal

Placing kratom on a banned substance list is a terrible idea that will only lead to harm. There are millions of responsible kratom users, such as myself, who rely on this plant instead of prescription and illicit opioids, as well as antidepressants and mood stabilizers. I am a recovering alcoholic and drug addict, and I have been sober for almost ten years. I tried countless prescription medications to no avail, but kratom literally gave me my life back. I drink a small amount (3/4 tsp.) in the morning and evening, and I have been drug and alcohol free for nearly a decade. I exercise 4-5 days per week and I am currently training for a marathon (I ran 17 miles on my 43rd birthday last Sunday). I regularly see my primary doctor, receive consistent blood work, and I am in great health. I have routinely stopped taking it for several days without any issues of withdrawal. After getting sober, I returned to college and finished my Master's degree in Mental Health and Addiction treatment center, and I have multiple certifications. I am currently the director of a substance abuse treatment center, and I some days I have pinch myself to make sure I am not dreaming because I honestly never thought I would achieve happiness and sobriety. My drug addiction was so intense that I had completely given up at one point in my life, and even attempted suicide because nothing seemed to help. I went to residential treatment multiple times, participated in countless 12 Step groups (which I still attend), and visited many therapists and psychiatrists to find a solution. The main reason that I am sober today is because I took a chance and tried kratom back in 2014. The thought of it being made illegal absolutely sickens me. Why, in 2024, are we still trying to criminalize plants? A ban will only force people to turn to dangerous and addictive opioids or produce a black market of cheaply made imposter "kratom" products, which may very well end up being green powder mixed with fentanyl. At the treatment center, we have seen fentanyl laced into every conceivable drug, and fake kratom products would be prime candidates. One of the reasons marijuana legalization has been a success is because people are now guaranteed pure and safe products, and kratom should be no different. We need to ensure safe and responsible use of this plant through rigorous quality control, not force it underground where it will most certainly become the dangerous drug that so many ignorant people believe it to be right now.

CommentID: 224520

6/4/24 7:08 pm

Commenter: S. Gresham

I couldn't work without it!

I've taken kratom for 15 years! I'm a productive member of society. I used to have to take prescription pain medication which side effects were so overbearing I could barely get out of bed. I hated them! Once I started kratom, my entire life changed. I was able to work and be an active engaging parent to my children. Living with chronic pain is not my fault. Kratom has made my life so much better. Please do not make it illegal or scheduled! it's the wrong direction!

CommentID: 224521

6/4/24 7:10 pm

Commenter: Isaac Mussomeli

Do not ban on the basis of irrational fear-mongering; follow the science and *regulate* instead

Kratom has saved countless lives, from combat veterans with PTSD to opioid, alcohol, and other dangerous substance addicts looking for a safe off-ramp, not a dangerous substitute like methadone. If you ban Kratom, you will see the opioid crisis in Virginia - the state where I grew up and graduated from Marshall High School - go from horrible to untenable.

The right approach is to regulate this lifesaving herbal remedy - with legislation like the KCPA (Kratom Consumer Protection Act) - so that its processing and labeling meet GMP standards and so that it can only be used by responsible adults

On the other hand, pandering to civil litigators by trying to ban this plant is entirely out of touch with science and physical reality more generally. People like myself who have taken Kratom for decades know first-hand that it is not dangerous, and several recent studies- including an ascending dose clinical trial - have confirmed this.

CommentID: 224522

6/4/24 7:14 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Ten Compelling Reasons to Keep Kratom Legal.

Here are ten reasons to keep it legal:

- 1. Pain Relief:** Kratom is widely used as a natural pain reliever. Many people prefer it over prescription painkillers due to its lower potential for addiction and fewer side effects.
- 2. Opioid Alternative:** Kratom has been used by some individuals to help manage withdrawal symptoms from opioids and as a substitute to reduce dependence on prescription opioids. This can be crucial in combating the opioid epidemic.
- 3. Mental Health Benefits:** Some users report that kratom helps alleviate symptoms of anxiety, depression, and PTSD, providing a natural alternative to pharmaceutical antidepressants and anxiolytics.
- 4. Economic Impact:** The kratom industry supports many small businesses and farmers, particularly in Southeast Asia where kratom is grown. Legalization helps sustain these livelihoods.

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5. **Consumer Safety:** Keeping kratom legal allows for regulation and quality control. Banning kratom could push it into the black market, where products may be adulterated and unsafe.

6. **Personal Freedom:** Many advocates argue that individuals should have the right to choose natural substances for their health and well-being. Legalization respects personal freedom and autonomy.

7. **Research Opportunities:** Keeping kratom legal encourages scientific research to better understand its benefits, risks, and mechanisms. This can lead to the development of safer, more effective therapeutic options.

8. **Harm Reduction:** Kratom is considered by many to be a safer alternative to more harmful substances like alcohol, prescription opioids, and illicit drugs. Legalizing kratom can reduce the harm associated with these substances.

9. **Traditional Use:** Kratom has been used for centuries in Southeast Asia for its medicinal properties. Recognizing and respecting traditional uses is important for cultural preservation.

10. **Public Health:** Some argue that the public health benefits of kratom, such as reducing opioid use and providing pain relief, outweigh the potential risks, especially when used responsibly and under guidance.

CommentID: 224523

6/4/24 7:14 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Ban Kratom - The time has come for decisive action

Ban it in Virginia just like the other 6 states. It is dangerous and addictive

CommentID: 224524

6/4/24 7:15 pm

Commenter: Tim Gilbert

Keep the Kratom plant legal.

The kratom plant is vary safe and can't be overdosed. I've used it daily for years. It is not at all intoxicating and won't depress respiratory system ever. I couldn't work without its anxiety reducing effects. Do not criminalize a perfectly safe and useful plant!

CommentID: 224525

6/4/24 7:16 pm

Commenter: Raegenea Case

Woefully Worried

At 16 I broke my neck c1 and c2 in a car accident. I went on to have my neck fused and had issues in my hip from the transplant. This was 33 years ago and I don't know of a life without pain. I was always offered narcotics to manage pain. I choose to not take them because I was waiting for the day my chronic pain got so bad I couldn't function without medication. A few years ago I decided to go on a narcotic with great success. I was functioning again and able to take care of my only

child I had at 40. I hadn't been able to return to my hairdresser profession. When policies changed at my family practice I was stripped of my medications and forced into immediate withdrawals with no medical guidance through no fault of my own. I was sent to a pain clinic with questionable practices in an unsafe environment. For my safety and sanity I didn't return to the pm. I was at the mercy of the opioid epidemic and had no quality of life. I started researching alternative treatments and found a Kratom support group. After much consideration and research I purchased some from a reliable business who practiced safety protocols. I tried the mitragline speciosa a few day's before Christmas and my life was immediately improved. I was able to clean my house, make cookies with my toddler and decorate the house. I was able to be a good mother and wife. I have taken it 7 years with no issues. I recently was diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis and my pain has greatly increased. I am not able to take steroids so Kratom has saved my life. I purchase my Kratom from a distributor in Virginia so this ban greatly affects me. The medical field is unwilling or unable to control my pain. Taking Kratom lets me control my life and be a productive member of society. If I am left with no recourse for my pain to be treated I don't know what will happen to me. My family relies on me to be there for them. Please don't ban Kratom it's a helpful resource. If people are desperate in pain they will search out other very dangerous street drugs as an alternative. Thank you for your consideration.

CommentID: 224526

Commenter: Lori

Kratom

Kratom is one of the best medications I have ever had in my life. I have been taking this plant in pill form on and off for about 10 years with no ill side effects unlike so many medications I was prescribed before or after finding this plant. I have also suggested this plant to several people to try and they have also found the needed relief to be able to continue being a productive member of society. They have found relief to live their life instead of being confined to their house. Please stop trying to ban Kratom. It has helped so many of us chronic pain patients. Especially those of us that have been abandoned by the very professionals who took an oath to "do No harm". Leaving pain patients unmedicated or undermedicated is a cruelty beyond measure and now you're trying to take away a PLANT that offers the much needed relief we need. Please. Do the right thing and leave Kratom alone.

Thank you,

CommentID: 224528

Commenter: Holly S.

Kratom is safe, effective, no side effects

I've been taking Kratom for 5 years for pain and fatigue. I have severe nerve pain and osteoarthritis and been through most pain meds. Kratom gave me pain relief without the depression that opioid medication caused and all the other side effects too. I think it's also important to note that Kratom has some health benefits as well. Not many safe pain meds out

there. You'll cause deaths banning something like Kratom because people will have to take harder meds if they can't get it. Please don't ban Kratom.

CommentID: 224529

Commenter: Steph

6/4/24 7:18 pm

Kratom is a plant, it is kin to coffee, do not fall to senseless fear mongering

Please take the time and research. Look at the kratom subreddits. Read the articles on HappyHippo.com. Kratom is not dangerous. Alcohol is dangerous in large amounts, even in moderate amounts it can cause damage. It can cause people to hurt others. Cigarette smoke can hurt those around the smoker. Kratom harms no one. It should be my right, and any other's right to use this plant or not.

CommentID: 224530

Commenter: Doug Holroyd RPH

6/4/24 7:23 pm

Make Kratom schedule 1 please

As a pharmacist of 42 years and a father of a chronic Kratom user please make it schedule 1 and prohibit its use. Families are victims to the Kratom bad behaviors as well as the opioid misuse. We can utilize more appropriate solutions to our addiction problems. Thanks for reading.

CommentID: 224531

Commenter: Priscilla Anderson

6/4/24 7:23 pm

Kratom Scheduling

I am a Virginia native now residing in Louisiana. I am female, 56 years old and I use kratom to control my pain from degenerative disc disease and osteoarthritis. I have had one hip replacement and one knee. I am working on a second hip replacement now. Kratom allows me to continue working at my career of 23 years which is extremely physically demanding. I choose kratom over opioids because it works and I prefer a more natural solution. I have been using Kratom successfully for 3 years. Please do not take this option from people in Virginia. Do the sensible thing. Regulate it and make it safer for the people of Virginia. If Louisiana can figure this out, so can you.

CommentID: 224532

Commenter: Logan

6/4/24 7:23 pm

This is not right

Working in the industry and hearing the profound impact it has had on lives around the US and the world, this cannot be the correct course of action. Kratom needs to be further studied, not made harder to get for the consumer. Listen to the people and keep kratom as it is!

CommentID: 224533

Commenter: Nathan

6/4/24 7:25 pm

Kratom is Safe and Helpful

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

I have been using kratom for quite a few years now. It helps with many aspects of my life. Without kratom I would be a less productive person. Kratom isn't harmful, it's a way better substance in comparison to alcohol, tobacco, or even cannabis. Kratom is safe and no one is gone a die from "kratom tea." Please don't make other people's lives harder due to imaginary deaths. Millions use kratom and millions will say their lives are better after finding it. How can anyone just discount all of those people?

Often with alcoholics you will hear stories about how they "really need or want to quit," while stories like that do exist with kratom, they are far less prevalent. The majority of people will agree that kratom has had a positive impact on their lives. It's hard to find many alcoholics to would truly admit that alcohol is good for them.

Millions drink coffee every morning and without it they have a bad morning. No problem? Right? So why is it a problem if someone uses kratom to have a good day? To be a better version or more productive version of themselves?

Kratom is helpful
Kratom is safe

CommentID: 224534

Commenter: Celeste Botello

6/4/24 7:25 pm

Kratom gave me my life back!

My parents were warned that condition I've had since birth would cripple me someday. In my mid 50's, I found myself confined to bed as warned. A dear friend of mine asked me to find out information about kratom. I focused on addiction as an Undergrad, so she trusted me to find the truth. I had plenty of time on my hands now that my pain kept me bedridden, and I still had access to my University's library online. I read Journal Articles, watched videos, listened to testimonials, and decided that it could definitely help my friend's loved one with their heroin addiction, and I was convinced it could help me with my pain. After being a "Legal Addict" all of my life, I gave up on medications and was living without any help for my chronic pain. I found a vendor and placed an order.

The order finally arrived and my first serving of kratom, I've been living a full and active life! Best of all, I have a clear head and I'm no longer loopy all the time, the way medications left me for years. I can even keep up with, and enjoy, my grandchildren. It's been about 7 yrs since my first serving of kratom and I have nothing but positive things to say about it. I take as needed, and I often go days without taking any. I even went 12 days without kratom once, and I had no negative effects at all. Kratom could help countless people who suffer terribly. It could give them their lives back, as it has done for me.

CommentID: 224535

Commenter: ML

6/4/24 7:28 pm

Please do not criminalize Kratom

Kratom, a plant related to the coffee plant, should NOT be banned or made illegal! It is a safe and effective herbal supplement that has helped countless Americans.

CommentID: 224536

Commenter: Deana Beyers

6/4/24 7:38 pm

Kratom ban

Kratom is not a harmful substance. It is a plant related to the tea family. Are we going to also ban tea? I think Virginia has more important things to worry about than Kratom. Kratom does not make people wind up in the hospital for an overdose as it is impossible to do. It has touched and saved so many lives. Big pharma is just upset that people are not on their addictive medications to include suboxone. Making this illegal will only cause many productive, honest, tax paying citizen who've never been in trouble with the law to become common criminals and I will never go back to the pill mill! Before Kratom I could hardly work and almost lost my job, my ability to keep food on the table and even a roof over my head. It has been 13 years since then, and my life has changed for the better. I urge these lawmakers to do the research, listen to the community and their stories before making the wrong decision and sending numerous citizens to jail.

CommentID: 224537

Commenter: Renee

6/4/24 7:40 pm

DO NOT make Kratom a schedule 1

I have taken Kratom on and off for several years when I have needed it for pain, sleep and anxiety. It works wonderfully and is safe. I am not able to use many pharmaceutical drugs but Kratom works great for me with no side effects and no addiction. If you do anything, regulate the extracts only.

CommentID: 224538

Commenter: Beth

6/4/24 7:40 pm

STOP. WE ARE ADULTS

You want people to suffer? The govt really does. It's so weird. Doctors treat anyone in pain like children and offer only NSAIDS which are horrible for you and don't work. I have extreme back pain from bad scoliosis and a fracture in the past. Doctors treat me like a drug seeker. JUST LEAVE ME ALONE WITH MY KRATOM. IM AN ADULT. How can you force me to live in pain when I finally found something subtle but that actually works? Aren't you democrats? I thought you guys supposedly cared about people? Or if you're republicans, I thought you believed in small govt? Less intrusion, please stay out of my life

CommentID: 224539

Commenter: The Apothecary

6/4/24 7:41 pm

Place Kratom in Schedule 1

Remember when the DEA warned everyone about the opioid epidemic and their warnings were basically ignored? Well, here comes another product that has opioid properties and the risk of

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

abuse. The Cleveland and Mayo Clinics have published serious concerns regarding Kratom. We're still trying to get a handle on the use of cannabis and finding that as more people use it, the long-term (and sometime short-term) effects are disturbing. With Kratom, we have a substance that is not only unregulated, but may be implicated in hepatotoxicity. This is a substance that belongs firmly in Schedule I, no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse. Do we really need another unregulated psychotropic substance? The answer is no.

https://www.dea/diversion.usdoj.gov/drug_chem_info/kratom.pdf#search=kratom
CommentID: 224540

Commenter: Eric J

6/4/24 7:43 pm

Let people make decisions for themselves

We are adults, with jobs and responsibilities we are in control of our bodies and what goes into them. Kratom is not an illicit street drug but a medicinal plant for someone to use as they see fit.

CommentID: 224541

Commenter: Leaf us alone !

6/4/24 7:45 pm

Keep kratom available as it is now !

Keep kratom legal and available as it is to us adults ! This plant has saved my life and keeps me off harder drugs like heroine and fent !

If this is made schedule 1 in our fine state many will go back to the drugs and substances we used before , I know I will because it is easily and readily available 24/7 for me to get dope n such

CommentID: 224542

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:48 pm

Proposed Kratom ban

Please do not ban Kratom! it has given me my life back

CommentID: 224543

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 7:49 pm

This is a plant. Point Blank, period. Nature is legal under any reasonable society.

This is a plant, and doesn't do the harm of pharmaceuticals or alcohol. I don't know what else to say in its defense, but let people make responsible decisions in their choices.

CommentID: 224544

Commenter: Emmett GS

6/4/24 7:50 pm

Kratom put my life back on track.

Classifying kratom/mitragynine as a Schedule I substance would be a misguided decision. Personally, kratom has given me a second chance at living a fulfilling life. As a former opioid addict

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

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Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

from the age of 14 to 18, I have now been clean for three years, thanks to the benefits of kratom. It helped me leave behind a life of stealing, lying, and drug bingeing. Although I no longer use the plant, as it has served its purpose for me, I now have a stable job and strong connections with my friends and family, which I attribute entirely to my previous ability to access kratom. Without it, I would likely still be using hard drugs, unable to break free from the cravings.

From my personal experience and interactions with others, I know kratom to be an excellent pain reliever and anti-inflammatory agent, effective for ailments ranging from a painful sore throat (my own experience) to arthritis relief (as reported by a close friend). Banning kratom would be a grave mistake, benefiting no one except possibly pharmaceutical companies seeking to profit from the absence of kratom vendors, who also provide jobs to American citizens.
CommentID: 224545

Commenter: Zach Immel

6/4/24 7:52 pm

Kratom is an invaluable tool in the fight against opioid addiction and overdose death prevention

Kratom has been an invaluable tool for many who are suffering from opioid addiction, many of whom if they had continued using legal or illegal opioids, would very likely be added to the list of overdose deaths which has grown at an exponential rate due to the ongoing Opioid Epidemic, which has left no state untouched to include Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky, Michigan, Indiana and so many others. I personally know people who have successfully used kratom leaf in their mission to stop using heroin, fentanyl or their recreational misuse of prescription opioids. Furthermore, it is also useful for those who have found themselves addicted to other drugs, such as alcohol or benzodiazepines. I myself am one example of a person who has successfully utilized kratom to end my alcohol dependency which went on for many years. I quit using alcohol in 2017 and have not used it since thanks to the help of kratom. I know many others who have successfully used kratom for similar goals, or simply to treat chronic pain, and even some who have had success with it in alleviating the symptoms of depression.

As of this writing, I have been using kratom leaf as a supplement for seven years and have suffered no ill effects and no side effects which are medically significant. When I visit my doctor I have a clean bill of health. I know that with any new medication or supplements, there is a chance of side effects or adverse reactions and this is not impossible with kratom, but for the vast majority of people who use kratom, they suffer no side effects. There has not been a single death recorded concerning kratom where it was the only substance present in the decedent's bloodstream. Many people claim that it is dangerous but when asked for evidence, they cannot provide any examples of cases where it has alone caused death.

Considering the awful toll and extent of the Opioid Epidemic on our country and the unrestricted flow of fentanyl and fentanyl-containing illegal substances into our country and the states we live in, I believe that it is foolish to focus on kratom in light of these problems. Not only that but it is foolish to consider banning it, scheduling it or rendering it illegal when for many, it has been the only thing keeping them from the use of illegal substances and the potential side effects and death which inevitably come along with it.

I implore you to reconsider these measures and consider the many people who rely on kratom, as it is quite possibly the best resource available to us in the fight against the Opioid Epidemic and should remain legal in the interest of public health and avoiding overdose deaths. There are many who have written to you over the past weeks regarding this issue that if not for kratom, might not be here at all and I am certainly one of them. Alcoholism almost certainly would have taken my life by now if not for kratom, but thanks to it, I am instead a productive citizen and still healthy. I hope you'll consider my story and the innumerable stories of others who have had their lives improved by this plant.

Thank you for your time.

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

464/750

Zach

CommentID: 224546

Commenter: Pamela Mahoney

6/4/24 7:53 pm

Ban kratom

Kratom is dangerous and killed my bosses son in 2023. He is now forever 29.

No family should have to go thru the torture and heart break that I have and still am seeing her and her family go thru.

This is dangerous, highly addictive and it kills.

CommentID: 224547

Commenter: Daniel Morgan

6/4/24 7:53 pm

Please have some decency regarding Kratom!! This saved me!

This plant is a miracle. After being medically discharged from the Army after losing my leg and for my broken back/hip/pelvis, I had was on opiate painkillers for years. My pain management doctor eventually took me off of my meds, but the excruciating pain that I knew I would have to deal with for the rest of my life never went away. I resorted to drinking heavily for years, was severely depressed and I didnt think Incould go on much longer. 8 years ago, I found this plant, and it was a miracle. My pain was gone, and I quit drinking. It is baffling that anyone would try to keep this from others. This is so inhumane. People can use/possess cannabibis in Virginia but they want to take away the safest natural plant to help aid with pain? It's also tremendously helped with my PTSD and depression. If you are reading this, please, for the love of all that is good, consider others. We need this plant.

CommentID: 224548

Commenter: Jackie Clark

6/4/24 7:57 pm

Kratom kills

My 29 year old son died June 22. I demanded an autopsy. It came back directly as kratum toxicity. I can't believe it even happened with something that has no restrictions. We need to make sure no other mother... brother... grandmother goes through this. It's highly addictive and it KILLS people. He died in Virginia. Please make this unavailable to the common public now.

CommentID: 224549

Commenter: Dylan

6/4/24 7:58 pm

Kratom saves

Kratom saved me and numerous friends. Don't ban Kratom.

CommentID: 224550

Commenter: JEdwards

6/4/24 7:59 pm

Stop Criminalizing Plant Medicine

The ship had sailed with marijuana - it is legal, and nothing will change that. Now, states are trying to criminalize kratom? Kratom has far fewer undesirable effects than marijuana. If it gets banned, it will only return on the docket to be "unbanned". The state might as well make some money off of it and just regulate it.

CommentID: 224551

Commenter: Sam

6/4/24 8:01 pm

I do not support

Do not schedule Kratom, we have consumer protection and you can't purchase if under 21.

CommentID: 224552

Commenter: Emil

6/4/24 8:02 pm

No to the ban

There are consumer protection laws. I do not support scheduling.

CommentID: 224553

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:03 pm

Kratom is trash! Get it out of Virginia

It's addictive, it is a poison and has ruined families and lives

CommentID: 224554

Commenter: Pam

6/4/24 8:03 pm

Ban kratom

There are no proven scientific studies for medicinal uses for Kratom. Kratom addiction is real, Kratom ruins lives and families
Kratom deaths are real and the AKA dismisses them stating all deaths are from poly substances and or underlying health conditions. This is not the case with Kratom deaths.
I support the classification of Kratom to a schedule 1.

keep your community safe

CommentID: 224555

Commenter: Lauren - Current Government Employee

6/4/24 8:03 pm

Follow MD & NC's Lead - Support Regulation Instead of Ban

Kratom is not new. It has been around for centuries and available to US customers for decades. If it were a Schedule I level risk, it would have already been banned at the Federal level a long time ago. It is a plant and natural, herbal remedy that works well for many.

Obviously, tainted Kratom is bad. Mixing any substance with illegal substances is bad. This is certainly not unique to Kratom.

The current science does not support this ban and it would cause FAR more harm than good for those it helps. Let's focus on the real enemy here - Fentanyl and our legally available and controlled opioids. Let's give our citizens the right to use what works for them and not infringe on their choices or rights. You don't personally have to use it, but you certainly shouldn't support any legislation that prevents others from doing so. Support legislation that helps ensure its safety instead.

CommentID: 224556

Commenter: DisgustedAmerican

6/4/24 8:03 pm

Screw big pharma

It's truly disheartening that you would schedule 1 another plant that has been proven to help people. Millions have benefited from kratom to help free the shackles of opiate addiction and that scares you because you want us addicted. You want us putting money in your clinics and staying slaves to a broken health care system. This country is in shambles because of sophomoric laws like this being put in place. Shame on everyone who supports this.

CommentID: 224557

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:04 pm

Banning Kratom in Virginia

I do not approve of Virginia banning Kratom use!!! It has benefited me in so many ways since my Lupus diagnosis

CommentID: 224558

Commenter: Trey Ganzert

6/4/24 8:05 pm

Please let people decide how they want to medicate themselves keep big pharmaceutical companies out

Stop banning plants

CommentID: 224559

Commenter: Tom Flint

6/4/24 8:05 pm

Don't ban kratom

Kratom, like most anything, can be abused through adulteration and/or mega-dosing. But used responsibly plain leaf kratom is a great benefit for people suffering from pain, anxiety, and ailments in general, such as arthritis. It is also beneficial as a mood booster providing a sense of general physical well-being. Millions of people get excellent relief from kratom, and should not be denied that relief because some people overdose it, or use products adulterated with other harmful substances. For example, my wife recuperated from hip replacement surgery using only kratom powder for pain relief, thus avoiding the problems that go with stronger opioid pain relievers. Please keep plain dried leaf kratom powders legal.

CommentID: 224560

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:09 pm

Ban kratom

https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as_sdl=0%2C33&q=vendors+arrested+in+SE+Asia+for+Kratom&binG=#d=gs_qabs&t=1716990170822&u=%23p%3D9tZSDTtrwaAJ

CommentID: 224562

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:10 pm

Regulate

Please do not criminalize Kratom. Regulate it. It saves lives and families.

CommentID: 224563

Commenter: James Fish

6/4/24 8:11 pm

I am against this petition

I do not agree with this petition.

CommentID: 224564

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:12 pm

Listen to Virginia Pharmacists - we are the drug experts. Support schedule I

The time has come for decisive action. By classifying kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance temporarily, we can stem the tide of its unregulated use and protect our citizens from its harmful effects. We cannot allow the American Kratom Association and other kratom proponents to sway public opinion with anecdotal evidence while ignoring the comprehensive research and findings by the FDA and other health authorities.

CommentID: 224565

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:14 pm

Follow Alabama's lead and place into schedule I

Look at how many accidental overdose deaths occurred that involved kratom in Alabama versus Virginia

CommentID: 224566

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:14 pm

Do not ban Kratom



6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Kratom is an incredibly useful plant that has helped me and my illness greatly. Please do not take this away from me as I will have to resort to more addictive chemicals.

CommentID: 224567

Commenter: Dylan Haga

6/4/24 8:15 pm

Kratom is NOT dangerous. Opioids are!

I began taking kratom 5 years ago after beating a terrible meth and heroin addiction. Kratom saved my life and allowed me to function better than ever. Pain relief, anxiety relief, nothing but positives. It's hard to even take enough kratom to become physically addicted. The government of Virginia would be doing an incredible disservice to it's people if it were to ban kratom. Please don't let this happen. Thank you.

CommentID: 224569

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:17 pm

Kratom is an opioid agonist

Kratom, a substance that acts like an opioid, has been falsely marketed as a safe alternative for pain relief and opioid withdrawal. However, the opioid epidemic's harrowing tales teach us the catastrophic consequences of overlooking the potential dangers of substances like kratom. In 2022 alone, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported 909 fatal opioid overdoses where kratom was involved, with 53 of these tragic losses occurring in Virginia.

CommentID: 224570

Commenter: Angela Alexander

6/4/24 8:19 pm

Do not ban Kratom

Kratom has been around for a long time and has helped many people with different pain management. I use it for back problems and also for my restless leg syndrome. Please do not ban kratom from people to be able to use as responsible individuals needing kratom as a pain relief. It is very safe and needed for the people of Virginia. Thank you.

CommentID: 224573

Commenter: Mac

6/4/24 8:20 pm

Harm Reduction/Pandering to Pharmaceutical Companies

Hello friends. To ban kratom would be a grave mistake as it would cause many kratom users, as well as people using kratom to substitute prescription narcotic painkillers or illicit street opioids, to go to the streets in search of hard drugs. For those who are using kratom for chronic pain or acute pain, this would be a tragedy. Opioid painkillers are hard to obtain for those who actually need them due to the opioid crisis. For those using kratom instead of a hard opioid street drug such as heroin or fentanyl, it would be an even bigger tragedy as many of those individuals would go back to the streets in search of these significantly more dangerous drugs. If kratom is banned many will die due to the negligence of our state government.

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6/6/24, 4:22 PM

If you want to regulate kratom or create legislation to allow it for medical use only, that is something I can support. Regulation can ensure the products are not contaminated and can ensure there is a limit to the alkaloids in a given product. Many of the issues associated with kratom come from powerful kratom extract shots or manipulated kratom + kava mixtures from a brand called Feel Free. Plain kratom leaf has significantly less risk and it is much harder to consume excess amounts.

I also must say that when plants get banned, it makes it look like the government is pandering to pharmaceutical companies. Pharmaceutical companies don't like when people can heal themselves or manage certain conditions without the need for pharmaceutical drugs, since it takes away from pharmaceutical profits. People's well being is more important than profits, and anyone who believes otherwise should not be in a position of governmental authority. Japan is studying kratom for potential pharmaceutical use. Instead of banning this plant why don't we study it? And if it were to be banned, Schedule 1 is completely inappropriate. Schedule 1 will make it difficult to study and better understand. Anything of a lesser tier would be better, although scheduling it at all is problematic.

Kindly, please reconsider banning kratom. If something must be done, then regulate it and ensure it is safe by regulating and studying it. Please think of the people. The government is supposed to serve the people. If the people are not served by their government, our country has failed. The founding fathers would not have wanted a government that does not serve its people.
CommentID: 224574

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:20 pm

Support Schedule I for Kratom for Health and Safety of Virginia

For the health and safety of our communities, for the protection of our children and future generations, I urge you to support the temporary ban on the sale and use of kratom until definitive actions can be taken by the FDA

CommentID: 224577

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:22 pm

Schedule 1 kratom- I support this petition

Kratom needs to be scheduled/ banned .
manufacturers are producing extracts with the alkaloid 7OH which is very potent .

https://www.elyxr.com/products/copy-of-hydroxie-kratom-7-oh-shot-30-mg

https://paylesskratom.com/product/eadp-kratom-70h-shot-30ml/

https://www.elyxr.com/products/hydroxie-kratom-7-oh-shot-30ml

These are just a few examples that are out on the market and easy accessible to children .

CommentID: 224579

Commenter: Sarah R.

6/4/24 8:22 pm

Freedom to choose

Adults in Virginia deserve the right to make their own choices, and maintain what freedom they have left. Kratom doesn't work for everyone, but it has saved countless lives, COUNTLESS, and allowed many others to continue working, relieve their pain and addiction to harsh substances, continue to be good parents, spouses, coworkers and friends.

Not even "water" is without risk, but adults in this state have the right to do their OWN risk/benefit analysis and make their own choices and decisions about their lives and personal health. I've familiarized myself with Kratom and believe strongly that is THE safest effective method available for most of those it works well for...but even if it wasn't, or it didn't, Virginians have the right to make their own decision about it, and our elected leaders have the responsibility to protect that right. That's why they are here.

I believe they are smart people, and I think they already know "why" they're finding themselves encouraged by those who stand to profit from pharmaceutical sales, to ban Kratom. But the job here is to continue to work for the citizens of Virginia and protect our liberties. It's time to show up and stand up for Virginians as they have promised to do.

CommentID: 224580

Commenter: Anonymous

Against the schedule of kratom

I do not support this petition to make kratom consumers criminals if it is a Schedule I substance.

CommentID: 224581

Commenter: 15 Yr Consumer

15 YEAR CONSUMER

15 YEARS AGO I BEGAN using this plant. Wish I knew about it sooner. This got me off of street drugs after getting cut off of pain management meds. I know my pain is severe same as any doctor but doctor DRUGS do not help like this PLANT. Ya can't make \$ off a plant you want us enslaved to your drugs. Suboxone shouldn't be prescribed for pain either. Get it right and look into thr Dr. mcCurdy studies: Ban Kratom and you will kill ME!

CommentID: 224582

Commenter: P Smith

DO NOT SUPPORT A KRATOM SCHEDULING

I'm not surprised at the misinformation regarding Kratom on this comment section. If people are going to addicted to something then they will and could be as simple as sugar or caffeine. I know a commercial airline pilot addicted to nicotine lozenges and she's never even smoked. There isn't much the Board of Pharmacy can do about that. The addiction idea is questionable at best. People blaming deaths on Kratom aren't telling the whole truth. One mother claimed Kratom was the cause when her child had other substances show up in the toxicology report. Responsible Kratom users support regulation and not scheduling. The board of pharmacy in Virginia would be negligent if they follow through with scheduling

CommentID: 224583

Commenter: Tammy

Ban kratom

<https://www.tampabay.com/investigations/2023/12/09/tampa-bay-times-tested-20-kratom-products-heres-what-we-found/>

CommentID: 224584

Commenter: Amy

Kratom

This would hurt many good people. No to scheduling this plant.

CommentID: 224585

Commenter: Traci B

Leave Kratom alone!

Yall need to leave this plant ALONE!!!!

This plant is the ONLY thing I have access to, in order to help my anxiety, pain, ADD, PTSD and Fibromyalgia...

Since its incredibly difficult AND expensive to get health insurance (quite impossible for some of us, really), this plant has been my saving grace... And since its become nearly impossible to get medications that will ACTUALLY help.

Just leave it the hell ALONE. All the issues in this country/state, and yall are all up in arms about a plant?!

Maybe you can focus more on helping the Veterans, the homeless, or maybe those who NEED health insurance, but can't afford it, and dont qualify for Medicaid(like myself and everyone I know)...

CommentID: 224586

Commenter: Fentanyl will worsen

Kratom saves from fentanyl

The deaths from fentanyl are outrageous. They will climb and reach numbers never seen before if Kratom is banned. Kratom is from southeast Asia and has been used for CENTURIES, responsibly. If it was this dangerous we would hear about it and would have for CENTURIES! E the people deserve the chance to choose. We can't afford your healthcare and shackles of medication with plethora of side effects. Responsible use is not abuse and myself and hundreds and thousands or others use our God blessed leaf tea responsibly every day. Fentanyl kill d my family. Kratom saved many. Kratom saved my life.

CommentID: 224587

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:27 pm

Support the scheduling of kratom

Kratom is addictive. Please schedule and keep your community safe . You do not need another unregulated substance that has no science to back up the safe consumption

CommentID: 224588

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom Saved My Life

Kratom helped me get over a much worse addiction to life threatening opioids. It's duration and safety, as well as lack of side effects made an easy transition and eventual termination of all use. In addition, it's one of the few effective pain relievers for my partner's PCOS. Banning this plant would be a mistake and be disastrous to public health.

CommentID: 224589

Commenter: Sarah L Heichert

Kratom is harmless and saves addicts/alcoholics like me!

If it weren't for kratom I would still be stuck in the vicious cycle of hard drug use. Since finding this miraculous plant I've stopped drinking, using meth, polysubstance abuse, my mood has improved, pain has lessened, I'm able to be a better person and STAY SOBER. This isn't some hardcore drug like people are trying to make it out to be. It's from the coffee family for gods sake. It's harmless. Please leave our plant alone!

CommentID: 224590

Commenter: Anonymous

Special interest groups are behind this push, and it's disgusting

The people pushing for a ban fall into two categories: the first are misguided people who mean well. The second group has a more nefarious financial motive. After perusing these comments, it's obvious.

The well meaning folks may have heard kratom can be addictive. They may have heard it partially acts on opioid receptors. They may be sick of seeing smoke and vape shops everywhere. But what they fail to understand is that kratom has helped so many people get off of and stay off of prescription painkillers and fentanyl. Kratom is actually related to coffee, and to me personally, has a similar effect (in terms of its subtlety). It has a ceiling effect, meaning you can't overdose on it unless you ingested a comical quantity.

The nefarious lobbyists are supported primarily by pharmaceutical interests. They are being paid to post comments and propose measures such as this one. For profit recovery centers also have an interest on fear mongering when it comes to this plant.

Politicians who seek to ban kratom see it as low hanging fruit, to make it look like they are doing something about the fentanyl crisis. Banning kratom will turn more people to fentanyl. Why do we want to turn our own citizens into felons?

CommentID: 224591

241

Commenter: Sara

Schedule Kratom

I support this petition.

keep the state of Virginia safe . Keep this substance away from young children
The growing number of college students are using Feel Free .
There is a rise in admissions in rehabs for Kratom detox
Kratom addiction is real. This substance is dangerous .

CommentID: 224592

Commenter: M Dedog

Support regulation but do not Schedule

Unadulterated Kratom is vital to many Virginians. We support regulation for clean pure supplements. Scheduling Kratom would be disastrous for so many people who rely on it. Cutting off consumers would be detrimental. Scheduling it would be disastrous and could result in additional deaths. We know why pharmacists are on here making claims they they know all and are citing FDA. We are aware that FDA has put out false information.

CommentID: 224593

Commenter: Anonymous

Do not ban kratom!!

Kratom is a natural pain killer. Its safe and works amazingly well!

CommentID: 224594

Commenter: M Dedog

Regulate it. DONT BAN. DONT SCHEDULE

Unadulterated Kratom is vital to many Virginians. We support regulation for clean pure supplements. Scheduling Kratom would be disastrous for so many people who rely on it. Cutting off consumers would be detrimental. Scheduling it would be disastrous and could result in additional deaths. We know why pharmacists are on here making claims they they know all and are citing FDA. We are aware that FDA has put out false information.

CommentID: 224595

Commenter: Anonymous

Please Don't Schedule

I've been using powdered kratom for 5 years now. I'm a functional, responsible adult with a family and several properties in Virginia. Kratom helps my depression, anxiety, and insomnia symptoms

6/4/24 8:35 pm

Commenter: Sally S.

6/4/24 8:40 pm

Keep Kratom legal and regulate

10 years and no adverse reactions. No health issues from Kratom
No illicit drug use and no addictions to any substances.

Pharmacists are not experts on Kratom. They read what the FDA puts out and then recite that propaganda. The FDA has put out false information. I'll trust the scientists that have actually studied Kratom.

There is no need for scheduling. Just regulate it so that underage kids cannot purchase.

CommentID: 224601

Commenter: Alyson

6/4/24 8:44 pm

Don't allow special interests to criminalize people

Kratom is a safe, natural plant which has been used for hundreds of years. It is far safer than most pharmaceuticals, and when used correctly, is not addictive at all.

I have been using Kratom for social anxiety and chronic fatigue for several years, and because I do, I am a productive, employed, healthy and happy person.

The only down side to this supplement is that it cuts into big pharma's profits. If you have Kratom, you don't need their crappy overpriced drugs.

You work for us, even though we know they throw money at you. Please serve the needs of the people, and leave Kratom legal.

CommentID: 224602

Commenter: jason

6/4/24 8:46 pm

regulation > criminalization

kratom should be regulated, not illegal. that's all there is to it. there are standards set in place to make sure it is safe for consumption. other than that it should left to the choice of the individual. i could list several things that can lead to dependency, abuse, etc. that are legal with regulations, but i'm sure you can think of them yourself. put a warning label on it and make sure there are serving size guidelines. kratom is truly a blessing for millions of people. for myself it manages my pain the best it's been without being intoxicated. my mood and motivation have increased, my stress is better managed and i'm able to function as productive member of society, happily and in less pain. criminalizing this medicine would be destructive for so many responsible adults who suffer with chronic pain.

CommentID: 224603

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:36 pm

kratom has saved my life. this petition is ridiculous

without kratom, i would have succumbed to my addiction to actual opiates that i used to take like fentanyl and heroin. i now have so much life back in me thanks to kratom. i believe scheduling kratom will indirectly result in countless deaths. research all over the globe shows its effectiveness relative to other, actually dangerous substances, like alcohol and real opiates.

immensely. Review the international studies on kratom use. It's essentially harmless. I pay over 20 thousand dollars in combined real estate, income, and personal property taxes. If kratom is scheduled, I'll likely move to Maryland.

CommentID: 224597

Commenter: Grady

6/4/24 8:36 pm

I do not support this action

I have used Kratom for 5 years now to deal with back pain from my time in the military. When I was still serving, I was on prescription opioids and seeing a pain management physician for the last 3 years of service. After I got out, I changed to Kratom because it is a natural plant and is just effective enough to kill my pain but does not make me feel inebriated in any way. It is similar in the way it can help with pain, but it is drastically different in how it affects you mentally. It is in no way dangerous when taken in its natural form, and countless others have been able to stay away from prescription medications by using this plant, just like they do with coffee or tea for alertness. I put Kratom in the same class as coffee/tea in terms of safety and effectiveness. There is absolutely no real upside to make Kratom or the chemical components of Kratom a schedule 1 drug. That is asinine as putting coffee as a schedule 1. I don't see the benefit to the public of scheduling Kratom at all. Please reconsider your position on this. I do not support the Board of Pharmacy Petition "Addition of kratom to Schedule I" and you shouldn't either.

CommentID: 224598

Commenter: Sara Michelle Wharton

6/4/24 8:36 pm

NO BAN

I AM AGAINST THIS BAN

CommentID: 224599

Commenter: Baby Jane

6/4/24 8:37 pm

Do not ban

Please do not ban Kratom; it is very helpful for so many ailments with a much more natural approach with no side effects or hang overs. Please keep this option available for the public.

CommentID: 224600

Commenter: Jeffrey Paul Jeanguenat

i do not support this petition

I do not support this petition and do not believe that kratom is harmful in any way.

CommentID: 224604

6/4/24 8:48 pm

Commenter: Angie Semrad

Do not ban kratom

I am not in support of this Petition

As someone deeply committed to the well-being of our communities and families, I am not in support of this petition because I believe that kratom does not have the potential to cause harm and endanger lives. The push to classify kratom as a Schedule 1 controlled substance is not necessary. The evidence pointing to the risks and negative implications of kratom use is not an issue. Kratom is a harmless herbal supplement. By not supporting this classification, I am hoping that this kratom that helps so many people with pain management will be able to continue to get this without a schedule 1 controlled substance being put upon it as illegal.

It's crucial that we listen to the voices of those who have witnessed the need for people in Virginia to be able to continue to buy kratom for their health needs and pain issues. Their experiences underline the urgent need for this petition to not be allowed in Virginia and for the people in Virginia to be able to continue to buy and use kratom for their medical needs.

By not supporting this petition, I stand with all who value health and unregulated control of potentially a non-dangerous supplement. Let us unite in this cause for the greater good of the citizens of Virginia to not allow this ban on kratom to happen!!

CommentID: 224605

6/4/24 8:51 pm

Commenter: Audra

Keep Kratom Legal please.

Doctors had me on fentanyl, Lortab, xanax, muscle relaxants, antipsychotics, and antidepressants. Although it doesn't solve all my problems, I was able to take myself off all of the prescribed methods. I can't even imagine what will happen to Virginians who depend on this leaf....the cousin to Coffee.

Sincerely, Audra

CommentID: 224606

6/4/24 8:52 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Horrible idea

I do not support this, marijuana gets changed but now you want to classify Kratom as a schedule 1? It seems like you are moving backwards with this.

CommentID: 224607

Commenter: Christina Church-Tomlin

Schedule kratom

I was on kratom for 3 years. I took it for back pain and anxiety. My anxiety was not severe at the time. I was told it was not addictive and it would help my symptoms. It helped in the beginning but after a while it caused severe anxiety and it also caused severe depression. I got so addicted and I got really sick without it. I had a very hard time trying to quit. When I finally did quit I had severe withdrawals and the severe anxiety didn't go away. I had to start seeing a psychiatrist. I told him about the kratom. He said he has gotten a lot of others with the same issues due to kratom. If it is not going to be banned then it needs to be a scheduled narcotic. You can find it in every store. If I was addicted then so many others is or will be addicted as well. There are so many crimes due to drug addiction and this is a drug. I was addicted to pain pills up until 8 years ago. My withdrawals were worse getting off kratom than it was getting off the class 1 scheduled narcotics. If I knew it was addictive I would not have taken it because I was in recovery. Please schedule kratom as a narcotic. Thank you for taking the time to hear my story.

CommentID: 224608

6/4/24 8:54 pm

Commenter: AJ

OPPOSE Schedule 1

I am writing to voice my opposition to criminalizing kratom in Virginia.

Kratom is a reasonably safe substance that people use for a variety of reasons. Some use it to help control pain so they can participate more fully in life. Because of the pain relief kratom offers, these people can engage in activities such as work and being an active family participant.

Others use kratom in place of more dangerous substances, such as stronger opioids and alcohol. Many comments on this petition describe how kratom has improved people's lives.

Some reasons given for criminalizing kratom include its safety profile, the potential for contamination, and the possibility of kratom addiction. Regarding its safety profile, kratom is reasonably safe. It does not have the potential for respiratory depression that other opioids carry.

Potential for contamination exists for everything we ingest, and kratom is no exception. There have been past instances of people being sickened by contaminated kratom. While unfortunate, such occurrences are rare and can be addressed by regulating kratom. Mandate testing each new batch for things like salmonella, e coli, and heavy metals to keep consumers safe.

In terms of potential for addiction and/or dependency, some reports certainly sound like people have had trouble with problematic use. In one report I read, the person's life had been turned upside down to the degree you might see with gambling addiction. However, it does not make sense to blame kratom for these events. It is likely that if kratom were unavailable, they would have used a different drug or activity in its place. Furthermore, kratom is safer than most of these alternative drugs, such as stronger opioids, benzodiazepines, and alcohol.

If Virginia criminalizes kratom, the probable overall effects will be overwhelmingly negative. Fewer people will use kratom, meaning that the issues that drove them to use kratom will be untreated. Some will see their lives shrink as their increased pain levels prevent them from engaging in life activities to the degree that they did when they used kratom. Some will use other substances in place of kratom, leading to additional and unnecessary overdose deaths and other social ills.

While significantly fewer in number, some will continue to use kratom despite its illegality. Adding kratom's alkaloids to schedule 1 turns these people from law abiding and productive citizens to criminals. In addition, driving kratom underground increases their risk of consuming adulterated or contaminated product.

On a personal level, I am concerned because I use kratom so I can be comfortable enough to participate in various activities. Although I am not a current resident of Virginia, I make frequent multi-day trips to Virginia to see family. Without kratom, I won't be comfortable enough to participate in family activities. This prospect scares, angers, and deeply saddens me.

Please do what's right and vote to help, not hurt, people: keep kratom legal.
CommentID: 224609

Commenter: Joyce

6/4/24 8:54 pm

Don't Make Life Unbearable for our countries citizens

Please do not bow to certain powers that be to make kratom illegal. We are turning into a 3rd world country with our healthcare system. Everything else is being taken away from millions of chronic pain patients, why would you take this also? You know what happened during prohibition, don't you? Kratom is the only thing left for many people living in debilitating pain. People aren't dying from it, doctors don't have to prescribe it, leave it alone and allow the people who use it to access it because there's nothing left to try and our country will end up in a big mental health crisis, which has already happened because of the millions of people left to live in severe pain.

CommentID: 224610

Commenter: Mary Decker

6/4/24 8:55 pm

Please protect our rights to use Kratom

I am a 59 year old disabled grandmother who cared for my 89 year old mother with dementia, until her passing. I had to be able to wake up, function, and get through my day which was next to impossible when taking so many medications that didn't cure, only sedate.

Kratom has helped me more than the 15 medications (and many more that were discontinued or stopped due to ineffectiveness) that I was taking for all of my chronic pain and autoimmune disease issues. I suffer from 19 diagnosed conditions, and several more suspected that are not yet diagnosed. I was like a zombie on so many medications, I had memory issues, slept all the time and started to have organ swelling (liver and spleen) with no known cause, AND I STILL HAD PAIN.

With Kratom use, I still have some pain as before, but now I am awake, I was able to sit with my mom clear-headed, and I was able to administer her medications and keep her schedule etc the whole way until she passed, which was extremely important to me and I couldn't have done it without Kratom. I am NOT HIGH, or intoxicated, as my friend says, it's calming to my body and soul. Please continue to make this plant available to those who wish to utilize it, we need to support a Kratom Consumer Protection Act to keep this plant safe, unadulterated and legal. Banning it will cause millions of people to seek other ways of coping with their pain, addiction and anxiety including seeking street drugs, turning to alcohol and definitely a huge rise in suicide.

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This plant when used responsibly and unadulterated is very safe as the science shows, and it is an answer to many people's wish to have quality of life without pain or addiction to damaging medications. Kratom has made my quality of life better, and a ban will be damning me to a life of constant pain, isolation and fear of needing to end my suffering.
CommentID: 224611

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 8:56 pm

Do not bani!!

It helps so many people!!

CommentID: 224612

Commenter: Barbara Singer

6/4/24 9:03 pm

Kratom saves lives

I work in opioid recovery and this drug is extremely helpful harm reduction tool considering the fentanyl crisis. Stop making it harder for people to find safer alternatives

CommentID: 224618

Commenter: Lee M

6/4/24 9:03 pm

Do not support scheduling Kratom

After reviewing the unbiased scientific research as well as the debunked FDA lies regarding Kratom I do believe this petition would be a disaster for Virginians. It's well known that the Pharmacists are highly influenced by Pharmaceutical companies and many lies have been told regarding Kratom. It makes more sense to regulate the suppliers and regulate the sale of Kratom I rely heavily on the truth regarding Kratom.

CommentID: 224619

Commenter: Elizabeth Cooper

6/4/24 9:04 pm

PLEASE DON'T CRIMINALIZE KRATOM

Please don't criminalize something that is helping so many people with their pain and anxiety. Kratom should be legal.

CommentID: 224621

Commenter: Jayne poitras

6/4/24 9:05 pm

Kratom saved my life

I'ma cancer survivor having had 4 different cancers since 1995, Dr's put me on so many prescriptions of oxycotin, oxycodone, Hydrocodone,muscle relaxers, benzos, zofran,zolpidem, omg and several more things that I was being poisoned..I thought I was going to die,I felt like

death...a pharmacist friend gave me a bottle of kratom capsules 2014 and I took myself off all that garbage oh and I almost forgot the worst one of them all Gabapentini!! Kratom saved my life...I've been using kratom tea since 2014 and I got rid of all that pharmaceuticals poisoning me...if it wasn't for kratom I'd be dead? I love you kratom? you have been saving lives for centuries? and thankyou God for creating such an amazing gift to us all. KRATOM SAVES LIVES
CommentID: 224622

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:08 pm

Let people consume plants at their own discretion. Stay out of it.

Leave plants alone. Leave people alone. How about focusing on the actual most dangerous drug on the planet: alcohol!

CommentID: 224623

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:09 pm

Do not ban Kratom!!

Do not ban!!! Our lives, our choice

CommentID: 224624

Commenter: Reginald

6/4/24 9:09 pm

Please don't ban this miracle plant

I can say that Kratom has helped me for extreme pain. It is safer than hard Opioids and not only has it helped me but it helps thousands of people manage often terrifying physical agony. To me this would be beyond problematic. I feel that people who have nowhere else to turn will look to street drugs as a replacement since they will no longer be able to buy Kratom. May God have mercy on people using it for pain if kratom is scheduled. Please do not ban Kratom.

CommentID: 224625

Commenter: Wayne

6/4/24 9:12 pm

Do not criminalize Kratom it saves lives

Kratom has allowed me to live a fully functional life. I've been supplementing with Kratom for over 7 years now. Before Kratom I was completely disabled and medications only made my condition worse. This Tree leaf has helped more than anything else. It saved my life as it's helping many others as well. Do not support this criminalization of Kratom. The science is abundant if you take the time to listen. Kratom is not harmful, it is helpful. Take the time and Do your research, listen to the people's stories about how Kratom has helped them.

CommentID: 224628

Commenter: Stephanie Joiner

6/4/24 9:12 pm

Against the sceedualing and ban. We should regulate.

Hdillo,

I am a citizen of the state of FL. I have Muscular Dystrophy, a debilitating and painful genetic disease. I have been using Kratom for over five years without side effects or addiction. This wonderful plant has kept me off opioids, which cause me many issues. I am also ventilator-dependent for most of the day and have experienced no trouble breathing while using kratom. Opioids cause me many bodily problems such as brain fog, and respiratory suppression, and suppress my appetite. Kratom does not, nor does it impair my brain like opioids.

With the opioid crisis such a big deal, and yet we use fentanyl, we need safer options to be available. Please read the studies, the science is there. Do not ban kratom.

Thank you.

CommentID: 224630

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:21 pm

Schedule I Support - And read the story that American Kratom Association wanted retracted

<https://project.tampabay.com/investigations/deadly-dose/kratom-industry/>

"Not everyone is happy. The American Kratom Association organized a petition campaign to demand that we retract all our "anti-kratom stories." Hundreds of the association's supporters have filled out electronic forms and emailed the Times. They cite no inaccuracies in our reporting. Instead, the industry group is rallying followers with the wild accusation that our series was funded by trial lawyers. In a news release, the industry makes a vague reference to an unnamed lawyer."

CommentID: 224634

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:21 pm

Kratom can stop alcoholism! Please do not ban!

Alcoholism ruined many in my family. This plant has allowed me to stop drinking, which my family is thankful for. My bloodworm for the past 3 yrs has looked great, so no problem there. It also seems to keep weight down,so I have avoided type 2 diabetes, which I am at risk for. This plant has been SO very helpful in my life for the past 3 yrs. Please don't ban it-instead help regulate it so it doesn't get adulterated and unsafe.

CommentID: 224635

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:21 pm

Don't ban kratom!!

I've finally found something that help to control my debilitating chronic pain and the damn government wants to control it. I'm finally opioid free and big pharma can stand not having their hands in and reaping the \$\$\$, it's ~~stop~~ stop trying to regulate everyone's life. There's enough government control already

CommentID: 224636

Commenter: Ryan Salek

6/4/24 9:24 pm

Kratom is safe and saves lives

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Criminalizing Kratom is a mistake. I support the use and feel that more public awareness needs to be made of the benefits. Many, many people have used Kratom as a safe substitute for highly addictive and deadly pain medication. Alcohol kills people and destroys lives. Oxycodone kills people, and leads to other dangerous drug usage. Please use resources for stopping the things that are actually a problem instead of helpful alternatives.

CommentID: 224637

6/4/24 9:25 pm

Commenter: Beth Rhineer

Plant medicine should not be banned

Pure Kratom in the form of powder, capsules or leaves have no business being banned. The way the plant works in its natural form makes it almost impossible to ingest a damaging amount. There is no overdosing and I find it hard to believe that any person found to have died by Kratom was taking just the powder. The problem begins with extracts and companies who do not make responsible products. If there is to be any consideration into banning Kratom, the focus should be on extracts, tinctures and drinks. Even then, banning should not be the option. There are other ways and things that can be done. This subject requires actual work and understanding from lawmakers to come to a solution, a straight ban is lazy and just feeds into big pharma's control. This plant has too many benefits to remove it from your citizens, if we aren't banning beer, liquor, or cigarettes, which very obviously cause major harm in multiple ways, we should not ban Kratom, which has helped many many people live healthy lives.

CommentID: 224638

6/4/24 9:26 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom stopped my anxiety - don't ban it!

I had horrible anxiety after my husband and mother died. Kratom was the only herb that stopped it and allowed me to get a good night's sleep. It's a natural substance that should not be banned!

CommentID: 224639

6/4/24 9:26 pm

Commenter: Chris L

This plant gave me a new lease on life

I have been a chronic pain sufferer for two decades. Before I found Kratom I was prescribed three different pain medications to include an opiate. I was in so much pain I often couldn't do my day to day tasks or even work. Using Kratom got me off of all those pain meds. This plant saves lives and the fact that people want to take it from their fellow citizens that need it to live their lives is shameful. There are plenty of dangerous drugs out there to go after. Leave Kratom alone!

CommentID: 224640

6/4/24 9:27 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

DON'T BAN KRATOM

Please keep Kratom legal. It is natural, has little to no side effects and no overdoses attributed solely to it always other substances involved. It will just add fuel to the fentanyl fire if banned keep it legal!

246

https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409

483/750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

CommentID: 224641

Commenter: Anonymous

Schedule Kratom Support - Lawsuits and Deaths Increasing

"In May 2022, a kratom vendor was ordered to pay \$4.6 million in damages after a woman who purchased their product online allegedly died of "acute kratom intoxication.""

<https://core.verisk.com/Insights/Emerging-Issues/Articles/2024/March/Week-4/Kratom-Wrongful-Death-Suits-Highlight-Growing-Liability-Concerns>

CommentID: 224644

6/4/24 9:32 pm

Commenter: Kratom saved my life

This plant is harmless!

Due to on going shoulder issues I was prescribed opiates for the pain. Those pain pills took all emotion from me and made me a shell of my former self. I met a herbalist while studying for my nutritionist degree and was told about this marvelous plant. It helped me get off of those pain pills and get my life back together!

CommentID: 224646

6/4/24 9:32 pm

Commenter: Bern Sponenburgh

Please support kratom consumers.

To whom it may concern,
I respectfully request that the petition to:

"The petitioner requests that the Board amend 18VAC110-20-322 to include mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine, the active alkaloids found in kratom, in Schedule I."

be retracted. Kratom saves lives. That is what it DOES. It's saved the lives of so many of my friends from a lifetime of opiate addiction and ultimately their death. PLEASE don't make criminals of people who are trying to regain control of their lives.

Sincerely,

Bern Sponenburgh

CommentID: 224647

6/4/24 9:32 pm

Commenter: Barbara Schlipf

DON'T BAN KRATOM

Kratom is a natural remedy with alot of great benefits. It helps with pain an anxiety top 2 to start with. This product has helped me an many people out as well. It's an all natural plant it is harmless and it needs to stay legal in this state honestly all states should have this legal. it's a much better

https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409

484/750

option then any pharmaceutical drug out there. By making this illegal will hurt alot of people. Please for the sake of other please don't ban this.

CommentID: **224648**

Commenter: David Reynolds

6/4/24 9:32 pm

KRATOM

Kratom is Safe to use don't ban it

CommentID: **224649**

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:33 pm

Banning would be a huge step backwards

Prohibition does not work! That has been proven over and over. Cannabis is just now becoming decriminalized and legalized and banning kratom would be a step in the wrong direction. Kratom literally saves lives and has fewer and less severe side effects than prescription painkillers. No liver damage, no deadly addiction, no respiratory depression, and NO overdose deaths. The deaths that have been attributed to kratom have always been suspicious at best and fear mongering at worst. Alcohol and cigarettes kill and is much more easily accessible than kratom. Also, kratom is only available to adults. What more regulation should there be? Adults should be mature enough to accept the responsibility for what they put in their bodies. I don't understand why a ban is even being petitions against a plant! The American Kratom Association is doing everything in its power to keep this life saving plant legal and safe for consumers.

CommentID: **224650**

Commenter: Gabrielle

6/4/24 9:34 pm

10 years of use, still waiting for the negative impact to occur...

I keep hearing from anti kratom critics that those of us who consume kratom will "eventually see how bad kratom is" for us. However, after 10 plus years of consumption, I can honestly say that things are going as smoothly as ever, and I am as healthy as ever. So when exactly should I expect my life to fall apart? I think it's safe to say that it isn't going to happen.

Please stop this already.

CommentID: **224651**

Commenter: Michael

6/4/24 9:36 pm

Saved my life.

Fought opiate addiction for about 10 years. It got to it's breaking point when it nearly put me in the grave. Discovering Kratom not only gave me ability to secure a career, get fit, build new relationships and honestly saved my life. Transitioning for the dangerous medications provided by the health care system, to this natural plant has improved my quality of life. Allowing me to become a better friend, brother, son, worker, neighbor and human being in general. Please don't rip away a solution to the problem our government exasperated in the first place.

247

CommentID: **224652**

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:36 pm

Schedule I controlled substance

improving community health necessitates supporting the regulation of substances like Kratom, ensuring all individuals have access to safe and effective care.

CommentID: **224653**

Commenter: Sarah O.

6/4/24 9:37 pm

Kratom saves lives

Hi, I'm here today to tell you how important it is to protect kratom. I recommend that you enshrine it in the Kratom Consumer Protection Act to safeguard consumers from bad actors in the kratom industry, those who would adulterate or mislabel it.

I've lived with chronic pain for many years. I've been tens of doctors seeking answers and relief, and not getting it. I was given medications with awful side effects that dulled my mind and gave me no relief. My life fell apart because of my pain; I dropped out of school, couldn't hold a job, couldn't cook to feed myself and couldn't take care of myself at all. When I found kratom everything changed. My pain is well-managed, and I don't have any mental clouding. I am able to take care of myself. I cook nourishing meals. I workout weekly. I went back to school and finished my BA, I work full time and support myself completely. These things would never be possible without kratom. I owe it my life. It would be criminal to deprive Virginians of this essential plant. My story is not an isolated occurrence. There are so many who have gone through the same thing. Please protect kratom, support Virginians and their choices for their own health and wellbeing. Protecting kratom protects them.

CommentID: **224654**

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:37 pm

Support the control of Kratom

As healthcare providers, we believe in proactively addressing issues that compromise community health, advocating for Kratom's classification to uphold our ethical standards

CommentID: **224655**

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:38 pm

We must classify it as a Schedule I substance

Kratom acts like an opioid and has been linked to numerous overdose deaths. We must classify it as a Schedule I substance to protect our communities from its harmful effects

CommentID: **224656**

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:40 pm

Let's support the petition to ensure consumer safety

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

In 2022, the FDA admitted they could not trace the manufacturing or production information of kratom products, highlighting the need for stricter regulation. Let's support the petition to ensure consumer safety.

CommentID: 224657

Commenter: Roxanne

6/4/24 9:40 pm

Please don't destroy the lives of so many who have gotten clean and sober with kratom!

Kratom is a game changer for people struggling with addiction that want to get better and take control of their lives. Please don't take away a valuable resource that has helped so many people make positive changes. Kratom is not destroying families. It helps so many, myself included.

CommentID: 224659

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:40 pm

Poison control data from 2022 showed 1,278 cases involving kratom

Poison control data from 2022 showed 1,278 cases involving kratom, with 586 requiring treatment in healthcare facilities. This increase from 682 cases in 2017 demonstrates the growing danger of kratom use

CommentID: 224660

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:41 pm

We need to classify kratom as a Schedule I substance

Kratom products lack warnings about drug interactions and medical conditions, including pregnancy, which has been linked to neonatal abstinence syndrome. We need to classify kratom as a Schedule I substance to protect vulnerable populations

CommentID: 224661

Commenter: Carol Erhardt

6/4/24 9:41 pm

Kratom saved my life as an RN

I used kratom for horrible arthritis pain and after double knee replacements. I was crippled and now I can care for patients again. Kratom saved me from using dangerous opiates for pain so I could walk again. Research kratom DON'T ban it!

CommentID: 224662

Commenter: Julie

6/4/24 9:41 pm

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

4877750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Keep Kratom legal. Learn the science, not the rumors

Keep kratom legal

CommentID: 224663

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:41 pm

Kratom saves lives

Rebecca F

I have been a chronic pain sufferer for two decades. Before I found Kratom I was prescribed three different opioids for pain management. I was in so much pain I often couldn't do my day to day tasks or even work. Using Kratom got me off of all those pain meds. I also have Lyme disease and life is unbearable without it. This plant saves lives and the fact that people want to take it from people that need it to live their lives is shameful. There are plenty of dangerous drugs out there to go after. Leave Kratom alone!

CommentID: 224664

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:42 pm

Let's support the petition to prevent further harm

The FDA's Public Health Assessment via Structural Evaluation (PHASE) methodology found no evidence that kratom is safe or effective for any medical use. Let's support the petition to prevent further harm

CommentID: 224665

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:44 pm

follow suit and classify kratom as a Schedule I

Kratom is a controlled substance in 16 countries, including Thailand and Malaysia, where it is found naturally. It's time for the U.S. to follow suit and classify kratom as a Schedule I substance

CommentID: 224666

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:44 pm

Kratom saved me

This plant has made it so I can live my life, spend quality time with my children and work. Without it my quality of life would be diminished vastly. Please don't make a vast amount of people suffer for no reason. Regulation is needed not banning it outright.

CommentID: 224667

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:45 pm

support the petition

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

488/750

The DEA has listed kratom as a Drug and Chemical of Concern, and the FDA has an import alert to block kratom shipments. We must support the petition to ensure these measures are enforced

CommentID: 224668

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:46 pm

support the petition to classify kratom as a Schedule I substance

The American Kratom Association has aggressively defended kratom use, often exaggerating its benefits and downplaying its risks. Let's stand up for public health and support the petition to classify kratom as a Schedule I substance

CommentID: 224669

Commenter: Michael D Dombrowski

6/4/24 9:47 pm

Regulate not criminalize to satisfy big pharma

16 years consuming this plant in its natural form without incident. Retired LEO and supporter of regulation not criminalization. There is zero evidence in its natural form Kratom causes any negative aspects. Yes making it an 80% extract by volume could cause issues so regulate it. Nothing over a 26% extract should be allowed. The science stands behind it.

CommentID: 224670

Commenter: Drew B

6/4/24 9:47 pm

Kratom is a miracle plant

Making kratom schedule 1 would hurt so many people. It is a miracle plant that God gave us. It has helped my family, friends and myself. It is so much safer than man made pharmaceuticals. Thank you

CommentID: 224671

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:47 pm

Kratom-related deaths

Kratom-related deaths have been blamed on consumer irresponsibility, a tactic similar to that used by Purdue Pharma to defend OxyContin. We must not let history repeat itself—support the petition to classify kratom as a Schedule I substance

CommentID: 224672

Commenter: Amy

6/4/24 9:47 pm

Keep legal

Kratom saved my life

CommentID: 224673

Commenter: Jeremiah

6/4/24 9:49 pm

Kratom saves!!

Kratom save lives!!

CommentID: 224674

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:50 pm

Harm

Understand, you will be harming thousands of people by scheduling kratom as they will need to look to other avenues (which could be considerably more dangerous and harmful) to treat their needs. My heart goes out to those who have suffered from using Kratom, but the mass majority of people have been very successful at using this plant responsibly and safely while experiencing incredible benefits that have ultimately improved the quality of their lives. The harm will substantially outweigh the good.

CommentID: 224675

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:50 pm

Kratom has no accepted medical use in treatment

Kratom has no accepted medical use in treatment, fulfilling one of the criteria for Schedule I classification

CommentID: 224676

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:51 pm

Support this petition - lack of FDA approval

There is a lack of FDA approval and regulation for kratom, raising concerns about its safety and efficacy.

CommentID: 224677

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:52 pm

dangerous, unpredictable interactions with Kratom

The combination of kratom with other substances can result in dangerous, unpredictable interactions

CommentID: 224678

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 9:53 pm

Kratom is harmless when takemed responsibly



I have been taking kratom for 20 years now, safely. I have never overdosed or had any adverse reactions. It has helped me overcome severe addictions and manage my pain. I am a productive member of society and have maintained the same job for 20 years while using kratom. I am not an opioid addict or a criminal. Kratom has saved many lives, and there are people worse off than me who genuinely need it. So please, don't ban kratom.

CommentID: 224679

Commenter: Matt Frank

6/4/24 9:57 pm

I got my life back because of Kratom. Don't take it away!

I was bedridden for years due to nerve damage that occurred when I took an antibiotic that was prescribed by my doctor. In 5 days my life was forever changed. I went from an energetic and happy young father and husband to an invalid unable to do even the most basic tasks due to my pain. I was muted and nearly killed by massive amounts of opioids and other medications prescribed to me (which I never once abused or took more than prescribed) and yet I stopped breathing multiple times in 2 years. I finally decided to stop the madness and detoxed from the medications without any intervention and after being off of them for about a month someone introduced me to kratom. On the very first serving I had immediate and 100% pain relief from the pain that is always present 24/7, 365. Fast forward 12 years later, I have used it every single day since that day and I am perfectly healthy, all my organs are in great condition, I have an abundant life, got my black belt in karate, and started a multi million dollar business. Without kratom, I would not be here today. And I help others now by showing them how it can help them and I've seen over 2,100 people personally that I've spoken to find a better quality of life, freedom from pain, and freedom from addiction to pills or illicit drugs.

Taking away kratom is absurd. It goes against every single piece of science that has been performed on it; it violates the already passed Kratom Consumer Protection Act passed in Virginia, and it will send hundreds of thousands of Virginians citizens into immediate harm because they will have to find an alternative to their natural medicine which will send many back to the streets for illicit drugs, or people taking their lives because they lost hope, or people losing jobs and becoming invalids again. This cannot happen.

CommentID: 224680

Commenter: Bill Kalleward jr

6/4/24 9:57 pm

Kra5im saves lives

Kra5im saves lives. Banning plant medicine is dangerous and tyrannical. Its pathetic that this needs to be said. It's not a drug. Leave it alone. It's in the coffee family, acts similar to coffee, but has pain killing and antianxiety properties. It's also helped thousands quit drugs and alcohol.

CommentID: 224681

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:00 pm

Support this petition - if Kratom is just a plant, then so is Foxglove

Why can't we let people make gummy bears out of Foxglove and invite the people of the Commonwealth to treat their heart failure at the gas station.

CommentID: 224682

Commenter: Cheyenne - Kratom Protector

6/4/24 10:00 pm

Liquor, Cigarettes, Pharmacy passing out POISON for cash. Toxic food, water & air.

All of these things are fine. People dying ALL DAY EVERY DAY over all of the above. But KRATOM takes the hits? Kratom which provides an alternative to dying as a pawn in the opioid epidemic that was started by the same people who are attacking Kratom now. Kratom which provides sleep to the insomniac who can no longer react to sleep aids because they have taken them most of their lives. Kratom who saves a brother, sister, father, mother or CHILD from overdosing because their tolerance was out of reach and the government and doctors who got them to that point turned their heads. Kratom which provides an alternative to funneling gallons of caffeine and chemicals into your system when you're so dead beat tired from working 40+ hours just to afford POISONOUS food to put on the table for your family. Kratom which BALANCES the hormones thrown off by EVERYTHING in our environment (which causes hundreds of health conditions and diseases in the long run). Kratom which medicinally served traditional cultures for HUNDREDS of years before greedy Americans exploited it for quick cash and young weak minded idiots decided to chase extracts for a buzz (nevermind the fact of multiple other illicit and illegal substances in their system). Kratom which has a BUILT IN SAFETY MECHANISM to prevent overdosing. Have you had too much Kratom before? Newsflash if you take too much YOU WILL NATURALLY VOMIT. The beautiful leaves of this magnificent tree protect it's consumers from ingesting a dangerous level. Kratom has HEALED, CURED, RELIEVED, ASSISTED, PROVIDED, PREVENTED and SUPPORTED hundreds of thousands of people in this country alone for years. Kratom is NOT what your government needs to be going after with their time or YOUR money. Open your eyes people, the true reason for attacking Kratom has NEVER been about protecting any one of you. The only reason for this is because KRATOM WORKS. KRATOM HEALS. KRATOM IS BOTANICAL MEDICINE and at the very bottom of it, the only reason they want it criminalized anywhere is because it THREATENS THEIR PHARMACEUTICAL MONOPOLY and control over what you are allowed to use to fix your own bodies that they are FARMING like cattle through a shower of harmful toxins, poisons and chemicals from every angle. And furthermore here lies a fresh greedy MONEY GRAB where they can profit from locking you up if you refuse to comply. It is SICK and millions of us see it for what it is. Tell the government to focus on something that ACTUALLY needs their focus and DESERVES your hard earned tax payer dollars. How's that opioid epidemic looking Virginia? You have it under control yet? No? Then WHY BAN SOMETHING THAT CAN NATURALLY HELP YOUR CITIZENS HELP THEMSELVES???

CommentID: 224683

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:01 pm

Kratom Induced Seizures

"

Taking Kratom Claimed Her Son's Life. Now She and Others Are Warning of the Dangers"

<https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2023-08-03/taking-kratom-claimed-her-sons-life-now-she-and-others-are-warning-of-the-dangers>

CommentID: 224684

Commenter: Anette

6/4/24 10:03 pm

Kratom gave me my active and pain free life back.

Due to a bad accident and autoimmune issues I have very severe arthritis. Six years ago I was told I needed a hip replacement. Being an avid runner this was devastating news. I was told to alternate Ibuprofen and Tylenol. Ibuprofen affected my kidneys very negatively and my kidney function experienced a significant decline plus I got gastritis. Holding off on a hip replacement (I am still relatively young) I was put on opioids. Every month I had to have a visit with the pain doctor paying my copay and getting drug tested to get my prescription. This was expensive and time consuming. I experienced many side-effects from the opioids like constipation and the same dose quickly was no longer effective. This is when I watched the movie "A Leaf of Faith" and discovered Kratom. I am trained in the medical field and always research extensively what I put in my body. Long story short: with help of Kratom I am now off opioids for 4.5 years. I also take turmeric and eat an anti-inflammatory diet. I am back to running and am mostly pain free with a small dose of Kratom. I only buy Kratom from vendors listed on the AKA website and only use the ground leaf, just the way nature made it. I am active again. Most exciting is that my last MRI showed an improvement of my hip arthritis from severe to moderate. If Kratom were banned I do not know what I would do. I can't go back to ruining my kidneys or liver with Ibuprofen or Tylenol. I do not want to get back on opioids or get a hip replacement. It would also be terrible for persons without health insurance. They likely would result to buying medication on the streets and opioid deaths would skyrocket even more. PLEASE do NOT make Kratom illegal. It is helping thousands of people. Please consider the research that has been done on Kratom and weigh this into the decision. I have not had a single adverse reaction. I never had to increase the dose. I can stop Kratom without problems when my pain is improved. Kratom has given me a pain free and active life back and I am very grateful.

CommentID: 224686

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:03 pm

Ban Kratom - Another 100% preventable Kratom death

"At 10 a.m. on the morning of March 25, 2017, Jolynn Hamilton found her son dead in his house on West Broadway in Lewistown, Montana."

<https://www.courthousenews.com/the-law-and-the-profits-inside-kratoms-political-underbelly/>

CommentID: 224687

Commenter: Emily

6/4/24 10:04 pm

Social Worker for Kratom

I was a social worker before staying home with my kids. I now homeschool our four children. Kratom has drastically changed my life for the better. It gives me relief from back pain and also helps me in so many other ways without altering my ability to be present for, educate, and care for my children. It is nothing like illegal drugs and is certainly less scary than alcohol or even most legal prescription psychotropics. Do not take it away. It has given so many people their lives back.

CommentID: 224688

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:07 pm

Psychosis resulting from use of kratom - DEA Drug Fact Sheet

https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/Kratom-2020_0_.pdf

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

CommentID: 224689

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:10 pm

Please schedule kratom

I am a pharmacist in Virginia, unlike the majority of these commenters who are from out of state and are pouring in from reddit kratom and other subreddits. I will not leave my name in public for fear of doxxing and other harassment from these unhinged individuals. I urge the board of pharmacy to act in the best interest of the public. Kratom is dangerous and serves no medical purpose. Please review the NCAM, FDA and a PubMed search. Reading through these public comments is enough self evidence of how addictive and unhealthy this substance is. It also highlights how uninformed and misled the general public is about kratom, demonstrating the need to classify it as a schedule 1.

CommentID: 224690

Commenter: Concerned American

6/4/24 10:13 pm

What Kratom use got me...

Freedom. Kratom freed me from years of substance addiction and chronic pain. The same substances that are legal to take all over the country. The same chronic pain caused from working a job to support this country.

Kratom user since 2012. Zero negative effects whatsoever in that time. Never once. I've never been high from it. Or had withdrawals. Or been miserable if I didn't take some for a few days. But I definitely felt all of those things and much worse in active addiction to legal drugs from my doctor.

Do not criminalize one of America's only hopes for recovery. We are already lost enough. Do not take away our access to natural medicine.

CommentID: 224691

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:14 pm

Ban Kratom - Kratom added to DoD list of prohibited substances

Not good for the Department of Defense, not good for Virginians

<https://www.310sw.afrc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/2971659/kratom-added-to-dod-list-of-prohibited-substances/>

CommentID: 224692

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:17 pm

Make this Schedule I - The Food and Drug Administration urges consumers not to use it

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/07/26/well/mind/kratom-health-risks.html>

"The Food and Drug Administration urges consumers not to use it "because of the risk of serious adverse events," and the Drug Enforcement Administration has labeled kratom a "drug

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

and chemical of concern." Recently, a string of lawsuits have alleged that kratom consumption may have contributed to the deaths of several people."

CommentID: 224693

Commenter: Marie Halvorsen

6/4/24 10:18 pm

Kratom use for Ehlers Danlos patients

Kratom is the only thing that helps the pain associated with my Ehlers Danlos diagnosis. I began this journey using Vicodin and managed to quit that many years ago. I do not require daily pain meds, but when I need something to allow me to be active on bad pain days, this is my go to. Please do not take it away from those of us who need it.

CommentID: 224694

Commenter: Patrick

6/4/24 10:18 pm

This is rather embarrassing

Any intentions or attempts to criminalize Kratom is a strong indication of ignorance to the plethora of benefits and minimal risks associated with it. Someone could cause serious damage with countless other substances easily at reach and unquestioned. From Tylenol to alcohol, caffeine pills to pharmaceuticals, cigarettes, etc. If not ignorance, then why? The responsible approach is to put policies in place that protect consumers by enforcing lab tested adulterated products, and keep it out of the hands of kids. There are countless people, including myself who have benefited greatly from Kratom. I have OCD and it helps tremendously at very low doses. I've tried countless medicines which have all failed, some of which made me worse. Additionally, so many people have been able to put down opiates, whether prescribed or not, because of Kratom.

CommentID: 224695

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:20 pm

Kratom saved my life

Kratom saved me from a life of alcoholism. Others deserve the same right.

Banning kratom takes away options for some people, and would stimulate the black market, which would increase deaths.

CommentID: 224696

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:20 pm

Kratom has saved many lives.

Today there is not a single death that can be attributed to kratom leaf alone. The deaths that have occurred where the person had great a minimum also had numerous other judge or they were taking a bunch of extracts of kratom which are extremely potent and they weren't paying attention. We don't remove alcohol off the market because some people drink too much and kill people with their car. And nobody takes too much and kills people with their car when it comes to kratom. So many chronic pain patients have switch to kratom rather than using opioids and are much healthier because of it. They don't have to depend on an opioid and something that really messes the brain up at times. Those who are against kratom and say they have personal experience how bad it is

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have not used it responsibly at all. Just like people that die from taking too much tylenol. Again we're not going to take Tylenol off the market because some people chose to be irresponsible. Today they have no actual studies showing that it is harmful to us and instead there are many scientific studies showing how it is not harmful to us and instead very beneficial for many reasons. Right now we're having an opioid epidemic. People who are hooked on opiates need a way to get off of them but don't include a hardcore drug like methadone. They don't want to trade one for another hardcore drug. Kratom gives them that opportunity. They can use it sensibly yes they still go through withdrawals that don't feel great but at least they can manage through it and then they wean themselves off the kratom. That is much more responsible than taking methadone for the next 10 years, the other popular drug for getting off of heroin and fentanyl is actually quite horrible to try and win off. Many will not switch to Suboxone because of the fact that it's even worse to get off of than heroin alone or fentanyl alone was. Millions and millions of people in the United States use kratom daily for a variety of reasons and yet we don't see millions of people or even thousands of people dying from it. Removing liquor and liquor stores would do more for society than removing kratom would do. Kratom doesn't take lives it gives people their life back, those who are have chronic pain and have a hard time getting pain medicine or those who don't want opioids and then those that need to get off of you it's find relief with kratom. Many states have passed a kratom consumer act because they have seen the science and the science says it's safe!

CommentID: 224697

Commenter: Derek Fox

6/4/24 10:21 pm

Don't Schedule Kratom

Kratom shouldn't be scheduled, but many of us believe it should be made for 21 & up. It's helped me with chronic pain resulting from carpal tunnel syndrome and L5-S1 nerve pain as well as help a bit with my autism issues. I don't find that "it's addictive." I've taken the same dose for years, so I don't get these people saying it's addictive. I've gone off it cold turkey to show others its not addictive with no symptoms of withdrawal.

CommentID: 224698

Commenter: Not a "pharmacist" and neither are they.

6/4/24 10:23 pm

The KCPA is what we need.

Regulate, don't ban.

The lies from "pharmacists" are thick in this comment section. These are the same people who fill and recommend highly addictive chemical compounds, knowing the risk factors and debilitating side effects and potential for addiction.

The KCPA will regulate Kratom to keep it all natural and unadulterated. That means no additives. Kratom isn't hurting anyone. Gas station nobody brands that slap the title of Kratom on a bottle of dangerous unknown substances are the only dangers in the topic of Kratom. All brands and products should be lab tested and certified. All companies should stand by what the manufacture and distribute. The KCPA will do this.

KCPA not Criminalization.

The safety of Kratom is backed by science. The Kratom hate is founded in lies and propaganda.

CommentID: 224699

Commenter: Elaina

6/4/24 10:23 pm

Kratom saved ne from addiction

I suffer with chronic pain and Kratom is my godsend relief. I had an addiction to painkillers in the 80s I don't want to go back to that. And I don't want to go back to that nagging teasing Feeling by taking painkillers when the addiction kicks in and wants more and more, no I'm not doing it. Keep Kratom free.

CommentID: 224700

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:23 pm

Protect Virginia from kratom-related death, please place into Schedule I

<https://ascp.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cfs.13505>

"The observed/reported number of kratom-related accidental death reports was 63-fold greater than expected "

CommentID: 224701

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:27 pm

Pain patients need access

I'm a chronic pain & illness sufferer for nearly 30 years. Careful use of small amounts of Kratom have given me back some of my life.

Kratom can turn the low & medium grade sick/ pain days into productive or creative mornings.

It turns mornings of tears, excruciating pain, feelings of uselessness into a few hours you can breathe through. Something that is possible & not torture. it's the only thing I've found that actually lifts brain fog for a time. It also helps me gently exercise my body so I can move better. Some days it helps me wash & dress my body when I otherwise could not. Many of those I know with chronic illness & pain are sensitive or intolerant to many stronger pharmaceuticals. Those that aren't & need them are no longer able to access them. My doctors have seen the difference in me & test my liver & kidneys regularly. Careful use of this plant as medicine are possible & necessary to many of us. As less medicinal options are available to the chronic pain communities, depression, isolation, & suicide will rise. Please consider those of us who intentionally use this medicine to claim what we can of our lives back. The thought of returning to daily hell levels of pain is horrifying. Thank you.

CommentID: 224703

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:30 pm

Absolutely ridiculous. Keep it legal

Just more Bs from big pharma, keep it legal and let individuals decide

CommentID: 224704

Commenter: Garrett P.

6/4/24 10:30 pm

Reasonable regulation NOT criminalization

2533

As it stands even now, I believe Kratom is a net positive in society. As a long term (year+) user I submit to you that it has helped me tremendously in many ways. Were it reasonably regulated I believe it would provide an even greater benefit to the individual and society.

Scheduling Kratom would serve no greater purpose than going into any GNC store or natural foods store supplement aisle and criminalizing the products on those shelves. What we see instead are shelves of WELL REGULATED products serving a purpose all while having the potential for misuse.

I see no reason for the Commonwealth to infringe upon the right of its citizens to choose for themselves this product, Kratom. At the same time I believe our elected representatives have a duty to explore every avenue for ensuring safety of the consumers and accountability of those selling/distributing.

Criminalization would be a harmful overcorrection with the societal net negative greater than the current net positive.

As a final point, I strongly consider the comments promoting scheduling to be largely ignorant, shortsighted, and based out of fear of the unknown. I have little doubt that financially motivated propaganda is to blame for opponents of Kratom use.

May we all be more educated and leave the right to consume this plant in the hands of the individual not the state.

CommentID: 224705

Commenter: Devan

6/4/24 10:31 pm

Kratom helped save my life

I was destroying my life with pain pills. Not going into any details but it helped me get out of my bad habits and helps others when used responsibly. Anything at a high amount can be harmful. This would force people with addictions to either go back to what they were doing beforehand. Kratom leaf can not be abused alone. Pure leaf/leaf powder alone will make you puke it back up if you accidentally take too much. Regulation is the key. It's a win win

CommentID: 224706

Commenter: Adult

6/4/24 10:32 pm

Dictatorship

It is quite frankly none of the governments business what I take for relief when they contribute so much to all of our suffering and misery. Let them eat cake sums it right up. Working America suffers so gold plated government slobbs can tell us what we can and cannot do with our own lives and bodies. My body my choice, remember? Where is all of that ferocity in this? Seriously Kratom saves lives. What is to be gained for US from criminalizing plants? Did we learn nothing from Marijuana criminalization?

CommentID: 224707

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:34 pm

Please do not schedule Kratom

Kratom has literally saved my life from going downwards. It is something that I truly respect and will continue to do so. My family will also agree with me that Kratom has been a positive aspect of my life. Please do not schedule this wonderful plant.

CommentID: 224708

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:35 pm

CDC Reports 152 kratom positive overdose deaths, in 2022, the number is 909. Please schedule

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/wrr/mm6814a2.htm>

<https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/data-research/facts-stats/sudors-dashboard-fatal-overdose-data.html>

CommentID: 224709

Commenter: Greg C

6/4/24 10:35 pm

I've been taking Kratom for over 7 years and it has helped me in so many ways...

Please do not make Kratom a schedule 1 drug. I'm not going to go into details, but I've been an almost daily user of kratom for many years with no ill effects whatsoever. I'm just a regular guy with a wife and dogs who loves life and my family. I foster dogs for rescues. I volunteer at my local library when I'm not working at my regular job. I don't drink or do drugs. Kratom puts me in a good mood and helps greatly with my depression. Please don't take it away from me. Thank you for your time.

CommentID: 224710

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:37 pm

Kratom schedule I

In a statement from April 2022, the FDA warned the public against using kratom, or *Mitragyna speciosa*, which is the scientific name for the plant, saying that the substance "affects the same opioid brain receptors as morphine" and that it appears to have "properties that expose users to the risks of addiction, abuse, and dependence."

In 2016, the Drug Enforcement Administration moved to classify kratom as a Schedule 1 drug, meaning it has no medical uses and has a high potential for abuse, but reversed course after public outcry. This decision needs to be reversed and reclassified as schedule I.

CommentID: 224711

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:37 pm

Classifying it as Schedule I will help mitigate risks



Kratom has opioid-like effects that can lead to addiction and dependency. Classifying it as Schedule I will help mitigate these risks.

CommentID: 224712

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:38 pm

the need for Schedule I regulation

Poison control centers report increasing cases of kratom-related toxicity. This trend underscores the need for Schedule I regulation

CommentID: 224713

Commenter: Justin

6/4/24 10:38 pm

Protect kratom

Kratom has helped me a lot and made my life much more tolerable. It is not a drug so it shouldn't be on here.

CommentID: 224714

Commenter: Ella

6/4/24 10:38 pm

BAN/Schedule Kratom!!

Kratom is an addictive drug. Due to the rise in popularity and incorrect facts, people take it as an alternative to opioids. The biggest problem is that it triggers the exact same receptors, thus causing the same effects and the same likelihood of addiction and dependence. Those who claim Kratom is a lifesaver, are afraid of Kratom being banned because they are addicted and do not want the law banning/scheduling. Those who were addicted and had to detox, had loved ones die from overdose, or have loved ones addicted currently will vote to ban/schedule. please consider scheduling/banning Kratom.

CommentID: 224715

Commenter: Dan

6/4/24 10:40 pm

Just safe herbal tea

This is herbal tea that helps people, this tea can't hurt anyone just listen to the science. All the false stories are made up because they want us taking their pills. Anything sold will bring fraud suppliers with bad product that's just common sense. That is why we have the AKA

CommentID: 224716

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:43 pm

Kratom

I am responsible Kratom user for the past 5 years since the CDC pushed their opioid agenda and pushed Drs to stop prescribing opioids for chronic pain even though I was on a stable dose for 10

years. Thank goodness I found Kratom! It helps me with my chronic 24/7 pain. If I didn't have Kratom I honestly don't know what I'd do. There is always going to be people who abuse.... but abusing Kratom brings on vomiting. There's no way a person can overdose on Kratom. Changing the status of this herb to controlled will cause much more harm than good. I'm not sure that what you think this will accomplish but I can say it's going to do more harm. How many will go to the streets to get pain relief we can no longer get?

CommentID: 224717

Commenter: Matthew McHolland

Protect Kratom

Kratom is not a synthetic substance. Naturally, occurring Kratom is a safe herbal that behaves as a partial mu-opioid receptor agonist and is used for pain management, energy, even depression and anxiety that are common among Americans. Kratom contains no opiates, but it does [lightly] bind to the same receptor sites in the brain. Chocolate, coffee, exercise, [cheese] and even human breast milk hit these receptor sites in a similar fashion.” The reality is that the potential for abuse exists with countless legal things including coffee, other herbal teas, alcohol, toxic energy drinks like Redbull and Monster, cigarettes, junk food, sugar, and sodas. According to Jack E. Henningfield, Ph.D., Vice President for Research, Health Policy and Abuse Liability, and Professor of Behavioral Biology at John Hopkins University, kratom physiological effects are more related to coffee than anything else and “kratom is more likely a path away from opioids than a path to opioids.”

CommentID: 224718

Commenter: Tiffany

Kratom saved my life

Kratom gave me back my life after years of addiction and depression

CommentID: 224719

Commenter: Anonymous

The lack of standardized dosing for kratom increases the risk of overdose

The lack of standardized dosing for kratom increases the risk of overdose. A Schedule I designation will address this significant safety concern

CommentID: 224720

Commenter: Anonymous

Schedule I classification will help control its misuse

The risk of addiction and abuse outweighs any potential benefits of kratom. Schedule I classification will help control its misuse.

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

5017750

CommentID: 224721

Commenter: Nicole Mc.

Please Dont Make Kratom a Schedule 1 Substance!

Please don't make Kratom a Schedule 1 !!!!

I am a professional with a Masters degree & am well respected in my field. I suffer from chronic neuropathy. Kratom helps control my pain. Equally as important, after finding Kratom, I discovered that it completely curbs my craving for alcohol. Kratom allows me to function clear headed and at maximum capacity. I have been utilizing Kratom for over 7 years with no issues. I'm nearly 61 years old and I'm healthier than I've ever been thanks to Kratom.

Please don't make Kratom a schedule 1 substance!

CommentID: 224722

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom use has been linked to kidney failure and severe organ damage

Kratom use has been linked to kidney failure and severe organ damage. Schedule I classification will help prevent such serious health issues

<https://www.fda.gov/media/169066/download>

CommentID: 224723

Commenter: Anonymous

Schedule I classification will benefit public health

Classifying kratom as a Schedule I drug will help deter its recreational use. This will benefit public health.

CommentID: 224724

Commenter: Elizabeth Treasure

I oppose this petition

I oppose the petition on Kratom. I have suffered from chronic pain for past 10yrs due to an on the job injury while working as a nursing tech. At age 33 my 15yr career was over and my dreams of furthering myself in the healthcare field was destroyed. I was also a single mother caring for two young children and since I could no longer work due to pain financial hardship was looming over my head. I eventually started seeing a doctor who prescribed me pain medication that helped me to be able to function better and I was then able to begin working again on part time with the option of more hours when capable then after a few years the DEA & CDC swooped in with their MME guidelines and began shutting down doctors whom prescribed options. My doctor was put under the microscope and unable to prescribe medications and then shut down, medications were stopped immediately and without warning, medications that helped myself and so many others live mostly pain free and productive lives. I was left to suffer through horrible withdrawal symptoms with no medical help that lasted over 2 months. I was on the verge of ending my life as I was in horrible pain and unable to function, and again I was left unable to work or be a mother to my children. I

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

5027750

also developed Restless Leg Syndrome during this time which was the icing on the cake. I then found Kratom and started taking it and was able to get back to being a functional human being and a present parent, the suicidal thoughts left and I was able to start my own business, pay off debt and I became a first time home owner. I was eventually able to find and get in with another doctor who until this day has been providing treatment for my issues with chronic pain. I no longer use Kratom and was never addicted or experienced ill side effects but I'm so thankful to have had access to it as it literally saved my life and made it better. I know so many people who have been able to overcome serious drug addiction with the help of Kratom and they are now living happy healthy lives. The only reason I can see why anyone would want to criminalize Kratom is because it's competition to the pharmaceutical companies. In this day and age people still go without insurance and the ones that do have it do not get treated properly so why take away and criminalize something that helps people who so desperately need it?

CommentID: 224725

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 10:58 pm

A former Kratom user

My journey with Kratom has been ongoing since 2018. I've seen myself fall apart little by little. I wanted to stop but never had that real drive or sense of urgency to do so. Within the last 3 years I noticed more and more dizziness, headaches, mood swings. I believed these all to be normal side effects equivalent to opioids.

Fast forward to the past 8 months. One night my face on the right side went numb and I had a panic attack. I actually thought I was having a stroke. That moment is when I really started to question how "clean" and safe is this natural herb? I'm now experiencing hot flashes, dizziness so bad that I would have to close my eyes, and vision impairment. So I came to a revelation that I cannot live like this anymore. Especially hearing that a Kratom manufacturer stated 2 GRAMS is a safe dose...2 GRAMS!!!! I was taking up to 12!!! Most bottles or bags do not disclose a healthy dose which leaves people clueless on how much to ingest.

I've never seen that disclaimer in a Kratom bottle or even a warning, not to exceed 2 grams or I would have thought more before taking it. Yesterday was my last dose of 1 gram. My hot flashes have subsided by 70% and I still have a little bit of dizziness since the tapering.

I'm excited to see how the rest of my body will adjust in a healthy way but scared of what Kratom may have already damaged. I don't think this is a natural clean herb. I know it has helped many but has also hurt many. Hopefully something can be done that meets in the middle, where it won't hurt anyone else.

Thank you for your time.

CommentID: 224726

Commenter: Rebecca Robinson

6/4/24 11:00 pm

Keep Kratom obtainable

Where do I begin? I have severe RA. I can't take pain medication because, well, that's against the law too. I had to quit my job due to excruciating pain. I was literally using a bedside potty chair. My rheumatologist told me about Kratom and that has been the ONLY thing to help me tremendously. I am working full time again. This does not get you high!!! Quite the opposite. I understand about the

money grab for pharmaceutical but, can yall just let one natural thing be legal that doesn't get you high?!!?

CommentID: 224727

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:02 pm

Kratom Linked to Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30404789/#:~:text=Its%20use%20is%20increasing%20in,to%20Kratom%20use%20during%20pregnancy.>

Kratom use during pregnancy poses risks to both mother and fetus. Schedule I classification will help mitigate these dangers.

CommentID: 224728

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:04 pm

Kratom can exacerbate mental health conditions. Classifying it as Schedule I will help protect

Kratom can exacerbate existing mental health conditions. Classifying it as Schedule I will help protect vulnerable individuals.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37942896/#:~:text=Significant%20association%20was%20found%20between,in%20individuals%20with%20psychiatric%20conditions.>

CommentID: 224729

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:07 pm

high potential for kratom misuse in self-medicating pain. Schedule I classification needed

case of a 32-year-old man with a history of kratom use who became acutely ill with a brief prodromal illness, followed by jaundice and elevated liver enzymes

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5998276/>

CommentID: 224730

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:09 pm

Support Schedule I - The FDA's language gets right to the point

"The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is warning consumers not to use *Mitragyna speciosa*, commonly known as kratom, a plant which grows naturally in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea. FDA is concerned that kratom, which affects the same opioid brain receptors as morphine, appears to have properties that expose users to the risks of addiction, abuse, and dependence."

CommentID: 224731

Commenter: Charles Wells

6/4/24 11:20 pm

Please be aware of the benefits of kratom

I only wish you could see what this plant/tea does for my wife. She is a cpp who unfortunately fell into addiction after the doctor prescribed medications were mismanaged and improper care was given. As a result, she was limited to what she could take for relief. She was introduced to kratom at 44 years old, and it has changed her life, and our families lives drastically for the better! Please don't take that from other families! Fight for regulation and educate yourselves on the truth!

CommentID: 224732

Commenter: LL

6/4/24 11:22 pm

Banning Kratom would be a huge mistake

Virginia, you can do better than this. What are the motives of the people that want to ban kratom? What do they have to gain? Have you fact checked the information the proponents of this absurd appeal are giving you? If you really want to ban something that has been proven time and time again to be dangerous (not just those that use it but also to those that don't) then ban alcohol! You think *that's* a preposterous suggestion? Well NO ONE is killing anyone because they took kratom and drove, NO ONE is overdosing on kratom, NO ONE is stealing to support their kratom usage, NO ONE is breaking into cars, homes, businesses, etc., just because they want a dose of kratom. NO one is neglecting their children, their families or themselves because they re intoxicated on kratom. NO ONE is beating their spouse or partner because they drank too much kratom and got abusive. NO ONE gets intoxicated and unable to control their behavior because they take kratom. And yet alcohol causes all of these things and so much more to happen every single day- all over the country AND Virginia. But no one is trying to ban alcohol. If you can just shrug your shoulders and say "oh well", knowing full well the harm that alcohol causes, then going after kratom is about as hypocritical, irrational and counterproductive as it can possibly get. Kratom has been helping people for thousands of years. It can safely help you sleep, safely help you reduce anxiety, safely help you treat pain, safely help you wake up and give you energy to tackle your day. The opiate epidemic isn't over, not by a long shot, and kratom is one of the few natural things that can help people to overcome an opiate addiction. Banning kratom wouldn't do anything to help Virginia but it sure would hurt a lot of innocent people. It would be a ridiculous waste of time, effort and money. You have enough on your plate right now to worry about Virginia, we all do. Focus on things that actually need your attention and leave kratom alone.

CommentID: 224733

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:27 pm

Kratom is 100% Safe for Pain Management

It has been proven that mitragynine does not recruit beta arrestin. There is 0% chance of respiratory depression or overdose from kratom alkaloids. Please follow the science and not hyperbolic news stories or ME findings from polysubstance abusers.

Kratom does not belong on schedule I. Over 1.5 million US citizens testify to it's medical use in managing moderate to severe pain conditions. The hastily adopted CDC opioid guidelines of 2016 left me and many Virginians with uncontrolled pain. Kratom is a safe and effective alternative to legal and illegal opioids. The last thing Va needs is more citizens turning to fentanyl because it's the only option left.

257

CommentID: 224734

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:27 pm

218 cases of mitragynine events entered into FDA Adverse Event Reporting System (FAERS) 2023

With drug abuse, drug interaction and death being the top 3 reported reactions. Schedule I classification will help prevent such serious health issues.

<https://fda.gov/sense/app/95239e26-e0be-42d9-a960-9a5f71c25ee/sheet/45beeb74-30ab-46be-8267-5756582633bd4/state/analysis>

CommentID: 224735

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:27 pm

Kratom is a cousin of the coffee plant

Kratom is a cousin of the coffee plant. It is a tea leaf. I have known people with debilitating chronic pain, who have become addicted to lethal, Dr prescribed pharmaceuticals, including fentanyl!

Drinking Kratom tea resulted in them quitting those lethal, life destroying drugs, including alcohol, & they have now become healthy, functional, physically active members of society. Please do not criminalize plants. Especially a tea leaf.

Also, I recommend reading the statistics on the mass amounts of people who have quit drinking alcohol and completely turned their lives around.

What about the scientists whose life work has been to study the kratom plant? I highly suggest reading their substantiated findings. Kratom saves lives! I think you need to talk to people directly, who have suffered from life threatening pain, myself included.

Please let Americans drink tea in peace. Thank You.

CommentID: 224736

Commenter: Andrew zane

6/4/24 11:27 pm

Absolute control?

What good would possibly co.me from this legislation? The answer is none. Although kratom may be a nasty habit, similar to drinking, tobacco, or caffeine overuse, I don't see what good banning these substances. But if you're gonna ban kratom atleast ban the more harmful substances like alcohol, which they did in the 20s, that turned out well. I can say from personal experience kratom is addictive and somewhat nasty habit. But also as human beings it is our right to choose what we put in our bodies, and all that criminalizing kratom is going to do is hurt people, so if your goal is to hurt people and make the world a worse place, I recommend criminalizing kratom, but not if you want to make the world a better place.

CommentID: 224737

Commenter: Craig Johnson

6/4/24 11:28 pm

PLEASE TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THAT ALMOST EVERY PERSON HERE THAT IS FOR SCHEDULING KRATOM IS ANONYMOUS!!

If they can't even put their name behind their comments while attempting to take something away from so many citizens and criminalize them, that should tell you something and it should be taken into account. This is a sham effort by a very small group of people for selfish reasons. Please listen to the huge amount of regular pro-kratom citizens who are pouring their hearts out to you and are putting their names behind it. Please don't punish these people for pursuing their own happiness. They're adults and should be able to choose what they want to do with their lives.

CommentID: 224738

Commenter: Gianna

6/4/24 11:30 pm

KRATOM AND KRATOM DERIVED PRODUCTS SHOULD BE ILLEGAL

Kratom is EXTREMELY ADDICTIVE

I don't care if it helps people get off other drugs that's called TRANSFERENCE! Trading one addiction for another IS NOT THE SOLUTION. Kratom acts upon a persons opioid receptors so this is basically a heroine tonic that is legal. WE ARE ALREADY EXPERIENCING A HUGE PROBLEM WITH OPIOIDS DO WE REALLY WANT TO DOUBLE DOWN AND ALLOW THIS TO BE SOLD IN CONVENIENCE STORES? Please dear GOD PLEASE I am so scared that this is going to turn into something of pandemic proportion if something isn't done NOW. BAN. ILLEGAL. Please!

CommentID: 224739

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:31 pm

How does prohibition of a proven medicinal plant help anybody in need ???

Whenever self-righteous politicians work to ban any proven medicinal plant that successfully treats what the psychiatric/industrial complex cannot , we must first ask ourselves " How does such a prohibition policy help anybody in need ???!! If these hacks really cared about mental health , they would ban SSRI s and Benzos ! Those are legal LEBOTOMIZERS .

CommentID: 224740

Commenter: Ash

6/4/24 11:31 pm

Don't ban kratom!

I got myself clean and sober, but with the help of kratom I stay sober. And I know the same is true for millions of Americans! I know ppl that use kratom for pain and after learning about the science of kratom I think its way better then throwing an opioid at them that they will probably get addicted to. That's how it happened for me. Thank you for your time??

CommentID: 224741

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:33 pm

Do Not support this

I do not support this petition.

CommentID: 224742

Commenter: Jessica

6/4/24 11:40 pm

DON'T BANI!!

Please, DON'T ban this PLANT!! It SAVED my life and thousands of others!!!!

CommentID: 224743

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:41 pm

Support this! 620 cases of death entered into FDA Adverse Events Reporting System

Mitragynine related adverse events totaled 1096 which includes 620 cases of death. Its unregulated status allows easy access and misuse. Schedule I classification is necessary to protect public health and reduce overdose incidents.

<https://fda.gov/sense/app/95239e26-e0be-42d9-a960-9a5f7f1c25ee/sheet/45beeb74-30ab-46be-8267-5756582633bd4/state/analysis>

CommentID: 224744

Commenter: Jess

6/4/24 11:41 pm

DONT BAN THIS PLANT!!

Don't ban this plant!!! It's saved so many's lives!!

CommentID: 224745

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:43 pm

Saved my life

Kratom has saved my life!! It has given me the freedom from taking potent narcotic pain medications daily that inebriate me.

CommentID: 224746

Commenter: Kevin

6/4/24 11:45 pm

Kratom only helps

Was in a car accident a couple years ago and still experience chronic back pain. Because of kratom, I no longer need alcohol and pain pills. Please use common sense and don't take this natural remedy away from many who need it.

CommentID: 224747

Commenter: Alex S.

6/4/24 11:46 pm

KRATOM SAVES LIVES!!

Honestly, this whole scheduling of Kratom is kind of ludicrous. To even suggest that this plant is as dangerous as methamphetamine or heroine is idiotic. Kratom cannot kill you, no matter how much you take. Is it psychoactive, yes, but barely so. An "overdose" of kratom will result in nausea, dizziness, and maybe vomiting. That is it. There is no respiratory depression, loss of consciousness, brain damage, or psychosis. Consider for one moment all of the opioid users who quit using said opioids with the help of Kratom. Now consider all of those opioid users who could have died in their addiction had they not found kratom. This number would likely be staggering. For me personally, Kratom has saved my life. I was an alcoholic, meth addict with a very lengthy criminal record. Since finding this miraculous plant, I have quit drinking, quit injecting methamphetamine, and more importantly-quit being a burden on society by committing crimes cause by alcohol/meth. I am now a productive member of society. I work, I contribute, I pay my bills/taxes, and I am content. Kratom has essentially cured my depression and manages my anxiety. To schedule kratom will force the people who have had their lives saved by this plant(such as myself)back onto to illicit drugs like heroine and fentanyl and perpetuate the cycle of crime and lawlessness that accompanies such addictions. To schedule Kratom, you are contributing to the very crisis you think you are trying to defeat. DONT KILL PEOPLE, DONT SCHEDULE KRATOM!

CommentID: 224748

Commenter: Vicat Lit

6/4/24 11:48 pm

Kratom is safer

In my extreme experience, kratom is safer to use, with fewer adverse effects on the body, than any medication out there. Intent is everything.

CommentID: 224749

Commenter: John

6/4/24 11:50 pm

Regulate all drugs like alcohol.

As you can see from the 108,000 American overdose deaths per year from unregulated drugs adulterated with Fentanyl, scheduling drugs does not reduce harm, nor stop or prevent use of any drugs.

The better option is to follow the path of alcohol and regulate commercial sales, supply, and distribution of all drugs in the same manner.

There is no point in paying taxes to mandate people can only use the most dangerous forms of drugs -unregulated.

People are counting on you to protect the youth from the harms of prohibition.

CommentID: 224750

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:54 pm

No
259

Kratom saves lives. Can we please stop trying to criminalize nature? It's absurd. Thank you for listening to the people who have turned their lives around for the better.

CommentID: 224751

Commenter: Sherri M

6/4/24 11:55 pm

Do not schedule kratom

Kratom is helping so many people and many have used it safely for years. Some people can't handle the side effects of pharmaceutical drugs which have some severe side effects. Let the adults decide what works best for them. Alcohol causes more problems than kratom.

CommentID: 224752

Commenter: The chosen one

6/4/24 11:56 pm

Education not enforcement

Don't make a plant schedule 1

CommentID: 224753

Commenter: Kami Davis

6/4/24 11:57 pm

Oppose Kratom ban/scheduling

Hello, my name is Kami and I have been consuming and advocating for this plant known as Kratom for almost 7 years. It has changed my life for only the better. Kratom is helping millions of Americans to gain back the lives they lost to disability, chronic pain, and suffering. Please don't schedule Kratom. If you do you will be destroying millions of lives along with their families.

CommentID: 224754

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:58 pm

Kratom saves lives.

Ask someone suffering from crippling pain how kratom has helped them. If you really care.

CommentID: 224755

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:59 pm

Kratom is safe and keeps people off harder drugs.

This herb is safe unless like any other herb out there you take too much. All I'm gonna say is this if you wanna see Virginia get flooded out by Fentanyl keep it up because it will happen. This herb keeps people off harder drugs such as Heroin and Fentanyl.

CommentID: 224756

Commenter: Anonymous

6/4/24 11:59 pm

Support this petition. Emotional appeals not a substitute for peer reviewed studies.

The flood of comments does highlight a significant public interest in kratom's availability. However, public interest must be balanced with public safety. Emotional appeals and personal anecdotes about kratom's benefits do not substitute for rigorous, peer-reviewed, scientific research and a thorough understanding of a substance's pharmacology and toxicology

CommentID: 224757

Commenter: Jeremy blauss

Kratom saved my life

I've been using kratom for over 5 years and since I've started I've been able to get clean ive kept a job for over 4 years I believe it helps lives and shows should stay legal!

CommentID: 224758

6/5/24 12:00 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Passing the Kratom Consumer Protection Act is a much more worthy and informed option

We need to preserve access to the many health benefits of kratom, a botanical plant related to the coffee family. It is often consumed as a tea. It does not suppress breathing. Its active and extensive scientific research stands in contrast to reports that are often incomplete and sensationalized.

The American Kratom Association has a goal of securing legislation in all states for its KCPA (Kratom Consumer Protection Act) to industry-wide quality and safety regulations.

The kratomanswers.org website is also readily available as a wide-ranging source of concise and accurate scientific information.

The Federal Kratom Consumer Protection Act has been filed in both the House and Senate (S.3039 and H.R.5905) and is a bipartisan bill well worthy of cosponsoring beyond any effort given to scheduling.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter on behalf of your constituents and for all who deserve the opportunity to continue to receive every benefit from this botanical plant.

CommentID: 224759

Commenter: Lilly

Kratom saves lives.

Kratom saves lives and making it a schedule I drug means there is no medical purpose yet thousands of people have gotten off of heroin and other opiates using Kratom to manage withdrawal. Banning this medication goes against evidence based research and anecdotal testimonials. Regulate it like marijuana if you must but banning Kratom will mean so many people will go back to opiates. Let's research Kratom and fully understand its pharmacological effects instead of banning something people don't know anything about.

CommentID: 224760

6/5/24 12:06 am

Commenter: Kate

Stop banning natural plants

Here we go with another attack on another beneficial herbal remedy that clearly has helped and saved so many people. What's the point of this ban? It's not helping anyone, it would only harm the people who actively use this plant to better their lives. Stop banning nature.

CommentID: 224761

Commenter: Melanie Spiers

Kratom

I am a mother of 4 grown adults, now I'm also a grandmother of 2. 20 years ago I was hit by a truck, many surgeries, and many FDA approved opioids which I could not get off of without going to a rehab at 39 years old. I didn't ask for any of that. Finally, no more addiction, but left with pain! I've been using kratom to help ease pain so the OTC meds don't kill me, and it works. I'm clear minded, ZERO withdrawal, NO nasty side effects, but a lil constipation due to the plant matter. Lab tested for safety. Yes, but taking more of our freedoms away is very petty commonwealth!

CommentID: 224762

Commenter: Seppard

Kratom killed my son.

My son died from Kratom powder, it caused him to have a seizure, go into cardiac arrest and die. Matthew forever 22. #addictive #toxic #poisonplant #gasstationheroin

CommentID: 224763

6/5/24 12:10 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom saved me and other peoples lives

Kratom makes me love my life and helps me with everyday back pain. This plant is a life saver.

CommentID: 224764

6/5/24 12:11 am

Commenter: Teresa

Kratom caused my sister in law to go into a coma

My sister in law was using Kratom for anxiety then she ended up in ICU, in a coma and they called it Kratom poisoning.

CommentID: 224765

6/5/24 12:15 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Classifying kratom as a Schedule I drug will help deter its recreational us

6/5/24 12:20 am

Classifying kratom as a Schedule I drug will help deter its recreational use, reducing public health risks. This deterrence is crucial for preventing addiction and associated harms. Effective regulation is essential for ensuring public safety

CommentID: 224766

Commenter: R. Hall

6/5/24 12:21 am

Kratom saved my life.

Kratom saved my life. I have chronic, painful neuralgia, and I developed anxiety and depression trying to find relief, and doctors who would take me seriously. I was on 6 medications at one point, and was only finding about 50% relief, but was suffering dozens of side-effects. I was a non-functioning member of society--I couldn't work, couldn't enjoy my hobbies, in short, I couldn't participate in life. I was very close to calling it quits, and then I discovered kratom. I immediately found almost total relief from all my problems, and was able to stop all the medications that were mostly bringing me misery. I now have a beautiful family, am invested in my community, and have a wonderful job. I couldn't have imagined that 10 years ago, Kratom saved my life. Please do the research; it is not a schedule 1 substance; it helps people to reclaim their lives and become functioning members of society again; it is far, far less harmful than most prescription medications. Please don't make me into a criminal for taking control of my life, and finding relief from chronic illness. Please do the right thing and do not make kratom a schedule 1 substance.

Thank you.

CommentID: 224767

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 12:24 am

Kratom Linked to Liver Toxicity. Schedule I classification will address

Kratom's impact on liver function and potential for hepatotoxicity is a major concern, posing serious health risks. These risks highlight the need for stringent regulation. Schedule I classification will address these health risks and ensure safer use

LiverTox: Clinical and Research Information on Drug-Induced Liver Injury [Internet]. Bethesda (MD): National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases; 2012-. Kratom. [Updated 2020 Apr 3]. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK548231/>

CommentID: 224768

Commenter: Angela James

6/5/24 12:25 am

Please stop banning plants. Big pharmacy kills more people every year with opioids than this plant.

This plant was a life saver for me when I couldn't get medication for an infected tooth. It helped me function until I could get in to see a dentist to get an antibiotic prescription. I also suffer from chronic pain and it's helped me tremendously with mobility and quality of life. Please stop banning plants just so that big pharmaceuticals can turn around and find a way to profit off of its presence absence.

This plant is useful, and has health benefits, and it does not need to be regulated by the government. The government bans everything that's good for us, won't ban things that are killing

us, and all because someone else has money to gain from this becoming a law. Stop taking away our rights to live without having to pay everyone for literally everything.

CommentID: 224769

Commenter: Tim

6/5/24 12:26 am

No.

Kratom has saved countless lives from the hell of opiate addiction/abuse and you want to ban it because you can't patent it and profit heavily off it like you do with suboxone and methadone. Shame on you.

CommentID: 224770

Commenter: Jana bradshaw

6/5/24 12:27 am

Life without kratom

I'm 66 female with bad arthritis kratom calms my stiffness and pain in my hands and feet. Have taken for ten yrs without any problems

CommentID: 224771

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 12:29 am

Another case of acute liver injury involving kratom. Please schedule now

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0168827823003112?via%3Dihub>

Kratom needs strict regulation and warnings to consumers. Please place this substance into schedule I until the FDA agrees to regulate

CommentID: 224772

Commenter: Dawn Enders

6/5/24 12:30 am

Kratom is highly addictive...go to Reddit: "quittingkratom" over 40,000 people

Kratom is ruining lives.

CommentID: 224773

Commenter: Melissa B

6/5/24 12:30 am

Leave Kratom alone

To whom it may concern,

I do not support this petition. Please do not criminalize Kratom or any of the active ingredients within it. Let's not make the same mistake as we did with CBD, for which criminalization caused us to be decades behind the beneficial research that could have been completed already.

Respectfully,

6/6/24, 4:22 PM
Melissa B
CommentID: 224774

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 12:34 am

And another case of Kratom Acute Liver Injury. Please consider in your decision to classify as C1

https://journals.lww.com/acgcr/fulltext/2021/08000/multiorgan_dysfunction_related_to_kratom_ingestion.8.aspx

Khan, Muhammad Zarrar MD¹; Saleh, Mohammad Abou MD²; Alkhayat, Motasem MD¹; Roberts, Daniel E. MD³; Lindenmeyer, Christina C. MD². Multiorgan Dysfunction Related to Kratom Ingestion. ACG Case Reports Journal 8(8):p e00647, August 2021. | DOI: 10.14309/crj.00000000000000647

CommentID: 224775

Commenter: Bre

6/5/24 12:37 am

My brother died from Kratom, no other substances were found in his toxicology.

Please schedule this deadly substance and save others from living my hell of burying someone they can't live without!

CommentID: 224776

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 12:38 am

Fast food kills more people.

If we are going to go down this fascist authoritarian route of policing what people can and can't do then can we please ban sugar, fast food and junk food too while we are at it? I am sure there are a few hypocritical fat asses driving up our medical insurance cost that are supporting this ban.

CommentID: 224777

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 12:41 am

Ban junk food! According to WHO junk food kills 11 million a year

<https://www.cliniquebonpasteur.com/en/when-junk-food-kills-more-people-than-smoking-does/#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20WHO%2C%20junk,for%20more%20than%209%20milli> on.

CommentID: 224778

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 12:43 am

Case report of life threatening liver failure after kratom use

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

"Severe jaundice with life-threatening liver failure after Kratom use: Reversed by plasma exchange"

Amitava Dasgupta, Zhan Ye,

Severe jaundice with life-threatening liver failure after Kratom use: Reversed by plasma exchange, Transfusion and Apheresis Science, Volume 63, Issue 3, 2024, 103898, ISSN 1473-0502, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tranci.2024.103898>, (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1473050224000466>)

CommentID: 224779

Commenter: Michelle miller

6/5/24 12:46 am

Keep kratom legal. This leaf called kratom saved my son's life after his military career

My son came out of military addicted to so many pain pills that he couldn't function he was not able to be a father or husband. The pills were making him do insane horrible things. Once he found kratom he had lived a normal happy life for over 7 years now. No more pills from the dr. He is able to work and be a positive role model for his sons. Please don't take away this option for people

CommentID: 224780

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 12:50 am

The FDA very clear. Please read the import alert 54-15 below. Support Schedule I Classification

"Furthermore, based on FDA's review of the publicly available information regarding kratom, there does not appear to be a history of use or other evidence of safety establishing that kratom will reasonably be expected to be safe as a dietary ingredient."

https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/cms_ia/importalert_1137.html

CommentID: 224781

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 1:00 am

Do no support this! Kratom is not dangerous and helps so many people.

Kratom helps so many people.

CommentID: 224782

Commenter: Joe

6/5/24 1:06 am

Kratom Saves Lives

I vote against this petition. Kratom saves millions of lives every year.

CommentID: 224783

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 1:09 am

"Kratom ban pushed by Pa. parents of son who fatally OD'd on 'herbal heroin'"

<https://www.pennlive.com/daily-buzz/2019/04/kratom-ban-pushed-by-pa-parents-of-son-who-fatally-odd-on-herbal-heroin.html>

"The family of 25-year-old Caleb Sturgis, of West Chester, Pa., filed a wrongful death lawsuit against California-based SoCal Herbal Remedies, alleging Kratom killed their son in June, 2018. Now, they are seeking an all-out ban on the 'herbal heroin'"

CommentID: 224784

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 1:10 am

Do not ban Kratom

So, Marijuana is OK, Virginia, but Kratom is not? They are both plants that help people. Stop trying to take away chronic pain patients' life-lines. Kratom harms no one except people who abuse it. Guess what - people abuse tobacco, cigarettes and even food. Are these next?

CommentID: 224785

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 1:15 am

Family urges lawmakers to ban herb with addictive characteristics after son's death

"We received a call from the coroner that Ethan was found dead on the floor with his puppy Wilson by his side," Pope said. "Months later, we received his death certificate, and Ethan's cause of death was kratom toxicity."

<https://www.11alive.com/article/news/local/ethan-pope-family-kratom-lawsuit/85-4a300a5d-aceb-4753-b7f4-bbat500e5f46>

CommentID: 224786

Commenter: Brandon Belgard

6/5/24 1:17 am

Please consider ...

I'm a 43 yo husband who works a demanding job while struggling with chronic pain. Before Kratom I was taking opiates to treat my degenerative spinal condition, I was abruptly cut off from my prescription, which led me to being absolutely helpless and hopeless, needing antidepressants and anxiety meds just to get by day to day. They helped, but left me detached and unable to connect or feel anything. Thx to Kratom, almost 8 years of utilizing it, I'm almost 8 years pharmaceutical free, my pain lowered by 70-80%, and am able to work and be present for my family. This is an extremely beneficial herb, and if used responsibly, and long term and sustainable treatment for many conditions. I owe my success and ability for happiness due to Kratom. By scheduling Kratom, people like me will be at risk for a major dip in quality of life. Please consider all the good this leaf has given to millions of Americans. The small percentage that abuse strong extracts, should not reflect on the efficacy or benefits given to the rest of us. If we wanted to look at truly harmful substance with major health implications, we can look at tobacco

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<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

5177750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

and alcohol. Yet anyone of age can buy and consume. Kratom should and does have age restrictions, should be regulated for safety, and should remain accessible to responsible adults. Please consider ??

CommentID: 224787

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 1:18 am

"Family sues Kratom-makers after father, 43, collapsed and died while at the dinner table"

" He had been drinking Kratom mixed with orange juice shortly before he died"

Family sues Kratom-makers after father, 43, collapsed and died while at the dinner table in front of his wife and son while drinking orange juice mixed with store-bought supplement"

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11533751/Family-sues-Kratom-makers-father-dies-dinner-table.html>

CommentID: 224788

Commenter: Iris Lillie Fields

6/5/24 1:19 am

Kratom is not a dangerous drug

I wish to inform you that you have been misinformed about the nature of kratom. The term "lethal dose" really does not apply to kratom anymore than the "lethal dose" of water or salt. Yet too much of either of the latter two can kill you. I suppose one could choke to death on kratom or put their body into some kind of imbalance as with salt and water, but kratom does not cause an OD in the way heroin or opiates do.

I also wish to make it extremely clear to you, kratom does not cause a high or buzz the way drugs or alcohol causes it. It's more like the peaceful feeling you get when the herb st Johns wort takes the edge off your anxiety. It may give you a bit of energy in the same way coffee does which isn't surprising since kratom is related to coffee plant.

It is true that kratom reacts on the same receptors as heroin. That is a fact. Please recall chocolate reacts on the same receptors of the brain that sexual stimulus reacts on. I'm pretty sure you can tell the difference between having sex and eating chocolate.

One of the spectacular things about kratom triggering those opiate receptors, is it takes the extreme edge off of withdrawal when one tries to quit an opioid addiction, without the often fatal depressing of one's ability to breath. It's helped many people leave drugs behind. I have witnessed that personally with a dear friend.

I myself have never used drugs. I don't even drink coffee. But I started using kratom to cut down my use of over-the-counter pain pills such as Tylenol and ibuprofen. Both of those are bad for your liver, and kratom is not.

And yes you may say the FDA gave you that information, but I think if you did any research you would quickly find that the FDA is often used by the very powerful pharmaceutical companies to block the use of non profitable natural medical aids, while attempting to profit on the very same vilified herbs and natural products they attack. Check out the patents that have been taken out on the substances found in kratom.

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

518/750

Thank you for considering all sides.
Iris Lillie Fields

CommentID: 224789

Commenter: ANONYMOUS

Kratom saves lives

It seems if a substance helps pain that the government wants to ban it. Kratom is safer than Aleve, Ibuprofen and Tylenol. Those are dangerous to a person's liver and kidneys if not used correctly. Yet, these are legal. Keep Kratom legal for adults over the age of 18, at least. I don't need a baby-sitter. Thank you.

CommentID: 224790

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom saves lives

After a life filled with painful injuries from sports and tremendous trauma...Kratom has provided me with much needed relief from the pain (both mental and physical) It is a safe alternative to addictive medications. Safe consumption of Kratom has shown no negative blood tests proven by regular doctor visits. Please do not take such an amazing and life saving plant away from those who are responsibly using this to improve the quality of their life

CommentID: 224791

Commenter: Iris Fields

My kratom story

In 2007 my husband and I invited a young man, his wife and three children to live with us. They had hit a rough patch, he was unemployed, fresh out of jail having served time for non-support, and his wife was 8 1/2 months pregnant and couldn't work. They had no place to go. When he came to live with us we did not know he had a pill problem.

Overtime, child support was caught up, drivers license was reinstalled, and he had different jobs that were almost enough for he, his wife and his now four kids to move out. But success was always lost at the last minute.

Something would go wrong: the boss cheated him out of a paycheck, cheated him out of hours or he lost his wallet. We were just naive as to the obvious signs of drug addiction.

Then came the day he took me aside and told me he was again addicted to opiates (unbeknownst to me, he'd been through this before) and he was going to quit, but he needed help. To avoid watching him wither in the pain of withdrawal, there were times I would give him money and take him to meet his pill pushers, who usually turned out to be old ladies supplementing their Social Security.

Finally, he started on methadone which seemed like a godsend. But in reality methadone is no different than opiates or heroin, and he was soon abusing treatment. Again, we didn't recognize

what he was doing. Taking all his weekly doses at once For a GREAT Monday-Tuesday high, then followed by a sick in bed low, that he convinced us was a flu or side-effects of methadone. Suboxone was no better and withdrawl even worse than methadone.

When that behavior was figured out, and we were watching his "treatment" intake much closer, he began sneaking out and supplementing with pills. When that was discovered and his money was closely monitored, he began supplementing with meth, as that is much less expensive. Meth was pure hell, and when we later found out, all of us thought we had lost him.

Available rehab for uninsured people is nothing more than a dehumanizing group lock up that lets one suffer cold turkey in the most painful way imaginable. We couldn't do that to him, but if he ever got caught and put in jail, that's what he was facing.

He avoided that.

As the nature of methamphetamines goes, he went into a psychosis (the unknown meth usage was adding to this), being sure that the government was spying him, and all of us were against him. He started gathering large knives, talking of killing people he caught following him and generally was a very scary person.

It was during that time that in desperation I actually Googled "homeopathic cures for opiate addictions" (the meth usage was unknown at that time) and came across the term kratom.

It wasn't quite overnight, but he is now over six years opiate free. He and his wife and now five kids are living on their own, supported by his 40+ hours a week job in construction/home repairs. When he's straight, he's a very talented person.

He is still a regular user of kratom, and from what I have come to understand, it helps him with his underlying depression and gives him the energy that depression robs from a person.

By the way, if there were a way to get high on kratom, I firmly believe he would've found it and abused it. Kratom seriously just took away his cravings for opiates leaving him with the energy and will power to abstain from meth and have a good life.

I personally am not a regular user of kratom and would be fine if it were banned, although my kidneys would see an increase in the use of Ibuprofen. In spite of my wholehearted belief that kratom should not be rescheduled or reclassified as harmful in anyway, I would welcome purity test and quality rules.

I have seen the difference kratom makes, and I am a firm believer in the freedom of one's right to choose their own treatments.

I implore you to not ban or reschedule kratom.

Sincerely,

Iris Lillie Fields

CommentID: 224792

Commenter: Anonymous

Do not ban Kratom

As a frequent visitor to your state, I respectfully request that you reconsider scheduling Kratom. It is a perfectly safe herbal supplement that is worlds safer than alcohol. This would place Kratom on the same level as heroin, which is deadly and responsible for nearly 100,000 overdoses nationwide per year. The government quite frankly has no business scheduling a PLANT which millions of people take for medical and mental reasons.

6/5/24 1:28 am

CommentID: 224793

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 1:30 am

Support this petition - Poison control centers report increasing cases of kratom-related toxicity

Poison control centers report increasing cases of kratom-related toxicity, indicating a rising public health threat. The unregulated market for kratom products poses significant health risks. Schedule I classification will ensure better control and safety.

CommentID: 224794

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 1:39 am

Do not schedule kratom

Kratom has helped myself and many other got off pharmaceutical pain killers. Research it sure, but scheduling it would be a mistake.

CommentID: 224795

Commenter: Rachelle cowan

6/5/24 1:40 am

Please do not ban kratom

I visit Virginia quite often to see my family and I use kratom .

I have a movement disorder , tardive Akathisia, dystonia and dyskinesia.

kratom has saved my life. Are used to be a no points to control it. I never had a problem with being addicted to them but I hated the way they make me feel every day. Grandma has allowed me to sleep. He'll feel almost normal again. I struggled for 15 years before I started freedom. Please consider how many lives you're ruining by taking it off the market. God bless

Rachelle cowan

CommentID: 224796

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 1:42 am

Please classify as C1 - Kratom toxicity linked to seizures.

1. Burke DJ, Mahonski SG, Van Cott AC. Breakthrough Seizure Associated With Kratom Use in Patients With Epilepsy. *Neurol Clin Pract*. 2021 Feb;11(1):78-84. doi: 10.1212/CPJ.0000000000000846. PMID: 33968476; PMCID: PMC8101317.

2. Afzal H, Esang M, Rahman S. A Case of Kratom-induced Seizures. *Cureus*. 2020 Jan 7;12(1):e6588. doi: 10.7759/cureus.6588. PMID: 32051800; PMCID: PMC7001130.

Neisen, J.L., Lapoint, J., Hodgman, M.J. et al. Seizure and Coma Following Kratom (*Mitragynina* spiciosa Korth) Exposure. *J. Med. Toxicol.* **6**, 424–426 (2010). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13181-010-0079-5>

265

4. Afzal, Hasnain, Michael Esang and Sabreen Rahman. "A Case of Kratom-induced Seizures." *Cureus* 12 (2020): n. pag.

5. William O. Tatum, Tasneem F. Hasan, Erin E. Coonan, Christopher P. Smelick, Recurrent seizures from chronic kratom use, an atypical herbal opioid, *Epilepsy & Behavior Case Reports*, Volume 10, 2018, Pages 18-20, ISSN 2213-3232, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ebcr.2018.04.002>, (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S22133232183000306>)

CommentID: 224797

Commenter: Julie Smiley

6/5/24 1:42 am

Kratom is a good thing

7 years ago, mysgoulders started acting up on me. I needed 2 total shoulder replacements. But had to wait till it got worse before insurance would cover it. Dr. prescribed options, which I took for a few months but only at night. I am unable to fall asleep on my back, so some kind of pain relief was required. My Dr. retired, and the new clinic I went to won't prescribe narcotics. So after hearing from a friend about kratom, I started taking it. Only at night, occasionally a small dose during the day if my pain got bad. I've since had one shoulder replaced. I still take kratom to help me sleep, and for pain in the remaining shoulder, which has enabled me to keep working, and get the sleep I need. I skip a day or two once I awhile, with no withdrawal issues or cravings. If used correctly, it is quite beneficial.

CommentID: 224798

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 1:50 am

Support this petition. Just because it is a plant doesn't make it safe.

While it is true that kratom is a plant, this fact does not inherently make it safe for consumption or free from regulatory oversight. Many plants, such as tobacco and opium poppies, produce compounds that can have significant, and often harmful, effects on human health. Kratom contains active alkaloids, such as mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine, which have potent psychoactive and opioid-like properties. These compounds can lead to addiction, dependence, and severe health consequences, much like synthetic drugs.

Furthermore, the natural origin of kratom does not exempt it from the need for rigorous scientific evaluation and regulation. The lack of standardized dosing, potential for contamination, and inconsistent product quality in the unregulated market all pose significant risks to consumers. Ensuring public safety requires that all substances, whether natural or synthetic, undergo thorough testing to determine their safety, efficacy, and potential for abuse. Therefore, classifying kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance is a necessary step to protect public health and regulate its use appropriately.

CommentID: 224799

Commenter: Resident

6/5/24 1:52 am

Focus on helping others

By trying to pass legislation to put a ban on a plant that has been used safely for centuries in Indochina is outrageous and unlawful. This plant works to the populations benefit without even needing to alter it other than drying the leaves. This is the best option available for a persons pain management, depression, motivation and as an alternative to hard painkillers. To even try and make it schedule 1 is absolutely ridiculous. It goes against what America stands for because it's not even possible to overdose or kill a person. What possible reason could one have to restrict is usage other than for nefarious purposes chosen by people who don't have its citizens best interest in mind. Kratom has saved my life and has kept me away from hard drugs, bad decisions and things that would have certainly ruined my life. I've been taking it for over a decade and if someone looks at me and doesn't see me as a healthy, sane and productive person then they're lying to themselves. Do what's best for people like me and reject any legislation that aims to ban, schedule or restrict kratom and taking it away from people who rely on it daily. As it is, we are doing alright with how things are, we don't need unnecessary government intervention.

CommentID: 224800

Commenter: Trin lage

6/5/24 1:53 am

Please keep kratom legal

Please reconsider the ban.. many of my friends and family take kratom to better their life. I even took it for a brief moment after I had back surgery. I didn't want to be on pain pills. I'm convinced it cured my son of his poly substance abuse, which is a blessing to my family. I have a son who is a meaningful member of society. He works 2 jobs and has a family now. Talking about it makes me tear up because I know what his life could have been and what it was for many years. I have another friend who uses it for ptsd and insomnia and has been for many years with no problems. Please, I beg of you to reconsider a ban. This plant is helping millions. I don't understand why people want it banned. Anyways, thank you for hearing what I had to say, and God bless you

CommentID: 224801

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 1:56 am

Please keep kratom legal

Kratom is safe.

CommentID: 224802

Commenter: Thomas Maher

6/5/24 1:58 am

Please keep Kratom safe and legal

Hello. Please do not criminalize kratom. It is a plant a relative to the coffee plant, and I've been using it now for about 10 years. It allows me to stay away from dangerous harmful opioids, it actually helps fight combat the opioid crisis because it takes care of my pain in a natural way. Despite the false information, it is safe as long as it's regulated properly and we are willing to pay taxes and elect officials that will regulate it, and make it safe for consumers to use. Please don't confuse what people are selling is Kratom as Kratom cuz they're two different things

CommentID: 224803

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 2:00 am

Support CI Classification. Support Evidence Based Medicine

FDA-approved pain treatments have undergone extensive testing to ensure their safety and efficacy, making them more reliable options for pain management. Until comprehensive studies confirm kratom's safety and benefits, it's important to use well-regulated, proven pain management strategies.

CommentID: 224804

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 2:01 am

PLEASE NO I

unless your willing to help pain patients !

CommentID: 224805

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 2:02 am

Schedule I classification will help protect consumers from potential harm

The potential for kratom to cause harm is evident from the growing number of adverse event reports, highlighting its risks. These reports underscore the need for stringent regulation. Schedule I classification will help protect consumers from potential harm.

CommentID: 224806

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 2:04 am

risk of addiction and abuse outweighs any potential benefits

The risk of addiction and abuse outweighs any potential benefits kratom might offer, making its regulation essential. Ensuring public health safety is paramount. Schedule I classification will help control its misuse and protect users.

CommentID: 224807

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 2:11 am

potentially dangerous levels of lead linked to kratom products

Prozialeck W, Fowler A, Edwards J. Public Health Implications and Possible Sources of Lead (Pb) as a Contaminant of Poorly Regulated Kratom Products in the United States. *Toxics*. 2022 Jul 19;10(7):398. doi: 10.3390/toxics10070398. PMID: 35878303; PMCID: PMC9320411.

The unregulated market for kratom allows for contamination with harmful substances, posing significant health risks. Users cannot be sure of what they are consuming. Schedule I classification will ensure safety for Virginians

CommentID: 224808

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom saves my live

Kratom saves my live

CommentID: 224809

6/5/24 2:16 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Virginia should align with other states and ban this dangerous substance

Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Rhode Island, Vermont, Wisconsin all classify kratom as a schedule I controlled substance. Per the CDC SUDORS dashboard 2022 data, Arkansas reported 7 deaths involving kratom (1.4%), Rhode Island reported 2 deaths (0.5%) and Vermont reported 4 deaths(1.6%). Virginia reported 53 (2.1%) deaths involving kratom in 2022. Each death a 100% preventable loss of life

CommentID: 224810

6/5/24 2:18 am

Commenter: Anonymous

15 year user: my honest thoughts

I have been taking it as a supplement on and off again for over 15 years. I started taking it after a long struggle to get off of oxycodone following a nearly fatal car accident.

Here are some thoughts:

1. All my blood tests are fine
2. Cessation is easy. It can be habit forming, to the dame degree as coffee
3. Abuse potential is low, because there is a "ceiling" effect
4. A fatal overdose from solely kratom would require ingestion of multiple pounds of plant material
5. I was in a car accident and deal with chronic pain. A kratom ban would force me to be prescribed oxycodone again
6. This would turn tens of thousands of responsible adults who use kratom into felons
7. A ban would likely lead to an increase demand for far more powerful products

CommentID: 224811

6/5/24 2:19 am

Commenter: Kratom helps with opiod withdrawals!!

Keep Kratom legal

Kratom helps with pain in senior adults as well as helps with opiod withdrawals.P

267 Please don't make this a schedule one drug. It has helped me reduce my opiod medication.

Thank you,

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

525/750

Sue Travis

CommentID: 224812

Commenter: Anonymous

Schedule I classification - Case studies of kratom induced respiratory depression

Kratom's opioid-like effects can cause respiratory depression. Schedule I classification will help prevent such serious health risks. Case studies of respiratory depression involving kratom

1. Chinnappan J, Navan Y, Casini D, Palanisamy N, Parikh N, Seedahmed E. Kratom-induced acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). *EJCRIM* 2023;10:doi:10.12890/2023_0038335 https://www.researchgate.net/publication/369645288_Kratom-induced_acute_respiratory_distress_syndrome_ARDS

2. Ahmed S, Tran Q, McLean M (August 08, 2023) The Great Imitator: A Case of Accidental Kratom Overdose. *Cureus* 15(8): e43144. doi:10.7759/cureus.43144

3. Aggarwal G, Robertson E, McKinlay J, Walter E. Death from Kratom toxicity and the possible role of intralipid. *Journal of the Intensive Care Society*. 2018;19(1):61-63. doi:10.1177/17171143717712652

CommentID: 224813

6/5/24 2:35 am

Commenter: J Moore

Kratom helped me beat acoholism and saved my life!

I'm not a Virginia resident, but I am a Kratom advocate due to what this miracle plant has done for me. I was a hopeless alcoholic for 5 years. I would get drunk on hard liquor every night, it was a terrible way to live. I wanted to quit, but going to rehab was out of the question. I did a lot of research on the internet and eventually found kratom. It wasn't an instant cure or anything, but it was crucial to help ween off of alcohol. I haven't drank to get drunk since 2019 (I still drink socially on occasion as to not be rude), my quality of life has improved to a point that I didn't believe was possible. I have a steady job helping people which I absolutely love, I'm a home owner, life is good. Please don't ban kratom in the great state of Virginia, it helps so many people. I support regulation like the KCPA to require lab testing, add labeling requirements and most importantly to prevent minors from obtaining it. Please make a compromise and regulate kratom instead of banning it. You can contact me via email if you want to know more of my story.

CommentID: 224814

6/5/24 2:36 am

Commenter: Anonymous

lack of accepted medical use and misleading claims

Kratom's high potential for abuse and lack of accepted medical use justify its inclusion in Schedule I. This classification will help control its distribution and misuse

CommentID: 224815

6/5/24 2:40 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Regulate kratom as a Schedule I drug

6/5/24 2:41 am

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

526/750

The rise in kratom use among teens and young adults is alarming. Classifying it as Schedule I will help curb this dangerous trend

CommentID: 224816

Commenter: Laura H

6/5/24 2:43 am

I am a medical professional. Kratom is safe and effective with no head high!

I have been using Kratom daily for my chronic pain and since I started this journey, have required less opiates for pain relief and ability to function daily. I can move better and also perform better at my job. I no longer need antidepressants, whether that is a plus from the pain relief, or because it has other beneficial health benefits that have not yet been proven. This plant has been a miracle in my life, as I no longer drink or seek any other supplements to ease my pain. I pray that people will realize that Kratom is not a drug, that it's beneficial, and it is way better for your body than even Tylenol or Ibuprofen that do not help my pain or inflammation! Big Pharma doesn't want this legal for a reason and it's not because it's unsafe or not FDA approved. Wake up, people!

CommentID: 224817

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 2:48 am

Letter to Connecticut General Assembly from Susan Eppard - Lost child to kratom

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2023/gidata/TMY/2023HB-05134-R000207-Eppard,%20Susan-Oppose-TMY.PDF>

CommentID: 224818

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 2:49 am

Keep Kratom legal

Keep Kratom legal!!! It's helped so many people including myself, I would've been dead years ago if it wasn't for Kratom

CommentID: 224819

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 2:51 am

Personal Stories of those who have died from kratom - James 21 years old

<https://www.kapekratom.org/stories>

James

" My son, James, was a bright, funny and hard-working young man. During his senior year of high school, he experimented with alcohol and it quickly became a problem for him. A friend told him about this wonder-drug, Kratom, that could help him stop drinking. James started taking Kratom in 2018, and it did help him to stop drinking. Unfortunately, he became addicted to Kratom and developed a tolerance to it. James thought Kratom was a safe product until he realized he had a problem. He tried to taper off this drug, but he had trouble doing it. Kratom withdrawal caused him

many physical symptoms such as severe muscle aches, sleeplessness, restless legs, depression and mood swings. Despite this, for a while, he was successful in cutting down on this drug. James relapsed in September, 2020, had a grand mal seizure due to Kratom use and was hospitalized. The doctors had no idea what Kratom was and called poison control. He had another seizure in October and had a similar experience at the hospital. There was no way to get him into a treatment center, as no beds were available. Regrettably, on February 5, 2021, James died of Kratom (Mitragyna Speciosa) toxicity; he was 21 years old. Our family is devastated by the loss of our beloved son. The truth about Kratom is that it is absolute poison.

Stacey Reilly

CommentID: 224820

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 2:53 am

"My precious Son Matthew Joseph Eller died at 22 years old"

<https://www.kapekratom.org/stories>

My precious Son Matthew Joseph Eller died at 22 years old of an accidental kratom overdose. He wasn't taking any hard drugs nor prescription drugs. Matthew was born to me on March 8, 1999. He was the youngest of my six children, my baby. He also had a step-brother and two step sisters. He was so independent, loving, outgoing, happy, hard working, cocky and smart. His sisters, brothers, myself family & friends all loved him so much. We are all so devastated! He always remembered his grandparents on special days and gave them gifts. He made friends very easily, and was the best kind of friend you could have who would be there whenever you needed him. Matthew had a girlfriend who he loved with his whole heart. Although he didn't really care about tattoos, he got his girlfriends name tattooed on his chest. He was one of the best at any sport he played, and the hardest worker.

Before taking kratom he loved spending time with friends and family, camping, snowmobiling, basketball, dirt biking, kayaking, playing with his cats & fishing. When he got more into kratom he kept more to himself and became somewhat reclusive. He didn't believe kratom was a drug. He thought of it only as a herbal supplement to improve his life. Then one day after taking kratom he was playing cards, had a seizure, went into cardiac arrest and died.

Our family is no longer whole, there is an emptiness in our family circle that can never be filled, a deep sadness that will never go away, we will love and miss our Matthew until we take our last breath. – Susan Gee Eppard

CommentID: 224821

Commenter: Matthew

6/5/24 3:00 am

KEEP KRATOM LEGAL!

Me, my mom, my wife and my three brothers have been using kratom for 12+ years and we've never had any bad experiences.

KEEP KRATOM LEGAL!!

Or else everyone will just run right back to pain killers and meth and other much, much deadlier drugs.

You are trying to make it illegal, but the consequences are going to do much more harm than good. Actually use your brain and think about it! It's not rocket science!

CommentID: 224822

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 3:04 am

Keaton helped me get off of all narcotics

Kratom is a plant similar to coffee. Kratom has quite literally changed my life! Many years ago, I was prescribed Diluadid, Oxymorphone, Hydromorphone, OxyContin, and more for my pain. I was able to get off of ALL pain meds cold turkey because of Kratom. I have severe chronic pain from a number of health conditions and kratom helps me function as a human. Please do not ban this plant! I do not want to go back to narcotic pain meds ever again!

CommentID: 224823

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 3:08 am

Kratom is the only medicine that works for me

I have fibromyalgia and chronic migraines and kratom is the only medicine I've found to treat my symptoms. Pharmaceutical medication has either not worked, caused an allergic reaction or caused intolerable side effects. I take only the dose I need and I don't experience symptoms of addiction if I don't take it for a while. Kratom is incredible for dealing with chronic pain and low energy. Please do not criminalize a plant that is so invaluable to chronic pain sufferers.

CommentID: 224824

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 3:16 am

support ban then regulate "My wife, Julie Renee Stosz, was taken by kratom on February 7th, 2019"

<https://www.kapekratom.org/stories> - Julie...Nick Stosz

"My wife, Julie Renee Stosz, was taken by kratom on February 7th, 2019. She was 10 days short of her 50th birthday and 5 months away from our 25th wedding. Julie and I have 2 beautiful daughters, Kara 27 and Samantha 23 and the most beautiful granddaughter ever, Averie, 3 1/2 years old. Julie started taking kratom around April of 2018 to help with the ongoing pain she had after having major neck surgery in January 2018. She took kratom sporadically for about 10 months before it took her life, no warning whatsoever. Kratom was listed as the sole cause of death on her death certificate, no other contributing factors, none. The medical examiner who performed her autopsy, Dr. Mary Case and the toxicology expert at St. Louis University have both spoken out against kratom and its use and its dangers. They aided in attempting to get a kratom ban in St. Charles Missouri where the ban failed and they decided to regulate it instead amidst the tons of facts and figures presented to them by medical professionals. The county executive will put the regulation bill through but is doing so without his signature as he does not agree with the decision. Kratom has left a permanent wake in all our families and friends lives, an emptiness and level of not understanding that can't be unraveled. How can something touted as a natural herb be killing so many people and getting tens of thousands of others addicted be allowed to simply slide under the radar and not get the level of attention it deserves? Please ban Kratom, at least until it can be tested, made and distributed safely and its true therapeutic uses can be found. Then when that is completed, put it in the hands of the medical professionals to be distributed by prescription only..."

CommentID: 224825

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 3:18 am

Eric - died from kratom overdose on December 29, 2017

<https://www.kapekratom.org/stories>

"My son Eric died of a Kratom overdose on December 29, 2017 at the age of 26. His death has traumatized my family. Please get Kratom off the street! Eric thought it was a safe substance to use because of the way they market it online. It was the miracle drug that was cheap and easy to get but it has turned my world upside down. Kratom needs to be outlawed. From a mother whose life will never be the same...."

CommentID: 224826

Commenter: B A

6/5/24 3:18 am

Kratom saved me

Without Kratom I would still be addicted to fentanyl. Keep it legal PLEASE. It has saved many from a tragic end!

CommentID: 224827

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 3:23 am

"Kratom should not be dispensed to anyone until it is furthered studied and regulated/banned"

<https://www.kapekratom.org/stories>

"When my daughter was only 15 a Kratom tea bar opened up by our home. The local teens started hanging out there regularly.

My once healthy honor student, sporty, focused driven daughter started displaying odd behaviors. She would have fits of rage, loss of interest in everything she once loved, and started becoming more and more delusional. A neurologist there informed us that he believed Kratom ate the fat around my daughter's frontal lobe and requested I get a guardianship (which I did) because the damage could be permanent. We have spent thousands on neurologists, psychologists, and psychiatrists to undo the damage.

Today she is able to function but still has changes that we believe to be permanent at this time like concentration, memory loss, impaired judgement, withdrawn (was once very outgoing), and "spacey".

Our family is traumatized by this experience. Kratom should not be dispensed to anyone until it is furthered studied and regulated/banned. There are no warnings or controlled amounts at these so-called "tea" places. Please consider joining our fight to regulate/ban in your area."

CommentID: 224828

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 3:26 am

"advocate for this substance to be scheduled as a controlled substance"

<https://www.kapekratom.org/stories>

"Joseph Lumbrazo, 38, was a hard-working man who owned a business to help provide for his 3 sons. Joe was an upstanding citizen and only lived to make sure that his family was provided for. Joseph, like many others, turned to kratom to help with energy because his work schedule was demanding, draining, and very difficult. After trying many holistic options, he found kratom to be helpful. But with that positive effect, kratom also has potentially dangerous side effects. One of which is seizures with the ultimate outcome of dying from the toxicity of kratom. Kratom is known for its healing qualities but usually doesn't come with any warning labels or educational information. At least his didn't come with those additions. Let's ban together and demand that kratom be scheduled as a controlled substance, demand that it come with truthful warning labels and educational information.

Due to the loss of my only son, Joseph Lumbrazo at the age of 38, who was poisoned by the substance kratom, I have vowed to elevate the voices of those who have been adversely affected by kratom and to advocate for this substance to be scheduled as a controlled substance."

CommentID: 224829

Commenter: MGray

Kratom Testimony

Hello,

I want to thank you for taking the time to read this. I am a kratom consumer who has completed a bachelor's in cybersecurity and work in software as a vulnerability researcher and security analyst. I may not seem like the face of someone who consumes kratom, but I am and have for 7 years.

I have a pituitary adenoma and high cortisol, which makes simply living with extreme stress a difficult thing. Kratom has enabled me to handle the constant stress and other symptoms that come with it and thrive in an environment and life that shouldn't be possible.

My mother has acute R. Arthritis and kratom has enabled her to be able to be more mobile and walk. Her bad days aren't so bad now, and she is able to take a shower and cook a meal.

There are many people who don't have access or are unable to take normal medications for pain for one reason or another. Many are trying to get away from traditional opioids and opt for a non-opioid plant supplement like kratom. And yes, it is not an opioid. It is a partial opioid-agonist, but so are things like cheese. It won't make you stop breathing like dangerous street drug alternatives like fentanyl.

270

There have been no confirmed deaths with proper toxicology reports, and many doctors and other medical professionals have come forward to speak on the benefits of kratom, along with disputing the misinformation surrounding it. If kratom is taken away, that is one less potentially life-saving option for those with medical issues. The truth is, people are committing suicide from their misery, and kratom may help people want to live.

We also cannot forget about those who have used it to "kick" harder drugs like heroin and deadly fentanyl. As a vulnerability researcher and security analyst, I calculate risk, and we must use realistic analysis to determine ways for harm reduction. It's the smart and safer thing to do. Yes, there are medicines like methadone and suboxone, but it's not a one size fits all situation. We need as many options as we can if we truly value human life.

In other successful kratom-legal states, there is regulation, and there should be regulation and ways to prevent adulterated products coming into the market. We don't allow people to sell meat from their trucks and people to mix up their own pre-workout in their garages to sell. This applies to supplements like kratom. Please consider looking into the Kratom Consumer Protection Act (KCPA) and the American Kratom Association or at the very least allow citizens to access this life-saving plant until smart regulation can be implemented.

Regards,

M Gray

CommentID: 224830

Commenter: Johnathon Akers, Kratom Advocate

Testimony

Before kratom, I was opioid dependent. Into my early 20's I suffered a back injury that left me with debilitating and chronic pain. My medical doctor then began to prescribe me opiates at a very young age. I never abused my medication, always submitted to drug testing every month, and followed my doctors orders to a tee; however that didn't stop this physician from cutting me off my medication cold turkey while I was dependent on this medication to have any sort of quality of life. His reasoning was justified since the DEA began to crack down on opioid prescribing even for those with chronic pain. After being opioid dependent I had no choice but to begin using illicit fentanyl I found on the street from acquaintances. This then began my addiction to fentanyl. I used this drug for 2 years without overdosing or dying, but I believe if I continued down the path it was a matter of time before I flatlined. I was introduced to kratom by a friend who suggested that it may help not only my withdrawals from addiction, but my chronic pain as well. It isn't a miracle substance, but did alleviate the pain from my chronic issue and the withdrawals long enough for me to get clean from drugs. Kratom never once got me high! It literally just allows me to have a quality of life that any person is entitled to, no matter their health issues. Banning this plant, which is more related to coffee than opioids, will have severe consequences and I fear that the people of Virginia will turn back to using legal and illegal opioids like illicit fentanyl. This will have the blood on the

hands of the Virginia government for those who just simply want to have a normal life. Instead of banning, consider passing laws in which will protect the people who consume kratom. Regulating this plant will ensure it's safe and can be used properly by the millions of people who use this everyday to maintain healthy, drug free, and safe lives.

Please keep kratom legal,

Johnathon Akers, Kratom Advocate

CommentID: 224831

Commenter: Anonymous

Please read these stories from parents and love ones of those who died consuming Kratom

Some call for a ban. Some call for regulation. I am asking that these stories be taken into consideration before making a decision. These were all a 100% preventable death had Kratom products came with proper warnings at the very least.

<https://www.kapekkratom.org/in-memoriam>

<https://www.kapekkratom.org/stories>

CommentID: 224832

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom

if you ban kratom you will kill people. Kratom keeps people off deadly drugs. I've taken it on and off for years. It's harmless. I quit drinking now and sober for 13 years because of kratom. Without kratom I wouldn't be here.

CommentID: 224833

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom tree

It's a tree leaf, related to the coffee plant! Why make it illegal?

CommentID: 224834

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom tree

It's a tree leaf, related to the coffee plant! Why make it illegal? I've been taking it Dailey for over 10 years, now other medication needed anymore! You cannot overdose on kratom at the most it will make you sick to your stomach, anybody saying other wise is simply lying!

CommentID: 224835

Commenter: Anonymous

Mitragyna speciosa helps people!

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

533/750

Please reconsider the ban on kratom. Any such ban will harm far more citizenry that it would help. Kratom has not killed anyone and any car that says it has I guarantee other substances were involved.

CommentID: 224836

Commenter: Kathleen Nicole O'Neal

This Scheduling Change Would Be Harmful for Disabled People

I am currently a Ph.D. student at a Virginia university and in the process of moving to Virginia from Maryland to be closer to my university, but I may have to rethink this decision if this measure passes. I have multiple disabilities including a very serious mobility impairment and I rely on kratom to allow me to function, as do many people with various disabilities and health conditions. This scheduling decision would serve to make my life, career, and educational goals very difficult to achieve. People who supposedly die from using kratom tend to have other drugs in their system at the time of death, including mixing the drug with alcohol or other psychoactive substances. This is an issue of individual choice, bodily autonomy, individual responsibility, and disability justice. I recently testified before the House and Senate in Virginia about the need to resist legalizing assisted suicide because of the way in which those laws discriminate against people with disabilities. This is another attempt at disability discrimination, making it more difficult for people who need this drug to access it, particularly as most medical professionals are not knowledgeable enough about the drug to prescribe it even for those whom it benefits. We ought to have learned from our nation's experiences with alcohol, marijuana, and other psychoactive substances that criminalization/scheduling is not the answer and that individuals need to have some freedom over the decisions they make with their lives and bodies. I'll be watching this very closely and making decisions about residency accordingly.

CommentID: 224837

Commenter: Victoria hilton

Kratom

Don't ban Kratom! It's helping millions of people live an adequate life. We needs to help us live and move forward. Stop policing our health.

CommentID: 224838

Commenter: Julia Wright

I was able to quit 4 medications by finding kratom

I've struggled with mental illness for most of my adult life. My childhood trauma caused all of this. For years, I felt like a walking zombie but if I didn't take my medications, I was unable to leave my house. My mental illness crippled me. In 2017, I was tired of it, and researched natural remedies for anxiety. I found kratom a few short weeks later. I weaned myself off of those medications, and in July of 2017 started taking kratom. It was like a light switch for me. Suddenly, I stopped having panic attacks. In 2021, I actually found a job for the first time in two decades. I take one teaspoon twice a day with orange juice. Please don't take this wonderful plant away from the people.

CommentID: 224839

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

534/750

Commenter: Cristy white

6/5/24 4:11 am

Kratom

Please, consider the fact that this plant is safe and helping so many people to avoid dangerous opioids. I have been taking it off and on for almost ten years. There are no side effects, other than the fact that I must drink water to stay hydrated, because it is a powder. I can take this for a month straight, stop for a month and go back to taking it without withdrawals or issues of any kind. Making this plant illegal would put me back on both Norco and Xanax...which I DON'T WANT! Before you make any ruling, please try taking kratom, at least, so that you are able to make a personal decision and listen to all of the people standing up for this plant...many of whom were once addicts and now sober, due to this beautiful tree!

CommentID: 224840

Commenter: Sarah Wells

6/5/24 4:31 am

Kratom only non-habit forming relief from debilitating nerve pain from spinal cord injury

I had a serious spinal cord injury in 2017. I was in a wheelchair and walker at age 35. The only form of pain relief available to me that is non addicting is gabapentin. On a high dose of gabapentin, my hair started to fall out. It also made me sleepy and tired during the day. Prior to the injury, I held a six figure professional job... After the injury I could not work, yet alone walk. However, with kratom I was able to manage my pain and get back to work. It is impossible to overdose on it. Once I was in a lot of pain after a fall and I took too much, I simply threw up. Do not take away the only option I have for non habit forming pain management. I still have stiffness, numbness every day. Kratom helps me to be able to walk and be active.

CommentID: 224841

Commenter: Robert

6/5/24 4:35 am

Kratom has helped a lot

I've been taking Kratom for about a year and. I can say it honestly helps with my anxiety and depression. I have been through a ton of psych meds and, this seems to be the only one that works without major side effects. Please don't schedule this plant.

CommentID: 224842

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 5:28 am

Kratom Helps!

Kratom has helped me manage the pain of two arthritic hips and a fused ankle. Because of kratom, I have still been able to be a productive part of society. It has kept me from needing opiates or other pain management drugs. It is a wonderful, natural way to manage pain. It would be a horrible mistake to label it as a dangerous drug.

CommentID: 224845

272

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 5:31 am

Kratom saves lives

I DON'T SUPPORT Board of Pharmacy Petition "Addition of kratom to Schedule 1" (CRIMINALIZE KRATOM)

By removing access to this valuable tool (kratom) you are making sobriety harder to reach for some people. I lost my father in 2013 to opiate overdose. If we had known about kratom before his death, I know for a fact he would have gotten off the pain pills, and he would still be here today.

CommentID: 224847

Commenter: Daniel Morgan

6/5/24 5:38 am

Kratom saves lives

I began using kratom several years ago . It has been helpful in anxiety attacks and depression swings. I Plus as I call it , it helps with minor aches and pains of getting older ! It has been a miraculous aid in everyday symptoms and side effects has been minimal ! I trust taking kratom over any pharmaceutical drugs . Natural remedies work better than pharmaceuticals and are less addictive !!

CommentID: 224848

Commenter: Melissa

6/5/24 6:06 am

Kratom Is the Reason i lead a normal life

Please do not do the people of Virginia the disservice. There are countless people that rely on kratom whenever they have a craving or even in their day to day lives. I guarantee you at least half of the people will go back to their drug of choice if you take Kratom away. I know because I would. I have rebuilt my life along with two people I personally know BECAUSE OF KRATOM! I don't know what I would do without it. Please think of ur own citizens' lives. They matter!

CommentID: 224849

Commenter: Mark Sweet

6/5/24 6:06 am

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome - how Kratom has helped me

Hello. I am a 52 year old male, with Fibromyalgia & Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/Systemic Intolerance. This basically means I live with whole-body pain, and I have zero energy. Until you know what it's like especially to have Chronic Fatigue (which is vastly different than just being tired, like people think it is), then you can't comprehend what it's like to muster up the energy to even talk. That's how little energy I have, it is that terrible. Kratom is the ONLY thing that has ever helped me, and I have tried all the meds (they don't work and just give me terrible side-effects). I only take 1 tsp (3x per day), so a very low amount, but it gives me enough energy to be able to hold onto my job, and have a tiny bit of quality of life back. Without it, I can assure you I would be on disability (75% of people with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome can't work). It gives me about 2 hours of enough energy, that I can do household chores, pay bills, and then it's out of my system. Without Kratom, I can only sit on the couch and watch the world go by, and that is very hard when

you're used to being a productive person. It is terrible when you can't even do the things you used to do, because of your health. That is why I want to share my story, in hopes that you would try to understand the GOOD it does for people like me. I am not some type of Junkie, I'm a normal middle-aged guy with crappy health. Please seek to understand Kratom before you try to ban it. Because if you ban this product, you are basically taking away the life of people like me. This isn't a miracle product, but it works enough to help me live. And you probably don't know what that feels like, but to simply exist is no life at all, and that is what it's like for me. But with Kratom, I can do things in spurts, with the energy it gives me.

I would be happy to share my story more with you, to help lawmakers understand the GOOD Kratom does. I am a walking example of how it helps, and I would love to be able to be a part of keeping it in place for people like me - people who NEED this for everyday life, and not just WANT it. I ask you to please do not ban Kratom. If nothing else, please at least regulate it so with a Doctors prescription, people like me can continue to live life. That is all I ask. Thank you for listening, and again please let me know if I can be of any help whatsoever.

Mark

CommentID: 224850

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 6:12 am

Helped me

Kratom has helped my depression and anxiety along with lower back pain. It pulled me out of my postpartum anxiety too.

CommentID: 224851

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 6:17 am

Support the classification of Kratom becoming a schedule 1

I support the classification of kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance. So to protect public health due to its abuse potential, unregulated usage leading to potential adverse effects and lack of science for approved benefits. Scheduling kratom would prevent therapeutic claims that are not verified or backed up by science, promote more expensive research and tighter regulatory control.

CommentID: 224855

Commenter: Nick

6/5/24 6:20 am

Kratom advocate

Hello good day to you. I live with chronic pain due to a boating accident in my early 20s that injured my spine and required multiple surgeries. I spent years totally incapacitated by pain and was prescribed lots of strong medicines which I hated taking but had no choice. A couple years ago I started learning to use kratom for pain and have responsibly ever since and today I am on no medication and am able to function. It is a scary thought that kratom could be criminalized and that what I am doing could get me in trouble with the law. Please leave this alone so people can have a way to manage their suffering.

CommentID: 224857

Commenter: Seth

6/5/24 6:24 am

No to the scheduling

Kratom isn't the problem. It helps and saves. The WHO classified it as in the coffee family. More people die from alcohol and tobacco related issues. Take a look at those.

CommentID: 224858

Commenter: Erik

6/5/24 6:26 am

Regulate not schedule

We already have regulatory laws for Kratom being sold to 21 and up. Adults can make their own decisions. No to the scheduling

CommentID: 224859

Commenter: Tracy

6/5/24 6:27 am

Has been used for 1000s of years. Review more than studies paid for by pharmaceuticals companies

I use this so that I can function and have some kind of quality of life. I have degenerative disc disease which has led to spinal stenosis. I also have arthritis. It has gotten to the point where my legs go numb when standing. With out kratom I wouldn't be able to move. This is a valuable medicine to those of us that don't want to be put on addictive pharmaceuticals. This has been used for medicine other countries for thousands of years. Please don't just depend on studies paid for by pharmaceutical companies or others in traditional medicine that see no value in the fact that this helps so many people with a myriad of health issues.

CommentID: 224860

Commenter: Kay Erickson

6/5/24 6:37 am

Kratom has given me back my life

As someone who suffers with fibromyalgia and chronic migraines, and has tried all the medications that have been prescribed over the last 40 years, Kratom has given my life back to me. Leave it alone.

CommentID: 224861

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 6:37 am

~qRT6767Q

I am so thankful Kratom saved me from what was beginning to be an opiate dependency from a bone disease. I had already been on percocet for 2 years when all the hoopla came out. I did not want dependency, I wanted pain relief. I thank God to have found Kratom. Its been Tyrs for me. Please all to seek reliefow people to have a way other than percocet

CommentID: 224862

Commenter: Mary Willis

6/5/24 6:37 am

Addictive

Kratom I have seen be very addictive and deadly . I have first hand seen it changed people's behavior and harm their lives.

CommentID: 224863

Commenter: Melissa Callahan

6/5/24 6:37 am

Kratom saves

I started using kratom in 2016, after many years of opiate use. I had been arrested and really struggling with taking opiates correctly. Many, many times I took way too many and would pass out and sleep for hours on end. My children and husband didn't matter they were behind my opiate abuse. Some taking kratom my life has completely changed! I only take a small amount daily and can go days without taking any without withdrawal effects unlike opiate medication. Kratom truly gave me my life back. I've since been able to enjoy my children and now grandchildren without pain and not in jail. We've bought a house this last year because all of our money didn't go to some shady dealer. Without kratom I'll be in pain daily and unable to actually live my life. Kratom is no worse than marijuana. It doesn't affect my actions, response time, make me dizzy, nothing. Just able to move without wincing in pain. 2 spinal fusions isn't an easy thing to go through. Don't take a plant away

CommentID: 224864

Commenter: Esther Flores

6/5/24 6:38 am

Say no to regulation

This plant has been used to thousands of years originating from Southeast Asia. It's is used for medicinal purposes and has been found with other health benefits such a natural way to put off sugar cravings. It has helped me control the uncontrollable sugar cravings. It helps me focus when I have a task at hand and it has been a natural pain killer for my body.

CommentID: 224865

Commenter: Veronica

6/5/24 6:38 am

Kratom is needed

Big Pharma which is not safe is trying to get rid of the safe option please don't let them take it away from all the people who need it!

CommentID: 224866

Commenter: Mike L

6/5/24 6:43 am

POINT MESS WITH OUR ONLY HOPE!!

I used kratom to come off opiates like hydromorphone and now I don't have to use anything! This plant helps so many people, leave it alone and let THE PEOPLE decide what WE want.

CommentID: 224867

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 6:43 am

Keep kratom legal!

I watched a family friend struggle with addiction for nearly 10 years, kratom was the only thing that was able to help him function again and become a father to his children. Please keep kratom legal so we don't lose any more people to fentanyl.

CommentID: 224868

Commenter: Kate

6/5/24 6:48 am

Kratom saves lives

Kratom is saving lives by allowing people to limit or avoid opioid use. Kratom is not addictive, nor is it toxic. Opiates are, by nature, physically addictive and deadly if overused.

CommentID: 224871

Commenter: Dee

6/5/24 6:48 am

Kratom

Please don't take Kratom away. People in pain are being abruptly cut off their pain medications. It's horrific! Deaths will rise!

CommentID: 224872

Commenter: Melinda G

6/5/24 6:52 am

Helped me be the mom I want to be

I have included kratom in my daily life for 10 years. After the birth of my children I not only suffered chronic joint pain, but debilitating anxiety, and soul crushing depression. I struggled to get out of bed. I saw so many doctors that all tried me on antidepressants, pain medicines, and countless potentially habit forming medications . Kratom has helped me no longer be on any of those medications, but increased the quality of my life drastically. I am able to be the mom my kids deserve. I can go to work regularly, and help take some of the financial burden off my husband. Before kratom, my mental health wouldn't allow me to be the person I used to be. It's given my children a better mother, my husband a better wife (and partner), and helped give myself the ability to be the person I know that I am. Banning kratom is irresponsible and forces good, hardworking members of society back into a life consumed with struggling , and a dependence on harmful (and potentially dangerous) medications.

CommentID: 224874

Commenter: Ron Musselman

6/5/24 6:55 am

Kratom saves lives

I do not support this petition. Kratom does save lives. It saved mine.

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

539/750

540/750

CommentID: 224875

Commenter: D**Kratom saves lives**

Kratom saves lives! Please do more research. People will die without Kratom

CommentID: 224876

6/5/24 6:56 am

Commenter: Jody Rosoff**Kratom**

This is only because big pharma is losing its market share because this works not only for pain and let's people lead normal lives isn't of being opioid addicts. Follow the money it will lead you to who wants the natural alternative to pain off the market.

if you criminalize Kratom you will see the opioids addictions rise .

CommentID: 224877

6/5/24 6:56 am

Commenter: Christopher Smith**Insane to keep other humans from consuming plants ??**

Im sure Virginia is home to some pharmaceutical company who lobby's in DC and has doctors pushing pills with studies that are selective and misleading, with a small amount of research you can find information like this. The world is so corrupted by capitalism, it's clear the only reason these plant medicines are restricted and regulated is because they allow people empathy and even euphoria... and if we had more of that then the corruption wouldn't be tolerated. As of now we are made to burden ourselves left right and center. Don't be a tool for the system that you know is in place against the people. Let people control their own lives.

CommentID: 224878

6/5/24 6:57 am

Commenter: Rebecca Isaacs**Please don't ban kratom**

I have been off pain pills for almost 8 years now, after a 16 year drug addiction, that left me homeless. I got my life back. I got my family back. I am a responsible adult who works and pays taxes. I'm a homeowner now, I never thought I'd be able to say that. All with the help of kratom. This plant helps so many people coming off drugs and with chronic pain. I am just a normal person, I garden, go to work, and spend time with my family. I'm not out here stealing, lying, or putting myself in extremely dangerous situations to get what I need. ITS A PLANT AND DOES NOT DESERVE THIS TREATMENT. Please don't punish us for wanting a better life.

CommentID: 224879

6/5/24 6:57 am

Commenter: Elizabeth**Healthcare providers are getting too comfortable pushing their personal beliefs on patients.**

CommentID: 224880

This petition, which appears to have been started by a pharmacist, is a glaring example of the unfortunate and disgusting trend of medical professionals inserting their bias into their jobs. There are numerous articles about medical providers, especially pharmacists, refusing to fill medications like birth control due to their personal opinions. Patient trust in medical providers is at a low and petitions like these just increase that distrust. And it should, this petition is proof of medical providers hypocrisy and narcissism.

Kratom has been used as medication since the 1800s and is still used heavily in non Western medicine. The complications and side effects are similar, and even lesser, than a lot of over the counter medications that these pharmacists have in their stores. They are attacking kratom that some people need to function while filling Ozempic for people who want to lose weight even though there are constant reports of new side effects like bowel obstruction. Quite frankly, it appears maybe these healthcare providers should focus more on the safety of prescriptions they write and sell and then maybe we wouldn't have had the opioid epidemic that popularized kratom in the first place.

This petition and the petitioner is out of line. Kratom works, has the same level of habit forming as coffee, and won't cause death or an overdose itself unless there are underlying health conditions, much the opposite of some of the medications they routinely prescribe and fill.

This petition reeks of entitlement and prejudice. Western medicine isn't always superior and attacks on eastern or holistic medication stems from ignorance, elitism, or just straight up greed.

The medical providers against kratom should focus on their jobs, treating patients and not demonizing them because they disagree with them or have to do a little extra research to treat them. Until they start a petition to ban alcohol, cigarettes, fast food, Tylenol, motorcycles, and support stronger punishment for the medication administration errors they make (all which kill more people than kratom), their opinions are simply that, their opinions.

CommentID: 224880

Commenter: GDF

6/5/24 7:11 am

Do not support scheduling: more research, please.

Please consider conducting/hearing more research before acting on a scheduling decision. While I'm just one person, I can say that Kratom saved my life. Kratom allowed me to end addiction to prescribed opioid and anti anxiety medications. I have been using Kratom for just about 10 years, and have never experienced negative side effects. I have blood testing done annually and all has been well. There is a need for consumer protection supported by policies such as the Kratom Consumer Protection Act (KCPA). Thank you!

CommentID: 224881

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 7:13 am

It's unnecessary

Banning kratom would rid people of the opportunity to heal. Kratom has personally helped me with muscle recovery, anxiety, and sleep. As a college student, it has helped in keeping me relaxed and we all know how stressful college can be.

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

CommentID: 224882

Commenter: Joe

I don't support this ban

Kratom saved my life. Banning it will cause way more hurt than it will help.

CommentID: 224884

6/5/24 7:20 am

Commenter: Emily

Kratom saved me

In 2018 I had been addicted to prescription opiates I was put on in 2014 after the birth of my frost child. Before I knew it, I couldn't go a day without a pill even though I was healed, and now longer truly needed it. August 2018 I tried kratom in a milkshake, I felt great, not buzzed just energetic and no pain. I ended up taking 5 days off work in which I used kratom as a substitute for the opiate, which helped me go through the withdrawal. I was back to work by Friday & no longer needed that medicine. It's been almost 6 years!!! I support kratom as I don't know where I'd be right now had I not discovered it.

CommentID: 224886

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom kills

Kratom has ruined our family lives! It has cause 32 seizures! I'm waiting for it to cause death as the next step! this drug should be banned in all 50 states! it needs to be a controlled 1 drug! this does nothing good for anyone except cause addiction, rage, death, and heartache.

CommentID: 224887

6/5/24 7:24 am

Commenter: Misti

Kratom

Kratom killed my son. 23 years old. Why is this if legal???

CommentID: 224888

6/5/24 7:25 am

Commenter: Chris ryan

Kratom gave me a 2nd chance at life

I was addicted to pain killers before I found kratom and my intake of pain killers was growing daily and I would be dead today if not due to me finding kratom. Also I have a great job now due to I can pass pre-employment urinary analysis now. I'm so thankful for kratom. If you ban it you will be sentencing people to death I have no doubt.

CommentID: 224889

6/5/24 7:29 am

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Commenter: BRIAN EDWARD BARSZCZ

Demonizing plants

Please stop demonizing medicinal plants! You all shouldve learned that with cannabis. This is an all natural substance that has helped tons of people withdrawal from more serious things. Do some studies like Johns Hookins before making any judgement.

CommentID: 224891

6/5/24 7:34 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom is a plant that saves lives

Kratom is the only thing that helps with my neuro inflammatory disease. I've been through the western medicine route/ pain management. & nothing that they prescribe is remotely as helpful and CLEAN.

CommentID: 224894

6/5/24 7:43 am

Commenter: Austin

Unfounded and an overreach

The proposed Schedule 1 listing of kratom in Virginia represents an unwarranted overreach that is not substantiated by data. Numerous studies and expert opinions highlight that kratom, a natural botanical, does not exhibit the high potential for abuse or lack of accepted medical use that Schedule 1 classification necessitates. Instead, kratom has been shown to offer therapeutic benefits, including pain relief and assistance with opioid withdrawal, without the severe side effects associated with many pharmaceuticals. Criminalizing kratom would not only hinder scientific research but also deprive individuals of a valuable alternative to more dangerous substances. It is imperative that legislative decisions be grounded in robust scientific evidence rather than unfounded fears.

CommentID: 224895

6/5/24 7:49 am

Commenter: Brook

Save the plant!!!

Kratom is life saving . And shud be easily accessible to anyone in any state. It is a plant ... the pharmacy companies want us to be dependent on the drugs the FDA is pushing and I have seen what the pills cause people first hand. So please leave the kratom for people to live without side-effects.

CommentID: 224896

6/5/24 7:49 am

Commenter: Jessica

Kratom saves lives

Kratom has saved almost everyone I know from drugs and alcohol. It even saved my life. I'm living a wonderful life with my family and friends thanks to kratom.

6/5/24 7:52 am

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

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CommentID: 224889

6/5/24 7:29 am

CommentID: 224897

Commenter: Parker**Not in support**

I do not support this proposal. Kratom is already regulated. Keep it that way.

CommentID: 224898

6/5/24 7:53 am

Commenter: Mark**No to the ban**

It's stupid to ban a plant this the WHO has classified in the same family as coffee. No to the ban.

CommentID: 224899

6/5/24 7:53 am

Commenter: Lake Ritter**Keep kratom safe and legal!**

Any injury related to kratom use is sad and tragic. This is true just like it is for acute alcohol poisoning or acetaminophen poisoning. But we can institute reasonable regulations without turning thousands of ordinary people into criminals. Many regular, responsible adults like me use kratom to manage chronic pain. It's helped lots of people to stop using or avoid dangerous opioids.

CommentID: 224900

6/5/24 8:04 am

Commenter: Lynn Stevens American Pain and Disability Foundation**Keep Kratom Accessible!**

Please keep Kratom accessible to the millions of people and patients who need it!! I am originally from Pennsylvania where Kratom is accessible in stores from quality vendors and is lab tested for safety. I have been using kratom for 7 years now without ANY side effects and I have never had to increase my dosage nor the frequency in which I take it in all these years. I am a palliative care patient and suffer from chronic intractable excruciating spinal pain as well as CRPS , Degenerative disc and joint disease , spinal stenosis throughout my spine , bulging and herniated discs throughout my spine , several compression fractures in my spine and many other medical conditions causing severe pain continuously everyday as well as anxiety and PTSD. Much of my spinal issues were caused by a drunk driver. I have tried every type of medication , physical therapy as well as multiple other treatments and kratom has been the best with the lowest amount of side effects (none other than occasional constipation if I haven't drank enough water that day)

I am currently in Indiana where Kratom is banned on a family emergency for my 29 yr old son. I am alone with no help and I am now bedridden suffering immensely without my much needed kratom and I don't know if I will make it back to Pennsylvania now.

PLEASE keep Kratom accessible in Virginia & all states for those who need it!!!! Please do not schedule kratom!!

CommentID: 224901

6/5/24 8:11 am

Commenter: Taxpayer**Blown so comically out of proportion. It's a tea leaf.**

I hold down a job, maintain a household, a marriage, motherhood, have hobbies, contribute to my community in various ways, and am respected amongst my peers. For ten years my kratom consumption has been unproblematic, so why do you have a problem with it?

I've had starbucks lattes that make me feel more intoxicated than kratom does. This whole thing has been blown so wildly out of proportion that I almost can't help but to laugh at it.

CommentID: 224902

6/5/24 8:21 am

Commenter: Joe Varga**Next year gonna ban chives?**

Because people dry it and consume it to enhance flavor and/or appearance... back off the Kratom, it's as harmless as lettuce...

CommentID: 224903

6/5/24 8:22 am

Commenter: Anonymous**Kratom is beneficial**

Kratom is a natural beneficial pain reliever. Please do not make this illegal

CommentID: 224904

6/5/24 8:24 am

Commenter: Jesus Loya**Kratom Saves Lives**

I would like to say Kratom has helped me and my family. Before I ever knew what kratom was I was already fighting addiction with several things. I remember being introduced to it and since then I've been able to steer away from a life a bad decisions. Ive been consuming kratom for 10+ years now. I've gone to the doctors for regular check ups and everything comes back normal. I introduced my mom to kratom because she battles arthritis and she has been consuming it ever since. I m an ordinary dude that has managed to keep the same job for years, pay my taxes, have a mortgage, help what I can to society. I don't go out promoting kratom to the masses but when I see someone struggling with pain or addiction, I do make kratom known to them and tell them what it is. I believe it should be regulated but not banned. I think many people will relate to the heavier stuff if this plant gets banned. The law has been here since the beginning and criminals don't care about the law because the actual bad drugs are still accessible. if this gets banned, it's going to make it hard on the regular people in society like me to live a normal life. It'll probably steer us backwards and not forward. Although, I do feel like I'm strong enough to not look back, one does not know until it actually happens. I believe there is a lot of negative bias against kratom. it's a perfect target to blame but the culprit is somewhere else. Please let kratom stay legal. It's not this evil drug that people make it out to be. Regulate it.

CommentID: 224905

6/5/24 8:28 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom gave me a life again

I'm a 64 year-old retired US Navy veteran E-6/PO1 and worked in the the engine rooms which were at the bottom of the ships I served aboard so a lot of climbing up an down ladder ways for all those years which contributed to my back issues. However even after my retirement from the US Navy I continued to be actively employed as a production manager in the rail industry in Western Kentucky thanks to what I consider my miracle plant called Kratom. I had been prescribed pharmaceutical such as opiates for over twelve years for back issues. When the CDC published its new prescribing guidelines I was treated like a criminal being forced to do urinalysis, pill counts, and conversations with my doctor and nurses about the potential of addiction. I felt like I all of a sudden my medical team thought I was trying to get opiates for a "high" or to sell them on the street. As a responsible adult and a Navy veteran with twenty years of service, this became embarrassing and frustrating the longer it went on. I had enough of jumping through hoops to get what was prescribed to me by my physician but I knew I needed an alternative because I couldn't, after all those years, stop cold turkey after having been prescribed those pills for so many years. My body and mind were basically dependant on the opiates and I knew the withdrawals were going to be awful. I also knew I would still need something for the pain from back surgeries so I started looking for natural alternatives. I then came upon Kratom and at first, I was skeptical that a leaf from a tree related to the coffee family was going to do what the opiates had in regards to pain relief had been doing all those years. However, I was wrong and Kratom not only helped me function but it did so by lifting the brain fog I had been living with all those years. I was clear-headed again as well as becoming more active and able to enjoy those everyday family activities. I was playing with my grandkids again, walking my dog, and doing yard work. My energy level was once again back to how I felt in my earlier years before being prescribed pharmaceuticals. I've been opiate-free for over seven years now. I only purchase my Kratom from vendors that are GMP compliant, and follow the DSHEA Act guidelines, and are trustworthy. The small minority of backyard vendors adding things to Kratom, which I don't agree with, and Kratom should only be allowed to be sold unadulterated and in its natural form. Kratom has helped many people in so many different ways. All I ask is that the people wanting to ban Kratom stop and listen and most importantly follow the science. It's literally a miracle plant.

CommentID: 224907

6/5/24 8:28 am

dead. I am currently waiting for my new Pain Management appointment to occur this week and the medical PTSD and anxiety has already taken over my life! I have been using Kratom for about 2 months now (been without my prescription medications since February) and it has given me the ability to manage my life as a wife, mother and small business owner. To be clear, I do not consume Kratom daily and when I'm having a flare up (several diagnosed issues in lumbar spine) I don't use Kratom as it does not help my pain. Without Kratom, I would not have been able to have a quality of life for the past few months while I've been without my FDA approved opioid pain medication. There are several days that I am unable to get out of bed, unable to eat and question why at 42 years old, this is my life now. Nobody fights for us, nobody cares about us! We are punished because of the illicit Fentanyl crisis! CPP's are not overdosing/dying and we are not abusing our meds!! We would not go through the biased and judgmental provider appointments to increase our medical PTSD to abuse our meds!! Please - hear us and LISTEN!! Don't punish our pain even more!! Thank you!

CommentID: 224909

Commenter: Tori

Keep Kratom Legal

I know so many people who utilize kratom as a natural pain reliever when they do not have access to healthcare options. If you take this option away from those people who are not able to access healthcare where do you expect them to turn besides the street?
DO NOT MAKE KRATOM ILLEGAL!!

CommentID: 224910

6/5/24 8:37 am

Commenter: Erin archer

KRATOM SAVED MY HUSBAND AND I FROM ADDICTION

My husband has sciatica I have arthritis we both tooth tramadol for 10 yrs til we found kratom!! We were able to get off a 10 yr addiction created by big pharma overnight! Kratom gave us our life back stop with this madness. Ban big pharma they do way more damage than an HERB ??!!

CommentID: 224911

6/5/24 8:37 am

Commenter: Mary

I support this petition

Kratom needs to be scheduled. There is no proven science for medicinal use. Science has not shown any evidence of a safety profile. 40 plus alkaloids and does science know what each of these alkaloids does to the body after long term consumption. Kratom has shown to be addictive and or can become dependent on it. Kratom deaths are on the rise . please keep Virginia's public community safe. Kratom is way to accessible especially to the younger population.
Thank you

CommentID: 224912

6/5/24 8:40 am

Commenter: William Bullough

Follow the lead of other states, and regulate not ban

6/5/24 8:41 am

Commenter: Kelley

Kratom has been a life saver

I have dealt with debilitating anxiety and Kratom has allowed me to function without the side effects of Xanax, while working just as well. I would much prefer to take a low dose of a plant derived product than fill my body with chemicals and drugs that have known side effects. Just like with anything, education and personal responsibility are necessary (let's face it, drinking too much water too quickly has the potential to harm you), but scheduling this plant goes far beyond that. Please leave health decisions up to each person, not the government.

CommentID: 224908

6/5/24 8:31 am

Commenter: Red Voter/CP

Don't Punish Pain!!!

I am writing as a CPP (chronic pain patient) and a Republican that voted proudly for Youngkin!! The DEA and DOJ have caused absolute destruction for my CPP community by putting our providers in jail, cutting back on the manufacturing of our FDA approved medications and left us for

6/5/24 8:36 am

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

I am fortunate to live in a state with a Kratom consumer protection act that strives to regulate Kratom for safety, rather criminalize it and prevent anyone from experiencing its benefits. Kratom has cost effectively spared me from so much pain over the last five years. It has been life-changing in a very positive way, and its qualities have allowed me to be more productive at work. There are many other OTC substances available in the local grocery store that are far more dangerous. . . why should Kratom be singled out? It should be regulated for safety like all the other beneficial medicines we have, not banned.

CommentID: 224913

Commenter: Pam H

<http://www.clinlabnavigator.com/kratom-fatalities.html>

I support this petition to schedule Kratom

CommentID: 224914

6/5/24 8:42 am

Commenter: Taxpayer & Store Manager

I've seen Kratom save lives...

I work as a manager at a shop that happens to sell kratom... I can't even begin to count the amount of people who I've seen that have been given a life again because of Kratom. Not only customers, but people I personally know who use this PLANT instead of prescription pain medications, and often times works better anyways. It's positive uses FAR OUTWEIGH any negatives. Although it can be habit forming, it does so much more good for people who use it properly than bad to those who abuse it... at the end of the day it's another plant that saves lives & i, as well as countless others, think it's insane to try to ban something from our earth... just so that we can push more meds from and give more money to big pharma. KRATOM SAVES LIVES.

CommentID: 224915

Commenter: Carl

Let them have kratom!!

Kratom is a useful tool for most folks who either can't afford health care or don't want to get addicted to major pain killers. It brings relief for so many people in a safer more accessible way. PLEASE DONT MAKE KRATOM ILLEGAL!!!

CommentID: 224916

6/5/24 8:43 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Schedule Kratom causes death

<http://www.clinlabnavigator.com/kratom-fatalities.html>

CommentID: 224917

6/5/24 8:44 am

Commenter: Jean

People have a right to make their own decisions

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

549/750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Government's purpose is to protect rights, not to restrict, remove, and destroy them. Free people can make their own choices about whether or not to use kratom and make a decision as to whether or not it is beneficial for them.

CommentID: 224918

Commenter: Avery

Kratom deserves better

Kratom is very handy to many people. I'm tired of the government trying to always ban helpful plants: Ban Blue lotus flower or crackdown on delta 8 or something. Banning helpful substances while alcohol is fully legal and kills more people than any plants

CommentID: 224919

6/5/24 8:45 am

Commenter: Anonymous

Ban Kratom

<https://www.cbsnews.com/amp/news/kratom-health-benefits-risks-death/>
one death too many..

CommentID: 224920

6/5/24 8:48 am

Commenter: Ryan

Big Pharma

Kratom has saved my life. I don't have to take it anymore, but if I hadn't when I did my life would've been insufferable. Unlike what big pharmaceutical companies can provide, I was able to easily stop kratom when it wasn't needed any longer. Took it for 3 years. No doctors to suddenly take it away and leave me in pain. That's what they want though just more control!

CommentID: 224921

6/5/24 8:49 am

Commenter: Lenny

Those for the ban are always anonymous

There is a reason they won't post their names... because it's one or a few spamming the comment section. The FDA found no adverse effects after doing a study. All the stories about losing someone are fake. This is an herb that has shown the only side effect of too much kratom is nausea. NAUSEA. None of the deaths are due to kratom, it's all the other substances in that persons body. How many people die from alcohol poisoning? You want to take a beneficial herb away from people with no science based facts. There is a reason the FDA has failed to schedule... because they can't prove it's harmful. This is a gross overstep.

CommentID: 224922

6/5/24 9:00 am

Commenter: Jeff

6/5/24 9:03 am

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

550/750

Keep Kratom Legal

Being in the industry I've seen kratom save countless lives. Regulation is the answer NOT scheduling. Our company utilizes a class 100,000 clean room to manufacture our kratom products and we follow all the same regulations any other supplement manufacturer would follow with quality control, full cGMP compliance and 3rd party lab testing. We welcome full inspections for FDA compliance.

Where will people who rely on kratom for pain relief turn if it's scheduled? This petition is fueling the black market for opioids rather than supporting regulation for a natural alkaloid product.

CommentID: 224923

Commenter: Sky

6/5/24 9:04 am

Kratom Saves Lives!

Kratom has saved countless lives of everyday people you may know. From Military Veterans to school teachers. Kratom can help people with pain in a more natural form than Big Pharma pills. Let people make decisions about their own bodies. If Kratom is made illegal, people will have no choice but to turn back to the pills that hurt them, and families will suffer. The people who fight for all of our freedom will have to loose the pain medication that they don't have to pay through the roof for every month because their health insurance wouldn't cover it. Keep Kratom Legal!

CommentID: 224924

Commenter: Chad G.

6/5/24 9:05 am

Banning Kratom will hurt the public.

I stand before you to shed light on a topic that has sparked debate and controversy: Kratom. In recent years, this natural substance has faced scrutiny and calls for its prohibition. However, I argue that Kratom should remain legal, and here's why.

First and foremost, Kratom offers numerous potential health benefits. Originating from the leaves of the *Mitragyna speciosa* tree, Kratom has been used for centuries in Southeast Asia for its medicinal properties. Advocates highlight its potential to alleviate pain, reduce anxiety, boost mood, and even aid in overcoming addiction to opioids. Many individuals have found relief from chronic pain and debilitating conditions through the responsible use of Kratom.

Furthermore, Kratom is a safer alternative to traditional opioids. With the opioid epidemic gripping nations worldwide, finding non-addictive pain management solutions is crucial. Kratom offers a natural option that, when used responsibly, can provide relief without the risk of addiction or overdose.

Moreover, criminalizing Kratom would limit access to a natural remedy for countless individuals who rely on it for their well-being. By keeping Kratom legal, we ensure that those in need can continue to access this plant safely and legally, under appropriate regulation.

Additionally, banning Kratom would not solve any underlying issues but would instead drive its trade underground, leading to unsafe products and potential harm to consumers. Responsible regulation, rather than prohibition, is the key to ensuring the safe use of Kratom.

In conclusion, Kratom has the potential to improve the lives of many individuals struggling with pain, anxiety, and addiction. By keeping it legal and subjecting it to appropriate regulation, we can harness its benefits while ensuring public safety. Let us not overlook the potential of this natural remedy, but instead, let us work together to find a balanced approach that respects both the

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potential benefits and the need for regulation. Banning Kratom will do more bad than good, especially during an opioid pandemic!

Big pharma want it for themselves! KEEP KRATOM LEGAL! It saved my life.
CommentID: 224925

Commenter: Thomas

6/5/24 9:06 am

I do not support this petition/scheduling of Kratom

As a Virginia native, I do not support the Board of Pharmacy's "Addition of Kratom as a Schedule 1 Substance" petition.

Like many others have already commented, Kratom provides an alternative for many people to live a good, pain-free life. It has helped family members of mine living with chronic pain to have a freedom that was unseen in a long while. Why must this helpful alternative consistently be attacked by individuals/groups? I say that knowing that it most likely has nothing to do with safety (which it is safe), but instead profit and unsolicited opinions.

To the person who reads this comment, do your own research. Do not listen to the various trolls and opinion-pushers of this online world.

I do not support this potential scheduling change.

CommentID: 224926

Commenter: William Thresher

6/5/24 9:06 am

Do NOT Ban Kratom

Kratom has saved countless lives and continues to do so on a daily basis. These claims and bot accounts are spreading straight lies. No one has died directly from Kratom use, that is a bold faced lie. Numerous people are making up stories of their children dying... "my kid used kratom, played cards and had a heart attack". That is a made up story I've seen numerous times throughout multiple posts by people with different names. Please take into consideration us honest humans who have been saved by this plant. I have severe nerve damage in my hand and this helps me daily. Do NOT ban kratom.

CommentID: 224927

Commenter: CF

6/5/24 9:07 am

Kratom is a lifesaving plant medicine for those with chronic pain!!

Taking away this valuable plant medicine will ruin the lives of those who suffer from chronic pain and force them to use harder drugs and opiates to get relief from their agony. It is unconstitutional to force people to suffer from health conditions that they were born with when they should be allowed to freely medicate as they please. The amount of people who need Kratom to live normal functional lives should be protected at all costs. Forcing them to suffer is absolutely unacceptable especially when it's the safest pain relieving alternative possible!!!!!! Kratom saved my life and allows me to live a full and functional life without worry of chronic daily intractable migraines that are not responsive to the majority of medications.

CommentID: 224928

Commenter: John**Save kratom**

It helps people off pills!

CommentID: 224929

6/5/24 9:10 am

Commenter: Chrissy**Kratom SAVED MY LIFE.**

I have donated to the Kratom association. Please keep Kratom available to me. It has saved my life. I am able to live a good life.

CommentID: 224930

6/5/24 9:11 am

Commenter: Anonymous**Kratom**

do not support the petition to classify kratom as a schedule 1 substance in Virginia

CommentID: 224931

6/5/24 9:12 am

Commenter: Joshua Tate**An attack on kratom is an attack on citizens.**

Banning kratom is an attack on civil rights and citizens in general. It affects not only the hardworking individuals who rely on this plant to provide for their families, but also the numerous people who use it as a means of recovery. Even government officials, who themselves regularly purchase it, are impacted by such a decision. In essence, this ban harms everyone involved.

CommentID: 224932

6/5/24 9:15 am

Commenter: Plot Griffon**Ban**

This is a highly addictive substance that is being sold in very strong extract formulas in gas station and tobacco stores all over Virginia. While people may like it for the same reasons they like opioids, it is possible to get just as addicted to Kratom. When they take it daily and then stop, they get genuinely sick from withdrawals and the symptoms are identical to opioid withdrawal.

Kratom, unlike marijuana, is very addictive. It causes a host of health problems but is aggressively marketed as a "natural plant just like coffee" that can do no harm. This is a wolf in sheep's clothing, especially with the unregulated and STRONG extracts/concentrates that people buy for \$20 a ounce in GAS STATIONS.

read the quitting kratom page on Reddit. People are spending \$20-\$100 PER DAY taking multiple extracts per day, only to have their hair fall out and develop anemia.

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

553/750

CommentID: 224933

Commenter: Kathy Magliaro**Kratom saved my life**

Please Don't let emotions sway your opinion. Please research the science of this plant. Kratom not only saved my life, it also gave me my life back so I am thriving in life again. And it has given back millions of people their life as well.

CommentID: 224934

6/5/24 9:16 am

Commenter: Bridgette**Kratom Saves Lives!!!!**

Kratom is an all natural alternative to pain meds and opioids that has literally saved the lives of thousands of people. We need regulation not scheduling. What alternatives will people have if this becomes scheduled? You are only helping Big Pharma and fueling black market opioid sales if you move forward with this. People deserve to have access to natural resources that can improve the quality of their lives. Not everyone takes Kratom for it's pain relief...many find help with focus, mood, sleep and inflammation. Get informed!

CommentID: 224935

6/5/24 9:16 am

Commenter: S. Wathen**Natural Tea Leaves That Help**

For me, this has helped me through the years more than I ever thought it would. I no longer need to rely on pain management and can reap the results of less pain, more focus, therefore feeling much better all in all. I would hate to see this natural remedy unavailable. I've had no side effects from this including in any blood test I've had. This product by no means has ever made me feel high or out of control. It just makes me feel better than I did therefore, the sense of mood lift.

CommentID: 224936

6/5/24 9:17 am

Commenter: Emily Swift**Kratom does not belong on Schedule I**

I have used this plant regularly for pain relief and relaxation. The effects are noticeable but mild. Treating this plant as though it is heroin, cocaine, even marijuana, is ludicrous. I would support limiting access to minors, just as we do with alcohol and tobacco, but there is no good reason to criminalize people who drink an herbal tea.

CommentID: 224938

6/5/24 9:18 am

Commenter: Joe Hanlon, Veterans with Disabilities Association**I DON NOTSUPPORT Board of Pharmacy Petition "Addition of kratom to Schedule I" (CRIMINALIZE KRATOM)**

This will essentially destroy me. Kratom has helped save my life.

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

554/750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

CommentID: 224939

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:20 am

I support Schedule I Classification - You should not self treat at the Pump N Munch Gas and Go

Kratom, while masked as a natural remedy, has misled many with its dangerous allure, sold at fancy, neon-glowing bong shops and Virginia's newest bastion of health and wellness, the Flying J Pump N Munch Gas and Go, between boiled peanuts and lotto scratchers. It's time we recognize this not as a benign leaf, but as a potential peril that requires our collective wisdom and action.

CommentID: 224940

Commenter: Timothy Scott Foy

6/5/24 9:23 am

Kratom is necessary and needed for further study

Don't treat this like another War on drugs, without this plant I would never have made it through my PTSD treatment. Allow Americans to do what they want, with what they want, unless it poses a severe community health risk. Which in this case no medical board has yet to confirm it does.

CommentID: 224942

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:24 am

Support and help us fight this opioid crisis

Everyday we fight for a world where others can live free from the chains of substances that bind their will and cloud their judgment. As the guardians of health and wellness founded on evidence based medicine, it becomes our sacred duty to protect our community from the grips of dependency and substance misuse.

CommentID: 224943

Commenter: chris romoser

6/5/24 9:24 am

kratom is safe and saves lives

I have been using kratom for over eight years and have never had a single problem with it. It is basically a leaf to make a tea with. It has helped me specifically with back pain, and is safer than opiates (vicodin, percocet, etc.) We must not schedule this tea as a drug. It is helping millions across the USA.

CommentID: 224944

Commenter: Michele

6/5/24 9:27 am

Kratom is SAFE!

Kratom saved me. I was a legal, doctor supervised pain patient taking 50-70mg of Oxycodone daily for 5+ years. During the pandemic, I decided to try a different way. I picked up some Kratom. The switch was a little bumpy but I'm so happy I did it! I take about 6g of Kratom daily, 2g 3 times per day. I can miss doses and skip days and I don't feel like I did when I missed a pain pill.

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

555/750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Protect Kratom. Legalize Kratom. Regulate Kratom so we can make sure it's safe and tested

CommentID: 224945

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:28 am

supporting the classification of Kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance

Kratom, currently unregulated, masquerades as a mere supplement, yet stories of dependency, health problems, and lives disturbed are rising in our midst. The National Poison Data System experienced 357 calls regarding Kratom in 2018. The CDC highlighted that 909 accidental overdose deaths in 2022 involved Kratom, with 53 of those deaths occurring in Virginia. A total of 489 adverse effects have been reported in the FDA Adverse Event Reporting System from 2004 to 2021, with the most common event being death, followed by addiction and seizure. An opioid like withdrawal is associated with Kratom use and case reports of neonatal abstinence syndrome are documented. We are not simply engaging in a legal act; we are engaging in an act of love, an act of protection, and an act of faith.

CommentID: 224946

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:31 am

Call to action - supporting this petition

sending a clear message that the wellness of our community, the integrity of our families, and the sanctity of our health are not negotiable.

CommentID: 224947

Commenter: Molly James

6/5/24 9:32 am

Kratom

Kratom helps my sickly grandmother with her constant, chronic pain.

CommentID: 224948

Commenter: D

6/5/24 9:34 am

Kratom is life saving

Please consider that regulation of this nature will have profound negative consequences for many many people. Trust your fellow citizens to know their needs, their bodies & how to act autonomously & responsibly.

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

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CommentID: 224949

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:34 am

advocating for Kratom to be classified as a Schedule I controlled substance

Kratom, though often touted for its potential to aid in opioid withdrawal, poses a significant and dangerous risk of addiction, abuse, and even death. The stories of loss, of families torn apart, potential unfulfilled, grow by the day. These are not just statistics; they are sons, daughters, parents, friends—all part of our human family, all deserving of our compassion and action

CommentID: 224950

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:36 am

Kratom saved my life

Please don't take away my only hope at a normal life. Without this plant my pain can not be properly managed.

CommentID: 224951

Commenter: Leisa Bailey

6/5/24 9:38 am

Kratom has saved my life

I'm a victim of the opioid epidemic and was prescribed 8-30mg oxycodone every day for a decade! I was introduced to this plant called kratom and it's absolutely saved my life, relationships and health! It's naturally a great source of energy, pain relief and anxiety! Please don't take this plant away from me! I don't want to go back to using pain medication that made me a zombie with no life outside the house. Kratom gives me the benefit of being a part of my granddaughter's life! She just turned 2 & needs her grandma alert & pain free! God made this plant for me & millions of others. If it's taken away people will be left with no choice but to go back to addiction to other dangerous substances. I'm living proof that after 4 years of using kratom I've never had any issues stopping it & little to no withdrawal symptoms unlike the oxycodone which was like going through hell when I ran out.

CommentID: 224952

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:39 am

Keep it legal it helps many people

I don't support this. It's a life saver and you don't get addicted to it it helps me to keep off all my pain meds and anxiety meds. Keep it legal

CommentID: 224953

Commenter: Jeffrey

6/5/24 9:41 am

Kratom saves lives

Do not support the scheduling of kratom. Regulation is the way, not scheduling!!

CommentID: 224954

Commenter: Marissa Lukezic

6/5/24 9:41 am

Keep Kratom Legal Protect Kratom

Kratom has delivered me from a long time heroin addiction. I am clean. Now. Please don't schedule Kratom. Respectfully Submitted

CommentID: 224955

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:42 am

Do not support

This would effectively take away my life from myself and many others. This isn't going to "protect" anyone.

CommentID: 224956

Commenter: Rhys

6/5/24 9:44 am

Save kratom

Kratom has helped countless lives with much less risk than opioid pain relievers, and many less side effects as well. You also CANNOT overdose from it. If you take too much, the worst that happens is you throw up and it's out of your system. Is it really better to give people prescriptions that could not only just end up making them feel worse, or even worse could kill them??

CommentID: 224957

Commenter: Suzanne

6/5/24 9:47 am

Please do not ban kratom

I do not support this petition or making kratom criminal and a Schedule I substance. I started using kratom recently to help with my menstrual cramps and headaches. I had no problems whatsoever and it felt like I was drinking green tea. It's a (green) powder just like tea or coffee. It didn't taste or feel weird at all. When someone is in a lot of pain, they should have access to all of the possible ailments to ease or get rid of the pain. It's not fair to force options to people who are already suffering (taking away access to herbs, kratom, and forcing opioids or pills). Please do not schedule or ban kratom - you would be hurting a lot of people. Instead, pass a KCPA that regulates kratom so that there are clear rules to producing it so that it is not contaminated with actual harmful chemicals and drugs. If you truly care about the people, keep kratom safe in Virginia.

CommentID: 224958

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:48 am

Don't take away my only hope

Kratom is a plant that's been around for 100's of years. While certain people may have a predisposition to opioid drugs Kratom is not one of them. Kratom doesn't cause a traditional high. The number of people who "abuse" Kratom are few. The number of people who need it on the

other hand is monumental. Please don't take away something that reconnects family's. Weather you've had a family member succumb to addiction, pain, illness, or other ailments. Kratom is a substance that improves lives. IT DOSENT TAKE THEM AWAY.
CommentID: 224959

Commenter: Casey pheelps
KEEP KRATUM LEGAL

6/5/24 9:49 am

Kratum has helped save thousands of people I know from opiate abuse and without kratum those lives very well could have not survived and be thriving today! Please do not ban kratum ! By doing so you will make the opiate epidemic even worse then it already is!!

CommentID: 224960

Commenter: Taylor Daniell
Please don't schedule Kratom!

6/5/24 9:50 am

I do not support the petition to criminalize kratom by making it a Schedule I substance!

CommentID: 224961

Commenter: Anonymous
Kratom saved me

6/5/24 9:51 am

I was a fentanyl addict and have managed to begin to turn my life around. I can find joy in things I never thought I would again. EVEN ON FENTANYL. It has made a more positive person and I don't crave getting high anymore. Please don't do this

CommentID: 224962

Commenter: Anonymous
Keep Kratom legal

6/5/24 9:52 am

This medicine shouldn't be banned. It doesn't need to be and the government is over stepping.

CommentID: 224963

Commenter: Austin S

Don't Make Virginians Criminals

6/5/24 9:52 am

We have already passed the VA consumer protection act concerning Kratom through our elected representatives and legislative process to keep kratom in the hands of adults only. If we want to further regulate kratom consumption we can do that in ways that will not turn functional, productive, and otherwise law abiding Virginia citizens into criminals overnight.

CommentID: 224964

Commenter: Dakotah reynolds
Kratom saves lives

6/5/24 9:54 am

Who are you to ban something that helps so many? You wouldn't know. If you haven't experienced addiction first hand, it's impossible to truly know the amazing impact it can make. You would be doing our country a disservice by banning it. Please dont.

CommentID: 224965

Commenter: Anonymous

This petition is extremely ignorant

6/5/24 9:55 am

I can't even believe this is being considered

CommentID: 224966

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom Killed My Son

6/5/24 9:56 am

I fully support the scheduling of kratom. It killed my perfectly healthy 23 year old son. It's falsely marketed as safe, that's why my son started using it for anxiety. One month later and it killed him. We helped push regulation in Georgia, HB181.

Good luck and that's for your efforts in regulating this evil plant!!!

Dana Pope

CommentID: 224967

Commenter: Jacob Clemens

SCHEDULE 1 PREVENTS HONEST RESEARCH

6/5/24 9:57 am

Scheduling kratom at schedule 1 prevents us from researching this plant effectively. If Virginia goes through will this other states are likely to follow and it will prevent honest and scientific discourse. Research and regulate, don't ban.

CommentID: 224968

Commenter: Jennifer

My brother died from the toxic effects of mitragynine/kratom please ban this poison

6/5/24 9:58 am

My brother was using the drug kratom which he thought was safe as coffee because it's related to the coffee plant, but it cause him to have a seizure, go into cardiac arrest and die at 22 years old.

CommentID: 224969

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom saved my friend

6/5/24 9:59 am

He was hopelessly addicted to opioids and kratom helped him break free of that addiction. He may have died from a fentanyl overdose, had he not had access to kratom.

CommentID: 224970

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom users are known to vote (yes!) for sports arenas (hint hint)

When basic logic is not implied, I have found the root cause comes from bad intentions. This petition is under the guise of protecting people from harm or death. Let's use our logic now... which causes the most deaths... Tobacco, Alcohol, Kratom, Sugar or Fentanyl? It is completely obvious which of the above is most harmful to anybody with basic knowledge. Why attack the least on the list first? This simple error in logic reveals that bad intentions are behind this petition. In fact, behind the scenes, folks in the know claim the law group that is really responsible for these local tactics, is from out of state. At the dinner table we make a lot of family decisions, would you let your neighbor down the street dictate what your family can or cannot do? Let Virginians decide, please let them live under science, good logic, and good health.

CommentID: 224971

Commenter: Anonymous

Support Kratom to be classified as schedule I substance

In a statement released by the FDA February 6, 2018, FDA Commissioner Dr Scott Gottlieb, MD reported "Based on the scientific information in the literature and further supported by our computational modeling and the reports of its adverse effects in humans, we feel confident in calling compounds found in Kratom, opioids."

CommentID: 224972

Commenter: AL ROBERTS

Addition of kratom to Schedule I

I strongly support this petition to reschedule KRATOM to a Schedule 1 category. Here are some reasons why. According to the FDA site "... kratom is not lawfully marketed in the U.S. as a drug product, dietary supplement, or a food additive in conventional food". There are relatively few, if any, acceptable studies detailing any benefits of this product as it is marketed as a supplement. This product has potential risks (per FDA) such as liver toxicity, seizures, and substance use disorder (SUD). Some folks use this product for opioid withdrawal symptoms since it is non-prescription bypassing the more proven standards of care in this type of situation. While it is marketed as supplement, KRATOM certainly meets the criteria for inclusion into the Schedule 1 category. Thanks you for taking the time to review my comments.

Al Roberts

CommentID: 224973

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Commenter: Warren

Kratom helps so many people. it's wrong to take this away from us. I've seen it help so many.

Please don't take this away from us. I've personally seen it help so many people in life. It would be morally wrong, as well as taking freedom away. If you want to take something damaging away, take away alcohol. Name a way drinking alcohol or becoming an alcoholic has helped anyone. But the state has that damaging market in full swing.

CommentID: 224974

Commenter: Anonymous

Support Kratom to be classified as a schedule I substance

Support Kratom to be classified as a schedule I substance.

CommentID: 224975

Commenter: Jackie

Kratom is causing me to have seizures, but after many attempt to quit I'm still using please ban it!

I've been using kratom for 2 years, and I feel the only way I will be able to quit is if it's not available to me.

CommentID: 224976

Commenter: Anonymous

Do not support

This petition is very biased. People here opioid and immediately jump to assuming it's horrible. People who can't empathize see us as addicts instead of what we really are. Struggling with our conditions!

CommentID: 224977

Commenter: Anonymous

Keep kratom legal- it's just a tree (from the coffee species) it is not a narcotic drug!

As a chronic pain and neuropathy patient due to being hit by a car years ago and had a broken pelvis and tail bone, kratom has helped me far more than any prescribed drug.

I had tried opiates and gabapentin to manage my pain- both of which come with their own major side effects and which have major regulations in this state because they are known to be addictive. As someone who has taken the prescribed alternatives to kratom, I can attest it is not the dangerous supplement that those lobbying against it want to make it out to be. I can say that the prescribed alternatives are FAR MORE dangerous and addictive than a natural growing trees leaves.

Sure, you can say that there's potential for it to be addictive and there can be withdrawals.

However, caffeine also has these properties. Caffeine can also cause people to overdose at high enough doses. As someone who went through opiate withdrawals and kratom withdrawal before, I can say that opiates was far worse to get off of. Kratom withdrawals are similar to that of skipping my morning coffee- perhaps fatigued and having a headache that day.

And needless to say, it's the dose that makes the poison. I do not find kratom in its natural form to be dangerous. Yes there are unregulated concentrations out there and maybe these extracts need to be looked into. However, what about the supercharged energy drinks people abuse that are still on the market? Haven't people overdosed on them due to misuse? Look at the Panera lemonade situation that's made headlines recently. Again, it's the dose that makes the poison. I find it unfair to compare a herbal supplement similar to caffeine to narcotics. It should however be comparable to coffee, which is the species that kratom come from.

If kratom is banned people like me who rely on it for medicinal properties to manage pain naturally will be forced back on to known scheduled addictive drugs. I have safely taken kratom now for six years. I also have liver disease and see a liver specialist every six months- my lab values are great and I can attest that long term usage does not cause liver injury as many claim. What does cause liver injury is long term usage of over the counter pain medication, like NSAIDs and acetaminophen though- and I do not see people lobbying against those medications. It seem hypocritical to single out kratom when there are over things freely available that can also cause damage or be fatal to people with over usage or misuse. Although I do think cases that claim "kratom overdose" should be looked into more closely. Majority of these cases are "poly substances" deaths- aka multiple drugs where in the deceases system. How can we try to claim it was kratom that was fatal substance in cases like this when kratom has a threshold ceiling effect? It seem irresponsible to make misinformed claims when scientifically it is impossible. Even published scientific studies from last year stated the 1.9% (4 people) of overdoses examined that did have kratom in their systems all had additional drugs in their systems.

This study investigated coroner autopsy reports from Kern County in California for the year 2020 which included qualitative data on substances from blood toxicological reports. Of the 214 opioid-associated accidental overdoses reported, 4 subjects (1.9%) had mitragynine (kratom) exposure on the autopsy report and were included in the study.

All 4 individuals with mitragynine (kratom) toxicology had accidental opioid overdose deaths noted in autopsy reports. Each subject also had toxicology positive for at least one other substance. Fentanyl was found in 3 (75%) of the cases and suspected to be the primary contributor to opioid-related deaths in those cases. However, one fatality was without fentanyl, but instead had tested positive for benzodiazepines, cannabis, and other psychiatric medications.

[<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10806006/>]

In conclusion, I find it dangerous and irresponsible to try to fear monger towards the publics opinion regarding kratom. Claims of it being some dangerous drug go against all scientific research and the mere existence of this herbal medicine. It is a leaf that comes from a tree that is in the coffee species. In its natural unaltered form it is HIGHLY safe. It is no more dangerous than caffeine. Rather than wasting the time of the Virginia lawmakers to try to ban a tree leaf, perhaps we should be paying attention to the fentanyl crisis that is killing people on the daily in this state. Perhaps we shouldn't be trying to ban a safer alternative for chronic pain patients like myself. Irresponsible and over use of kratom that has adverse side effects is not the plants fault, it is a general failure of the person willfully over administering it. Again, anything can be dangerous at a high enough dosage- even water can kill you if you take enough too quickly.

Commenter: Anonymous

cannot support this

6/5/24 10:06 am

Disgusting. I can't even believe this is a thing when we have kcpa.

CommentID: 224979

Commenter: Anonymous

Good people will die if you ban kratom

Banning Kratom will cause many good people to lose their jobs, fall off from everyday, working society, and even die. One could never understand unless one has been addicted to a substance like alcohol and heroin. Kratom gives those people the ability to function normally...they are not trying to get high, they just want to go to work, take care of their kids, and just try to be a good functioning person in society. I promise you if you take Kratom away from these people the VAST MAJORITY will return to their old habits...and especially in the world of opiates, what with all the fentanyl going around, many will indeed die as a result. Do the right thing please and Do NOT ban kratom.

CommentID: 224980

6/5/24 10:06 am

Commenter: Caro Freinberg

Kratom vs. Coffee | Please Continue to Regulate & Keep Kratom Legal

For the past four years, I've had kratom tea 2-4 times per week. I typically drink kratom tea (kratom leaves steeped in hot water) and occasionally have kratom powder in capsules. As a veterinary nurse, kratom helped me work long hours on my feet doing physically intense work.

When I drink coffee, I feel anxious. If I have any caffeine past 3 PM, I have difficulty sleeping. When I drink kratom tea instead, I'm able to be extremely productive while also feeling calm and composed. I have no difficulty falling asleep after drinking kratom tea as late as 8 PM, so it's incredibly helpful when I work late and need a bit of extra energy.

The amount I consume on a daily basis hasn't changed over the years. I don't miss kratom on the days I don't consume it. I have never experienced withdrawal.

Regulation and education can keep consumers safe. If you had never consumed coffee before and didn't know a lot about it and you drank three cups, you'd likely have an adverse reaction. The way to prevent this isn't to ban coffee/caffeine, it's to educate consumers on how to drink coffee responsibly and make sure they know what a serving size is. It's also essential to ensure that the market is regulated so that consumers aren't getting products with microbiological contaminants, excessive heavy metals, or unknown amounts of active compounds.

Please regulate kratom instead of banning it. Thank you.

CommentID: 224981

6/5/24 10:06 am

Commenter: Anonymous

This petition is not founded on unbiased science.

It's clear big pharma wants it for themselves, but whatever take away my life I'm used to it at this point.

CommentID: 224982

6/5/24 10:07 am

Commenter: Joeseeph

6/5/24 10:08 am

I've been using kratom for 2 years, it caused me to go into cardiac arrest, but I'm unable to quit

Kratom needs to be scheduled, please save me from myself!

CommentID: 224983

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:08 am

Kratom stopped me from wanting to kill myself from depression DO NOT BAN

I can't even describe how this plant has saved my life truly SAVED ME.

CommentID: 224984

Commenter: Dusti

6/5/24 10:09 am

KRATOM KILLS. Many too thought it was saving their lives. Only to DIE from it!

My brother used Kratom for about 4 years to help with anxiety. He suffered a horrific seizure do to the toxicity of Kratom it killed him. Please schedule this poison.

CommentID: 224986

Commenter: Connie S.

6/5/24 10:11 am

Kratom is effective in pain management

I am totally against the banning of Kratom. This natural supplement has come through for me when opiates failed to provide effective pain relief for a debilitating condition. Not only me, but thousands of individuals rely on Kratom to help maintain a more enjoyable way of living. It would be a huge disservice to ban it.

CommentID: 224988

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:11 am

Kratom saved my life

making Kratom a schedule 1 substance would do more harm than good. It would take away peoples jobs, lives, and ability to function. Why would you do that to people? DO NOT BAN KRATOM.

CommentID: 224989

Commenter: Mistea

6/5/24 10:11 am

Kratom has damaged my liver, I was healthy, but now my skin is yellow from kratom

has always healthy, but kratom has destroyed my liver, and I'm afraid I will go into liver failure because of this, my doctor said i will not live more than a year if i continue using kratom.

CommentID: 224990

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:13 am

Kratom should not be A SCHEDULE 1 drug.

I think some people don't even know what that is. You can clearly see the at it helps people with medical issues. Why then would you make it schedule 1? That makes no sense whatsoever.

CommentID: 224991

Commenter: Chrissy

6/5/24 10:14 am

I thought kratom would help my anxiety, but it has made me suicidal, BAN this for my sake!

Please save me from myself, I'm unable to quit kratom, and I can't afford rehab!

CommentID: 224992

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:15 am

Keep kratom legal

Making kratom illegal will do way more harm than good. As we know from many failed attempts by legislators, banning kratom only punishes those who need it. There is no doubt it has helped many escape dangerous addictions to opiates, so banning it will do way, and I mean way, more harm. It has helped others and will continue to if it is regulated properly and kept available for those who need it.

CommentID: 224993

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:15 am

SCHEDULE 1 IS EXTREME

SCHEDULE 1 IS EXTREME

CommentID: 224994

Commenter: DeeDee

6/5/24 10:16 am

Kratom Saves

I was hooked on unprescribed opioids for 8 years. With the help of Kratom I've been off of them for 3 years. The right kind comes from a plant! No additives. It's natural and has saved so many people from the opioid crisis

CommentID: 224995

Commenter: Bud the Swamp Guy

6/5/24 10:17 am

Kratom gets me high AF, big pharma always taking away our drugs

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

F big pharma, save our weed and kratom

CommentID: 224996

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:17 am

Kratom took away symptoms of crippling anxiety and depression

Kratom beyond saved my life. It made my life livable again. As someone who has struggled for years I can confidently say kratom works. Don't take this away from anyone who needs it!

CommentID: 224997

Commenter: Christopher Wood

6/5/24 10:17 am

Cannot support this nonsense

I cannot support this nonsense! Making the active ingredients in Kratom Schedule I. That is just crazy! In the same group as cocaine and heroin???. Wow you people have lost your minds!

CommentID: 224998

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:18 am

Kratom prevented me from taking my own life

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE DO NOT BAN THIS MIRACLE DRUG. We are not addicts we are normal people.

CommentID: 225000

Commenter: Brendan

6/5/24 10:18 am

Banning Kratom will lead to a sharp increase in fentanyl deaths

If you ban Kratom, overdose deaths from fentanyl will skyrocket. Please use your brains for 10 seconds.

CommentID: 225001

Commenter: Mac Haddow

6/5/24 10:19 am

People are dying from kratom, so what they can die from drinking too much water

Let consumers decide what to do with their own bodies

CommentID: 225002

Commenter: Elle

6/5/24 10:20 am

Unfair and biased attacks

288

https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409

5677750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

I'd like for someone to explain why we aren't using the same thought process for kratom that we do for everything else.

When someone with a gun commits a mass shooting the response from Virginia legislation has been guns don't kill people, the shooter does.

When a surgeon leaves a surgical sponge in a patient and they die we don't try to ban surgical sponges.

When people fall for the snake oil pushed by influencers and make their kids sick by having them ingest bleach or essential oils we don't call for banning cleaning supplies.

Kratom has been used for a long time by A LOT of people. I personally know multiple people who use it for everything from arthritis to nervous system disorders and it allows them to be humans with lives and not broken individuals who vegetate.

Unfortunately, it seems like most of the people who have objections with kratom are those who have lost a loved one. And while I understand the hurt and emotions they feel that is no excuse to rip the quality of life away from other people because a very small minority, most who likely had other contributing factors like preexisting conditions, had isolated issues. This thought process is selfish and reactionary.

This petition is an overreach and denying access to something that has helped so many is sadistic. It is reactionary, emotional, and not prioritizing the proper demographic. I'm sorry people have lost their loved ones, but a lot of people have lost loved ones on a larger scale to various medications and medical procedures far more regulated and even prescribed, than kratom.

The proper procedure would be to push for warning labels or age verification for purchase like with alcohol, cigarettes, energy drinks, or over the counter meds. All which have contributed to more deaths or disorders than kratom.

CommentID: 225003

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:20 am

Kratom cannot be on the same schedule as heroin and crack that makes no sense

Some people might have a Kratom problem ,but you can't say it has take over the country like crack or heroin. If it did why would it not have killed more people or ruined more lives?

CommentID: 225004

Commenter: Nina

6/5/24 10:22 am

My mom died from kratom, she didn't take drugs and was otherwise healthy

My mom died from the toxic effects of mitragynine/kratom, please ban kratom.

CommentID: 225005

https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409

568/750

Commenter: Shane

6/5/24 10:23 am

I do not support this ban

Kratom saves and improves lives for a wide demographic. I do not support the ban on Kratom anywhere!

CommentID: 225006

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:24 am

Kratom isn't some "gas station pill," the people who take Kratom aren't addicts.

We were for desperate for our lives back and found something that could give it to us don't take that away.

CommentID: 225007

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:25 am

I do not support a ban on kratom

Hello I am in my 30's and a father of three. I am the head of 2 departments and am great at what I do and am very much a family man.

Over 12 yrs ago I cleaned up from a devastating oxy contin addiction, I couldn't hold a job nor could I be available or present with my family. I came very close to overdose a few times and hit rock bottom. I entered into my 3rd treatment facility and actually worked a program of recovery that time around, which allowed me to achieve true and lasting sobriety.

3.5 years after getting clean I was suffering from a condition that would've ment going back to prescription pain killers. I was desperate for a different way. I am terrified of the effect the prescription pain killers would have on my life now. I did a great deal of research and found kratom. I believe Kratom quite literally saved my life because I know going back to the prescription pain pills is a death sentence for me and living in the constant pain I was experiencing was grinding me down to a point of doing things out of desperation. Suicide was an option as a way out. I was in a dark place. Kratom significantly improved my situation and for that I'll always be grateful.

I took kratom for 7.5 years. I quit taking it last year because overtime, I was able to heal my body and cope with the lasting issues I have without needing it. I was finally in a place to not need it. Again, I do not support a ban. Please consider the lives that will be destroyed by banning something that very well could be their only hope.

Thank you,

CommentID: 225008

Commenter: Katie

6/5/24 10:26 am

This is natural high, do you want us to get high off crack instead

Kratom is a gift from god, I need the euphoric feeling and I will go back to street drugs without it

CommentID: 225009

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:26 am

DO NOT SUPPORT

do not support

CommentID: 225010

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:27 am

I do NOT support the scheduling of kratom, listen to science.

Kratom is a plant that has not been known to cause any deaths on its own, helps so many people get off severely addictive drugs that WILL cause them to die, and should not be a schedule 1 drug just because people in power want to control it.

CommentID: 225011

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:28 am

Google "kratom death lawsuits" to many dead from this poison

My son died from kratom

CommentID: 225012

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:28 am

Kratom

I do not support the ban against Kratom

CommentID: 225013

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:28 am

Less than 100 deaths attributed to kratom alone...

Yet every few comments there's someone claiming a family member died from kratom. Hopefully whoever is reviewing these comments is smart enough to do a simple Google search and ignore the propaganda. About 150 people die from falling coconuts a year, maybe we should address coconuts first as them seem more lethal.

CommentID: 225014

Commenter: Stan

6/5/24 10:29 am

Do not ban Kratom

Do not ban this amazing plant,

CommentID: 225015

Commenter: FDA

6/5/24 10:29 am

30 leading kratom brands tested, all contained unsafe levels of heavy metals

Search FDA kratom heavy metal test.

CommentID: 225016

Commenter: Steve Hylton, PharmD

6/5/24 10:33 am

Kratom should be schedule I

There are no independent studies showing a benefit for Kratom, nor has it been proven safe and effective. There is no mechanism in place to be sure that labeling is correct with actual ingredients. It should be classified as a Schedule I substance

Steve Hylton, PharmD, RPh

CommentID: 225017

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:33 am

keep kratom legal

Leave Kratom alone

CommentID: 225018

Commenter: Megan

6/5/24 10:33 am

Kratom saves lives. We have the right to choose our own medicine!

Banning this plant would be a HUGE disservice to the people of Virginia, as well as thousands around the country who purchase their Kratom from reputable vendors in VA. For the life of me, I cannot understand why anyone would want to ban a plant that literally helps people to get off hard drugs and addictive pain meds. Kratom is NOT comparable to heroin. As someone who was once addicted to opioids, it is NOT the same. Kratom saved me from continuing down a dark path. It has saved thousands of others. It has given people their life back. People with chronic pain, anxiety, PTSD, etc. have all greatly benefitted from this MIRACLE plant. Alcohol has a MUCH more negative impact than Kratom ever will, yet it's perfectly legal. Banning Kratom will leave blood on your hands.

CommentID: 225019

290

Commenter: Kathryn Metcalf

6/5/24 10:34 am

Miracle Plant

It's apaling that anyone would consider this plant harmful. It helps millions of people. After 5 back and neck injuries/surgeries, it's the one and Only thing that's helped my pain. None of the pharmaceutical pills pushed by my Drs did anything for me. I lived in pain every min of my life. I couldn't do things I enjoyed. I now have a pain free life thanks to this natural beautiful plant. It helps so many. Just because stupid people misuse it doesn't mean it should be banned! You can potentially hurt yourself with Anything, but they still sell glue, butcher knives...ect.. please leave this natural helpful beautiful plant alone! It's beyond ridiculous that your trying to get it banned!

CommentID: 225020

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:34 am

Do not Reschedule Kratom

I've been on this plant for years, and it never made me act like a criminal. I never had to lie, steal, or hide that I had it. It's actually made me a responsible Virginian citizen. I'm now a business owner, I own my own home, and my family is relieved that I've chosen this path rather than the tragic alternative that's brought down many of my own family members. Please don't reschedule this. It has saved my life and it would only continue to save more Virginians. It has brought so much good. If this becomes rescheduled this will bring needless suffering. Making someone like me, a contributing, peaceful, and successful member of society, into a criminal, for choosing to put down actual harmful drugs, would do so much damage. Please do not reschedule Kratom.

CommentID: 225021

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:35 am

As a Virginia resident I do not agree with making kratom a scheduled one drug, this is why

As a chronic pain and neuropathy patient due to being hit by a car years ago resulting in a broken pelvis and tail bone. **Kratom has helped me far more than any prescribed drug.**

I had tried opiates and gabapentin to manage my pain- both of which come with their own major side effects, both have major regulations in this state because they are known to be addictive. As someone who has taken the prescribed pain management alternatives to kratom, I can attest it is not the dangerous supplement that those lobbying against it want to make it out to be. I can say that the prescribed alternatives are FAR MORE dangerous and addictive than natural growing trees leaves.

Sure, you can say that there's potential for it to be addictive and there can be withdrawals. However, the tree that kratom leaves comes from is from the coffee species and caffeine also has these properties. Caffeine can also cause people to overdose at high enough doses. As someone who went through both opiate withdrawals and kratom withdrawal before, I can say that opiates was far worse to get off of. **Kratom withdrawals are similar to that of skipping my morning coffee-I feel fatigued and have a headache that day.**

And needless to say, it's the dose that makes the poison. I do not find kratom in its natural form to be dangerous. Yes there are unregulated concentrations out there and maybe these extracts need to be looked into. However, what about the supercharged energy drinks people abuse that are still on the market? Haven't people overdosed on them due to misuse? Look at the Panera lemonade situation that's made headlines recently. **Again, it's the dose that makes the poison. I find it unfair to compare a herbal supplement similar to caffeine to narcotics. It should however be comparable to coffee, which is the species that kratom come from.**

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

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[<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10806006/>]

In conclusion, I find it dangerous and irresponsible to try to fear monger towards the publics opinion regarding kratom. Claims of it being some dangerous drug go against all scientific research and the mere existence of this herbal medicine. It is a leaf that comes from a tree that is in the coffee species. In its natural unaltered form it is HIGHLY safe. It is no more dangerous than caffeine. Rather than wasting the time of the Virginia lawmakers to try to ban a tree leaf, perhaps we should be paying attention to the fentanyl crisis that is killing people on the daily in this state. Perhaps we shouldn't be trying to ban a safer alternative for chronic pain patients like myself. Irresponsible and over use of kratom that has adverse side effects is not the plants fault, it is a general failure of the person willfully over administering it. Again, anything can be dangerous at a high enough dosage- even water can kill you id you take enough too quickly.

CommentID: 225022

Commenter: Pat Raczynski

6/5/24 10:40 am

Freedom with Kratom

This herbal supplement is the first item I have found that helps with depression, anxiety, insomnia, and pain. Please dont take this very helpful supplement away from people. Let us have som3 freedom left to survive in this world.

CommentID: 225023

29

Commenter: Homestoned VA

6/5/24 10:40 am

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Do not support!!!!

I do not support this life saving plants scheduling. This plant has gotten several of my loved ones off of addictive pain medication.

CommentID: 225024

Commenter: Jennifer Adamson

6/5/24 10:40 am

I do not support the scheduling of kratom, whatsoever.

Dear Board of Pharmacy. Generally, bans in favor of prohibition only drive consumption of the product into the black market where it becomes even more unsafe. With the ease of fentanyl being added to virtually every known illegal street drug, and killing people in the thousands daily, you REALLY want to add to those numbers all of the safe, daily kratom users? Who are seriously managing their lives, their pain, their depression with literal tea?? Appalling. Show me one person who has legitimately died of kratom overdose and I'll show you millions who've died from (adulterated) black market drugs.

Please do not take this decision lightly.

CommentID: 225025

Commenter: J McCartney

6/5/24 10:41 am

Kratom Safe and Saves Lives

Older consumers reading stories of Kratom "deaths" aren't getting all of the information. Please look deeper. Most deaths attributed to Kratom include other drugs, other chemical substances.

Kratom has helped me in my life immensely. I was a painkiller addict on the verge of losing my job and my family all because the doctors refused to approve surgery until I'd been on OxyContin for 6 years and was ruined. I went into suboxone therapy and now I'm using kratom as a natural painkiller and to reduce the symptoms of long term withdrawal from suboxone.

The only reason they want to schedule this drug is to keep profits in other areas (pharmaceutical painkillers) high. Let people take control of their own health. Protect Kratom.

CommentID: 225026

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:42 am

Miracle Plant

I do not support this ban. I have witnessed first hand kratom helping adults overcome alcohol and drug abuse. It's a miracle Plant.

CommentID: 225027

Commenter: Thomas Daigle

6/5/24 10:44 am

I have been using kratom for the last 10 years and go to the dr for check ups kratom is safe!

Kratom is safe . We already have another plant that is shown to help people and it's just becoming legal . Why would you criminalize another helpful plant!? It is nothing more than a plant. Why don't you worry about getting meth and kok off the streets more !?

CommentID: 225028

Commenter: Audtin

6/5/24 10:47 am

Do not ban kratom

I've seen kratom save lives! Regulation, not criminalizing it!

CommentID: 225029

Commenter: Terri Hall

6/5/24 10:48 am

Save kratom

Plz leave our tea. We are off pain pills. I will not die from fentanyl laced drugs. Kratom has saved my from my life being taken over by drugs. It's not dangerous, it taste horrible so kids won't get it. Save our kratom

CommentID: 225030

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:49 am

Don't ban kratom

kratom is a life saving plant. The attack on prescription pain medication has left millions of people to suffer. Kratom is far safer than Street drugs. Seems government wants the sick and injured to just die off. Government should concentrate on the illegal drugs and let Doctors care for each of their own patients. Fo not schedule Kratom.

CommentID: 225031

Commenter: Scott Greenwood

6/5/24 10:50 am

A ban on Kratom

A ban will only turn mostly law abiding citizens into criminals,vetted sources and age limits are the way to go

CommentID: 225032

Commenter: Garrett Wiggins / E-Commerce: Procurement & Liquidation

6/5/24 10:51 am

Leave mitragyna speciosa alone! You WILL destroy our last bulwark from an unproductive life of oxy.

Leave mitragyna speciosa alone! Do you really want to destroy the last bulwark from a life of oxyodone? Those of us who work & wish to act as productive members of society will have the oxyid taken out from under them. Sadly, some of us who've only recently found kratom finally found an avenue for pain mitigation without feeling completely useless.

CommentID: 225033

Commenter: Sarah A

6/5/24 10:56 am

Keep kratom legal, Kratom saves lives

I would like to speak up on behalf of keeping kratom legal. It is an incredibly helpful plant that millions of people use to help relieve a variety of medical issues. From pain, anxiety, depression and adhd relief, also can help people sleep and is also extremely helpful with people in recovery. I have been consuming kratom for about 5 years now, I have chronic daily pain from neck and back injuries as well as some mental health issues and am in recovery and taking kratom helps relieve all of my issues without being on prescription medications. I often found that the prescription medication made me feel worse, had bad side effects or just didn't work. With keatom it helps keep me sober, relieves my anxiety and pain and I am able to be present in life with my children. Please consider how important kratom is to millions and allow us to keep it available legally. Thank you

CommentID: 225035

Commenter: Kaitlin Combs

6/5/24 11:01 am

Kratom Safety

We need to regulate this substance for the sake of the people using it to have a life again. My mom was unrecognizable before she found Kratom. I'm an adult child but have a 10 year old sibling. Before kratom she didn't have a mom. This substance isn't evil it just needs to be measured and controlled like anything else.

CommentID: 225036

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 11:02 am

Don't tread on me.

Stop banning plants.

CommentID: 225037

Commenter: Aaron

6/5/24 11:03 am

Kratom is a dangerous drug for many

My younger brother died from his kratom. He worked at a treatment center for teen boys and was sober from alcohol, but used kratom for anxiety. He believed all the hype that is was 100% safe, non-addictive, and with no overdose potential, and it is not. His use ramped up during the pandemic, because his anxiety was at an all time high, and because you build a tolerance for the drug. Unfortunately at some point a doctor prescribed him an anti anxiety med either not knowing he was using kratom, or like so many people they may not have even known was kratom was. Even if they looked it up they would have been bombarded with half truths the kratom industry is pushing on lawmakers and the public. Had they known, or been properly educated on kratom they would know mixing SSRI's and kratom is dangerous. This can cause seizures and ultimately death, which is what happened to my brother Matthew. His death certificate and toxicology report show it was kratom that killed my brother. Look up subreddit and FB groups for quitting kratom, or even just for kratom lovers, and you will see many people are using it to get high, and many are struggling to quit, and are having serious health issues. This drug, and it is a drug no matter what

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

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the industry tries to say, most definitely needs to be regulated like a drug that can have very serious consequences.
CommentID: 225038

Commenter: Mark

6/5/24 11:03 am

Kratom is treatment

Kratom must be kept legal. It is a safer alternative to opioids for pain management and does not cause respiratory depression, the main factor that leads to opioid overdose. Kratom has helped me with severe GI pain that I have had my whole life. Without kratom, I would not be able to function at work. It is important for kratom to remain legal to be able to have safe access and to be further studied for benefits and potential risks, not blanket banned.

CommentID: 225039

Commenter: Craig cooksey

6/5/24 11:08 am

Kratom saves lives

I was struggling with the horrible garbage the doctors prescribe. Kratom has kept me off the pills for over 10 years now. You will RUIN lives to make this illegal. Lots of blood on your hands for doing something you don't understand or use!

CommentID: 225040

Commenter: Crystal

6/5/24 11:09 am

Kratom safety

Please do not criminalize this plant that has saved so many lives including mine!

CommentID: 225041

Commenter: Kratom Danger Awareness

6/5/24 11:12 am

We know that kratom should be regulated, but we're in too deep now.

We know kratom should be properly regulated, but we are in so deep with what we said previously. We really should think rationally and sorry for previous responses.

CommentID: 225042

Commenter: DM

6/5/24 11:15 am

Kratom Saves Lives

Please reconsider this and do not allow this ban to go through! Virginia should not ban kratom because it has been proven to be a safe and beneficial plant for many individuals, including myself. I empathize for the grieving families but in 99% of cases of deaths related to kratom there was only-substance abuse, whether the families want to admit it or not, show me the toxicology report and prove me wrong. Kratom does NOT kill people, drugs do. Unlike the stigma often associated with it through brief and targeted google searches, kratom is a natural herb that has helped

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countless people manage chronic pain, anxiety, and opioid withdrawal symptoms! Research shows and proves that, when used responsibly, kratom poses minimal risk and has a low potential for abuse, especially in it's natural form. The raw, natural botanical itself is literally impossible to overdose on, this has also been proven through scientific studies! I started using kratom over a decade ago and my life has never been better. I've never abused this plant and it allowed me to heal and recover from serious PTSD and trauma. I have seen firsthand how many people this amazing botanical helps, if you would like more stories from actual users of the plant, you are free to message me anytime. It literally saves lives. Tylenol kills more people every year than kratom "allegedly" does. Again, show me the detailed toxicology reports that cover ALL narcotics and other bases on these alleged deaths where the sole contributing factor was "kratom". It doesn't happen people, please. Banning this plant would deprive many Virginians of a valuable, natural alternative for managing their health conditions and you will in turn see a spike in overdoses and deaths related to actual dangerous drugs. By banning a natural alternative that most people use responsibly, you are putting the lives of your citizens and voters at serious risk. I beg you to reconsider!

CommentID: 225043

Commenter: Joe

6/5/24 11:16 am

Kratom is good

Kratom helps people and does not alter your sobriety.

CommentID: 225044

Commenter: Marie Murphy

6/5/24 11:19 am

Kratom saves and it's safe

Please do not do this to the people who are responsible and in which kratom has literally saved their lives. People will abuse anything- where there is a will, there is a way. People are not harmed by kratom alone. Look at what is actually happening and why. Kratom is safe and very helpful. Look at the science and at the kratom community, so to speak. Do these people beg and plead for anything that sounds dangerous? These people are pleading for their lives. Listen carefully. These are not drug addicted self harming persons. These are people who worked hard everyday to break cycles, to work and live and function, to be productive members of society.

CommentID: 225045

Commenter: Kimmy T

6/5/24 11:20 am

Dangerous metals found in kratom via the FDA

!!!! Leave kratom the hell alone. There's NOTHING wrong with it. Look at some of the crap you do approve! Get outta here with your nonsense.

CommentID: 225046

Commenter: Theresa Hall

6/5/24 11:20 am

Kratom! Leave it alone! It's a natural plant with wonderful treatment

My husband and myself have been using Kratom off and on for fifteen years with ZERO side streets. We use it for pain and anxiety, saving us from using dangerous and expensive

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pharmaceuticals. Which I know this is what this is all about. Money for the government! Just stop! Leave people alone. We've had excellent results and have stopped many times with no withdrawals. God put planes here for us to use and the Gov just wants to make money! I've also know lots of people who have used it to come off drugs with no withdrawals. Instead of treatment centers they can't afford and meds they couldn't afford, Kratom changed their lives, got them completely off drugs! Leave it along if you care about people like you say you do. It's a natural plant for Gods sake! How much danger can it be? It's not! Keep your grubby little paws off something that helps people. Shame on you!
CommentID: 225047

Commenter: Mike Werthmann

6/5/24 11:24 am

Kratom LEAF is very safe

If you must regulate extracts in some way, many of us understand that. But to remove our access to the raw leaf powder for making tea, would be to remove something as benign as chamomile that helps people with problems that are almost impossible to fix before we found Kratom leaf. There have been people using plain leaf Kratom for centuries and it's never been an issue until American marketing practices got ahold of it- of course it's been concentrated and purported to be recreational- anything to make a buck. Please don't let those charlatans represent what is large diverse group of productive people that simply use a natural leaf product to ease symptoms of things that would make productivity far harder. Thank you so much, I trust that you will come to see the difference between most of us Kratom tea drinkers and the headshop grifters that sell mystery chemicals and concentrations merely labeled Kratom.

CommentID: 225049

Commenter: Kaitlin

6/5/24 11:25 am

Kratom is a miracle plant

Kratom is a magical miracle plant! It helps me with so many things that I would otherwise suffer from. I know this plant helps millions of people. Please do not make it a schedule 1 drug. It's the farthest thing from it!

CommentID: 225050

Commenter: Kels

6/5/24 11:27 am

Keep Kratom Legal

Kratom should not be scheduled. If anything, it should be regulated by making sure that manufacturers are following cGMP compliance for safety just like supplements. Many people use kratom for natural pain relief. If it is scheduled more people will fall on opioids for pain relief and we already have an opioid epidemic.

CommentID: 225051

Commenter: M.S.

6/5/24 11:28 am

Kratom helps my chronic pain

We've been consuming Kratom for over 5 years and it helps significantly with my severe chronic pain. I should have the right to consume this plant rather than take pharmaceuticals that are actually

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much more harmful.
CommentID: 225052

Commenter: Mike

6/5/24 11:29 am

DO NOT SCHEDULE THIS PLANT

If you schedule this plant I and quite a few people I know will be moving out of Virginia, and for the people who can't afford to you will be taking productive members of society away from their children who need them or they will grow up to be traumatized criminals. If you all schedule this plant you are the criminals and God won't forget it.

CommentID: 225053

Commenter: Austin

6/5/24 11:31 am

Kratom legality

Hello,

I'm from TX so the legal status of Kratom in Virginia doesn't really affect me but I wanted to share my story with hopes to help sway the decision towards keeping Kratom legal and regulated in Virginia. In TX we adopted the KCPA (Kratom consumer protection act which has been wonderful in assuring we get a safe to consume, contaminant free product.

I have supplemented with Kratom for about 5 years and it has absolutely transformed my life for the better. Its effects are very subtle but enough to help with my pain from peripheral neuropathy. It gave me my life back. I own a business And multiple rental properties. Im a father of two beautiful children, which I am very present in their life. I've been married for 13 years. Kratom really is a life saver as I'm sure you've already heard people say.

It does come with the risk of dependence and can be abused But comes with far less risk and negative side effects as prescription pain medication. I believe it needs to be regulated, studied and the correct information given to users in order to educate them on safe use. Please consider keeping this plant legal in the beautiful state of Virginia for it helps so many people.

sincerely,

Austin Copeland

CommentID: 225054

Commenter: Leslie Nitz Bloom

6/5/24 11:32 am

Keep it legal!

My doctor had me on 3 morphine a day for my chronic pain. I'm most certain I'd be a junkie or dead by now if I hadn't quickly decided that wasn't a good idea. Now, I take a NATURAL PLANT when, and if I need it (I've had successful surgeries over the years) and advocate for non-chemical solutions. NOBODY has even died from Kratom. False statements will blame it when it is found with other substances, but it has never been proven to have, on its own, done harm. Follow the REAL science allow the continued use!

CommentID: 225055

Commenter: Sean

6/5/24 11:33 am

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Kratom is effective and safe

Kratom helps me manage my chronic pain. Doctors are afraid to prescribe pain meds, and I would be lost without this plant. I am a 48 year-old family man with a full-time job, and kratom allows me to function. It doesn't get me high, it just relieves my suffering and improves my mood. Regulate it so kids can't get it, but don't criminalize it.

CommentID: 225056

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 11:36 am

Kratom saves lives

Banning more plants is ridiculous we are supposed to be free in this country you pharma people have ruined enough peoples lives it needs to stop.

CommentID: 225057

Commenter: Brittany Ziminski

6/5/24 11:37 am

Choosing safe and natural alternatives is NOT a crime!

I think it's absolute insanity to criminalize Kratom. It's a safe and natural alternative to the drugs that are ravaging our entire country. With all the addiction to pharmaceuticals and the crime that comes along with it, it seems a safe and natural alternative would be welcomed. If Kratom is criminalized it just proves further that all the government and those in positions of power, are only worried about the almighty dollar, as opposed to caring about the well being of their constituents who allowed them into their position of power. It's time to listen to the people! It's time to get our country back under control and criminalizing one of the few alternatives to the highly addictive meds isn't the way to do it. Let's not take 10 steps back. Let's move forward in the right direction to take control of our health, freedom and quality of life in America!

CommentID: 225058

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 11:38 am

I do NOT support the petition

I DO NOT support the petition

CommentID: 225059

Commenter: Mike C

6/5/24 11:38 am

Stop Government and Big Pharma Interference!

Stop Government and Big Pharma Interference! Keep Kratom legal!

CommentID: 225060

Commenter: Jeremy B

6/5/24 11:42 am

schedule Mitragyna speciosa would be a loss of a fundamental human right

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It comes down to human rights to leave kratom alone. It's a leaf, and all humans should have free access to it.

CommentID: 225061

Commenter: Richie

6/5/24 11:42 am

Kratom

I do not support the bill to criminalize Kratom . Been taking it for years and no problems. Totally safe!!!

CommentID: 225062

Commenter: Christian A

6/5/24 11:43 am

A safe and effective natural supplement

I have been taking this herbal supplement for 5 years now. This supplement is safe and helps me with my pain. I no longer have to take artificial substances created in pharmaceutical labs. Please do not ban this supplement. This would be a decision based on pharmaceutical greed. Why should it be illegal for me to consume a plant based alternative to your deadly and addictive prescription opioids and artificial opioid alternatives. I have personally had 4 people in my life die at the hands of these pharmaceutical companies, including my mother. Please stop destroying peoples lives with these artificial substances, kratom is a natural herbal plant that has been used since the 19th century. Civilizations have used this plant for hundreds of years, long before patents for billion dollar companies even existed. The American people deserve the right to consume natural and beneficial supplements instead of a revolving door of artificial pharmaceuticals that destroy our health and lives.

CommentID: 225063

Commenter: Megan bolin

6/5/24 11:45 am

Against making Kratom Tea criminalized

In my experience of 17 years of hard core addiction, the only thing that has helped me for going on 4 years of recovery from opiates and meth has been to take my Kratom daily it helps with cravings, pain, my mood swings. It has brought me back to living a productive life and back to helping my community. Making it illegal to buy or have Kratom on you is only adding to the problem and taking resources from people who need them. Might as well ban coffee and redbull next just saying.

CommentID: 225064

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 11:46 am

I don't support this bill

Please keep Kratom legal. It has saved my son's life. This is a harsh petition and should not be supported. Real studies show it's safe and effective. Big pharma May not agree. If you do this you are siding with the opiate giants and taking away something that helps even the poorest stay sober.

CommentID: 225065

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https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409

582750

Commenter: Joel Fournier

6/5/24 11:50 am

An outrageous petition that will cause much harm

Kratom is a plant that is more well suited for everyday pain treatment than any opiate or opioid. It contains a number of alkaloids which allow it to limit its own effects therefore severely limiting the potential for abuse when used in its natural whole-leaf form. Removing this inexpensive, significantly safer option for people will result in a massive increase in both prescription and illicit drug consumption across the state of Virginia. This will also unequivocally have a terrible impact on mental health, addiction recovery, and overdose statistics in the years to follow if this petition is passed.

CommentID: 225066

Commenter: Deborah Hudson

6/5/24 11:50 am

Maintaining the legal status of Kratom

I am writing to strongly support, keeping Adam legal and not putting any regulations on its use. As any of us who have actually read the research now the only opioid crisis is caused by illegal drugs and that's primarily fentanyl. However, The misinformation has made it so doctors no longer feel safe prescribing opioids, and many of them have lost licenses, assets and have gone to prison. Pharmacies are frequently out of pain medication. The choices are very few thinking people who want to stay alive trying to stay away illegal fentanyl. Legitimate fentanyl is still used, but illegal fentanyl off the streets kills, and it kills in droves. People are desperately trying every safe thing they can find from Polypeptides, which are now beginning to be regulated, as well, too, Kratom. Amazingly Kratom has proved to be a lifesaver for many, many people there are those who cannot tolerate it and it's not a good choice for them but others have found that Kratom actually works better for them than opiates. If Kratom becomes illegal or has to be regulated, intractable pain patients will have no other choice but to go to the streets or commit suicide. Intractable pain is not tolerable. All research done to date shows that Kratom is a safe herb.kratom has been used for centuries in various cultures, sometimes as part of a religious ceremony. It is a safe drug that is saving lives. If this Becomes illegal and unavailable the result will be many many more deaths. Information about Kratom, it's made illegal. Will join the ranks of all the false narratives around this supposed opioid crisis. Please do your research and do not react from emotional perspectives.. Get the testimony of all the people who are able to live a normal life because of this herb. You have my email and my name and I will happily help in this process. I am probably a good choice because as an intractable pain, patient, I have not yet needed to use them. My doctor is still prescribing the medication's that I've worked for over two decades. However, those meds are not always available and fewer and fewer docs, feel safe in prescribing them, not because they're dangerous to someone like me who's been using them for decades, but because of that false narrative that has been spread far and wide by people like Andrew Kolodny through PROP. PROP stands for Physicians for responsible, opiate prescribing. It is a total misnomer. This irresponsible change in effectively managing intractable pain has caused irreparable harm and damage. Do not add Kratom to the list of effective medications that are safe and allow people to live productive lives, working and raising families. To do anything else will not only be a death sentence to the individual within intractable pain, but also to the family of that patient. Intractable pain impacts every person associated with the patient. Kratom is one of the treatments, that can be extremely effective and caused no harm. Let's have Physicians for responsible treatment.

Deborah Hudson.
206-406-7679

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CommentID: 225067

Commenter: Sally

6/5/24 11:51 am

KRATOM

Kratom saves lives! Please do not ban!

CommentID: 225068

Commenter: Talis Abolins

6/5/24 12:01 pm

Kratom Dangers - deemed adulterated under DSHEA

This product should be banned.

CommentID: 225071

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 12:02 pm

We keep methadone legal but want to criminalize kratom?

Kratom is the safest way to handle pain. Much safer than pharmaceuticals. Why do we give addicts methadone? We should be giving them kratom

CommentID: 225073

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 12:03 pm

The evidence is clear

Kratom is safe and has saved countless lives there has been many doctors that respect the actual science and have agreed kratom is safe and there is no reason to schedule it. I love modern medicine it's an amazing thing but the American people are tired of big pharma intruding on our lives for no reason this will cause the last little bit of faith the American people have in our government and pharma companies to disappear.

CommentID: 225074

Commenter: Talis Abolins

6/5/24 12:06 pm

FDAES - 63 times more deadly than natural products

Kratom products are not safe to be sold over-the-counter for human consumption - 63 times more deadly than other natural products. See, e.g. Li, et al., "An evaluation of adverse drug reactions and outcomes attributed to kratom in the US Food and Drug Administration Adverse Event Reporting System from January 2004 to September 2021 (Clinical Transl. Sci. 2023 June: 16(6):1002-1011. PMID 36861661.

CommentID: 225075

Commenter: Anonymous

Do not ban! Kratom saved my life

kratom saved my life, do not ban this!

CommentID: 225076

6/5/24 12:07 pm

Commenter: James

The dumbest bill to even be proposed.

In a nation where the opioid epidemic has been rampant for decades you want to criminalize a LEAF of a PLANT that many recovering addicts use to either help them get off of hard drugs or to stay off them. You make Kratom illegal and I guarantee you will see spikes in overdoses. Their deaths will be on you. It's actually disgusting that our representatives want to take away something that quite a lot of people rely on to stay sober. The majority of pharmaceutical companies are greedy and have absolutely no morals when it comes to what their medications do to people. KNOWING that they ruin lives. I would rather see a major pharmaceutical company go down ANY DAY.

CommentID: 225077

6/5/24 12:08 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom

Like everything else, government simply wants control.... We are against any attempt to criminalize the use of natural substances....

CommentID: 225078

6/5/24 12:08 pm

Commenter: Elizabeth Goldstein

Do the work. Regulate! Don't ban.

There are a lot of bad actors out there, but kratom is a safer alternative to alcohol and other pharmaceuticals.

CommentID: 225079

6/5/24 12:11 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom Efficacy and Safety

Kratom is no more addictive than Coffee or Soda. Cessation of Kratom results in a loss of appetite for less than 6 hours. That's the only down side.

Alternatively, kratom has allowed me to function for the last 5 years without any narcotics like vicodin or codeine. I am able to travel the world and stop taking kratom the day before vacation without missing work. Kratom has a unique characteristic where its effects no longer increase past "ceiling dose" so 1 dose has the same effects as 2, 3, 4 or 5 doses taken at the same time. This greatly limits its potential for abuse. Kratom is also an excellent mood stabilizer with thousands of studies less consequences than traditional anti-depressants.

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If you make Kratom illegal you are a band of fools. I recommend voting to ban alcohol in your county long before you ban kratom.

CommentID: 225081

Commenter: Anonymous

Don't ban kratom

Kratom has help me a lot with my anxiety and ptsd.

CommentID: 225082

6/5/24 12:14 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Keep it legal

Keep kratom legal! It helps people every day.

CommentID: 225083

6/5/24 12:17 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Industry using government to create a monopoly

Special interests, wanting to ban a product that helps people so if they can profit off of a lesser quality more dangerous product. Ridiculous

CommentID: 225084

6/5/24 12:17 pm

Commenter: Michelle

Everyone should have the right to choose a natural alternative.

I am a stay at home mom and I discovered Kratom just last year. I developed Vulvodynia. It's a condition that is not very well known but it's believed to be caused by nerve issues. These nerves affect my female area. It causes severe pain that comes in the form of extreme burning and rawness. Sitting for more than 10 minutes was unbearable. I couldn't even drive to the grocery store without extreme pain. As you can imagine my marriage suffered, my family suffered and I suffered. Doctors didn't know what to do and would not give me pain medication. I went into my local CBD store hoping CBD might help. She told me about Kratom and gave me samples. I couldn't believe that it worked! I FINALLY had pain relief. You have no idea what that felt like. What I was subjected to living with, if you want to call that living. I am so thankful and blessed I found this plant.

There is so much misinformation surrounding this plant. Kratom has been used for centuries as a natural remedy for pain relief, anxiety, depression, and other medical conditions. It has been shown to be a safe and effective alternative to prescription drugs, which are often highly addictive and can have severe side effects. Many Virginia residents rely on kratom to manage their medical conditions and maintain their quality of life. They should have the right to choose a natural alternative to prescription medication.

6/5/24 12:18 pm

Thank you for taking the time to read my story. I hope a small look into my life and what kratom has done for me and many other people just like me will help with your decision to offer a safe and natural alternative for the residents of Virginia.
CommentID: 225085

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 12:18 pm

VA SB 1108 already regulates Kratom in VA

Virginia lawmakers have already reviewed this topic and passed SB 1108 to limit sales of Kratom to adults (21+) and require clear labeling of products. It was passed on March 26, 2023.

<https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB1108>

I DO NOT support the petition to classify Kratom as schedule I.

Summary of the bill

Virginia Consumer Protection Act; prohibited practices; kratom products. Provides that it is a prohibited practice under the Virginia Consumer Protection Act to sell or offer for sale (i) any kratom product, defined in the bill, to a person younger than 21 years of age or (ii) any kratom product that does not provide a label listing all ingredients and with the following guidance: "This product may be harmful to your health, has not been evaluated by the FDA, and is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease." Virginia Consumer Protection Act; prohibited practices; kratom products. Provides that it is a prohibited practice under the Virginia Consumer Protection Act to sell or offer for sale (i) any kratom product, defined in the bill, to a person younger than 21 years of age or (ii) any kratom product that does not provide a label listing all ingredients and with the following guidance: "This product may be harmful to your health, has not been evaluated by the FDA, and is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease."

CommentID: 225086

Commenter: Jessica Geary

6/5/24 12:22 pm

Do not ban Kratom

Please look at the science available. Kratom has been a life saver for me and many many others. I have chronic pain due to multiple autoimmune conditions and back injury. The prescribed medications caused so many side effects and made me loopy and I was still unable to function. Kratom gives me the ability to be a functioning person in society without clouding my brain and all the terrible side effects. It is a huge reason for many people who have gained their life back from a life of pain, addiction, PTSD anxiety and the list goes on, it's a valuable tool and should not be taken away from those who benefit from it

CommentID: 225087

Commenter: Zachary Peebles

6/5/24 12:23 pm

Don't Take Away Something That Directly Helps People Manage Chronic Pain, Stress, Anxiety

2988
Please Do Not Take Away Something That Actually Makes A Difference In Peoples Everyday Lives. Kratom Also Known As Mitragyna Speciosa Has Such A Key Factor In Helping Millions Of People Around The World Effiently Deal With Chronic Ailments And Short Term Ailments e.g. Chronic Fatigue, Everyday Stress, Uncontrollable Anxiety, Depression And Much More Including Chronic Pain Wich Is A Biggie Because I Know Hundreds Of People Who Use It Responsibly To

Manage Thier Chronic Pain Conditions Im Just A Plain Old Dude Stating Plain Old Facts Please Dont Take The Kratom Away From The Many People Who Use It Responsibly Everyday Sometimes It Is The Only Thing That Works Or These People Have To Manage Such Conditions In Thier Everyday Lived Thank You For Hearing Me Out.
CommentID: 225088

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 12:25 pm

Kratom saves lives

This plant saves lives!

CommentID: 225089

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 12:26 pm

Don't ban kratom

It does far more good than harm. It's not much different than coffee. Don't be stupid and ban a plant that's been used for thousands of years.

CommentID: 225090

Commenter: Beth Carr

6/5/24 12:27 pm

No kratom ban

Kratom should never be banned in any state, as it's all many have left, who suffer from pain due to the attack on opioids, when "illicit fentanyl" is the real issue at hand & now legacy pain patients will suffer even more if you do this.. Please don't ban Kratom, it helps pain, addiction, anxiety and most importantly safe, very beneficial

CommentID: 225091

Commenter: Bruce James

6/5/24 12:27 pm

Will just create more problems

Doing this will only cause people to seek other solutions and create more problems. Also it could potentially make people seek harder drugs if it carries the same charges.

CommentID: 225092

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 12:27 pm

Kratom has been enormously helpful; criminalization will help nothing and nobody.

Please keep this plant legal. It is a natural alternative to much more dangerous medications. Consumption does not result in loss of bodily control, does not cause violence, does not result even in significant intoxication. Criminalizing it will help nothing and will negatively impact a huge number of people who are responsibly managing pain with a SAFER alternative to prescription medication.

CommentID: 225093

Commenter: Ace Rogers

6/5/24 12:28 pm

Kratom should NOT BE BANNED. It saves and helps so many lives, and I'll explain why.

Kratom, a natural plant derived from the leaves of *Mitragyna speciosa*, has garnered significant support for its **potential and studied benefits**, particularly in pain management and opioid addiction treatment.

In Virginia, the move to ban kratom would be a **devastating** loss to many individuals who rely on its **therapeutic** properties. Unlike **synthetic opioid painkillers**, kratom offers a natural alternative that many find effective for managing chronic pain, providing relief **without** the **very high risk of addiction and overdose** associated with prescription painkillers. Banning kratom would eliminate a valuable tool from the arsenal of those seeking to manage their pain in a safer, more natural way.

The evidence supporting the **benefits of kratom** strongly suggests that **banning it in Virginia would be a misguided decision**. Research from Johns Hopkins University reveals that kratom has significant therapeutic applications with relatively **low abuse potential**.

Their survey indicated that:

- A vast majority of users **91%** utilize kratom to **alleviate pain**.
- A substantial percentage use it for **anxiety (67%)** and **depression (65%)**.
- Importantly, **41% of users** reported using kratom to **manage opioid withdrawal, with over a third successfully stopping off prescription opioids or heroin for more than a year?** (Hopkins Medicine).

Additionally, findings published in *Frontiers in Pharmacology* emphasize kratom's **effectiveness in pain management, opioid addiction treatment, and mental health support**. The study underscores how kratom's alkaloids, particularly mitragynine, and 7-hydroxymitragynine, interact beneficially with the body's enzymes and receptors, contributing to its therapeutic effects? (Frontiers). This aligns with traditional uses in Southeast Asia, where kratom has been **safely employed** for its stimulant and pain-relieving properties **for decades?** (Frontiers).

Let's take a step back from the scientific talk for a second.

- If Virginia's government **bans** kratom and its main alkaloids, it would mean many **families with small businesses** that offer kratom products would **go out of business**.
- It would mean **hundreds of scientists, researchers, chemists, biochemists**, etc, would **no longer be able to do their work and research** the alkaloids of this plant for future pharmaceutical medicine. These **researchers** would have to **stop** doing their difficult but needed work **in fear of being prosecuted by the state**.
- It would mean **people with chronic pain** would have to go back to **addictive opioids, or even worse**, make the **mistake of going to street drugs** to try to treat their pain.
- It would mean that people who are just **trying to treat their chronic pain and or addiction** with this **highly studied, safe, and researched** plant, would be **ARRESTED AND/OR IMPRISONED**, for just using a **plant** to help them live.

Moreover, the scientific community is increasingly recognizing kratom's potential as a **safer alternative** to prescription opioids. Given the ongoing **opioid crisis, denying** access to a **natural remedy** that can aid in pain relief and addiction recovery could **exacerbate public health issues**. Unlike traditional opioids, kratom presents a **significantly lower risk of addiction** and an **even lower risk of overdose?** (Hopkins Medicine)? (Frontiers)?.

The vast majority of evidence emphasizes that kratom should be **regulated rather than banned** to ensure safety and purity. This approach would **allow Virginians to use the therapeutic**

properties of kratom while **minimizing the potential risks**. **A ban** would not only **deprive individuals** of a **valuable health resource** but also **impede efforts** to effectively address the opioid crisis.

Regulating kratom could mean passing laws such as mandating **product labels** with potential risks, **mandating purity testing** for companies, and **banning the use of it for minors**. It would also mean **allowing these small businesses to thrive, people with chronic illnesses** to continue their **treatment using kratom**, and allowing ongoing researchers to work and create, presenting a **well-balanced and forward-thinking solution**.

Thank you to anyone who reads this. To anyone in the Virginia government who is undecided, please, just read messages and emails from your constituents about kratom. They care about this issue so much because they know on a personal level how much this plant can help and save millions of lives.

CommentID: 225094

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 12:29 pm

Do not ban

Do not ban, people use it for medical reasons instead of getting prescribed painkillers or srri's which are proven to be much more harmful and addictive.

CommentID: 225095

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 12:35 pm

Keep kratom safe!

Addition of kratom to schedule 1 sounds shameful! This plant has benefited me and others greatly!!

CommentID: 225096

Commenter: Gil S.

6/5/24 12:36 pm

Kratom has saved lives

I truly believe were it not for this plant, the opioid epidemic would have far more victims. Scheduling would be a disaster.

CommentID: 225098

Commenter: Jackie Ling

6/5/24 12:37 pm

Keep it Legal

Keep it legal. It is safer than coffee, Marijuana, beer or cigarettes. Just leave it alone or I will vote against you!

CommentID: 225099

Commenter: Carl Seebok

6/5/24 12:37 pm

Please do not be a Pawn to the Big Pharma monopoly, Kratom is God's gift to humanity!

This attempt to support and continue the stranglehold that Big Pharma (who is responsible for the yearly deaths of over 70,000 people by their overproduction of the poison Fentanyl) has over your suffering constituents is despicable.

You took an oath to support the best interests of your fellow human beings, not to make policy that only benefits the financial interests of the evil synthetic drug producing empire.

Kratom, made by God, not by men in laboratories, has saved the lives of many of my friends and myself, and allows us to lead normal healthy lives.

Please do the right thing and remove this misguided and misinformed rule and all other attempts to prevent the citizens of the great Commonwealth of Virginia from their ability to have access to this life giving plant, Kratom and all the alkaloids it naturally contains.

Thank you,

Carl Seebok

CommentID: 225100

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom saves lives

Kratom is a massive help in our quality of life. Please stop trying to take this medicine away from the people.

CommentID: 225101

6/5/24 12:37 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom is not harmful

People have overdosed or been physically injured by taking too much ibuprofen yet it is legal. People die of alcohol related disease or injuries every day yet it is legal.

Any one can take too much of anything and it cause harm. Kratom is no different from anything else.

If I took ibuprofen every day for my chronic pain, I'd have a bleeding stomach. I take kratom instead for pain relief. There is NO "high" or psychoactive result from what I take.

Leave kratom alone.

CommentID: 225104

Commenter: Tori Pacheco

Please just dont.

Do not support this ban. Kratom saves lives.

CommentID: 225106

6/5/24 12:46 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom ban

LEAVE OUR GOD GIVEN HERBS ALONE!

CommentID: 225107

6/5/24 12:48 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Criminalizing Kratom is dangerous

Of course the board of pharmacy would want to criminalize Kratom and it should be taken into consideration why. Kratom can be abused like anything, but you have to take into account how many people it helps versus hurts because it helping people far outweighs any damage. It's a natural plant that is less dangerous than anything else out there for pain and to criminalize it would be to turn a LOT of people to harder drugs. It doesn't make sense for any legitimate reason, only greed of big PHARMA who is historically more dangerous and greedy than most if not all other groups of people. I have seen Kratom save lives.

CommentID: 225108

Commenter: Jonathan Clark

Kratom is deadly

My brother died last June right in front of me while eating dinner. It appeared to be a seizure. He was 29 years old. The Medical Examiner in Roanoke, Va took him in to do an autopsy. The findings were terrible. A KRATOM OVERDOSE had caused my brother to go into cardiac arrest. That cardiac arrest caused his central nervous system to shut down, which looked like us to be a seizure. We were heartbroken as a family. How can something that kills be available over the counter, with no controlled dose. They sell this stuff in powder form, as much as a kilogram at a time with no limits. You can buy 7 kilos if you want, and is available almost everywhere that sells nicotine.

What really bothers me about this forum is the heartless people comparing kratom deaths to falling coconuts and acting like this isnt real. Kratom should be treated like the drug it is and scheduled. If it truly helps with treatment of opioids and other drugs then you can run it like methadone, with a controlled dose and daily clinic visits.

VIRGINIA. REGULATIONS NEED TO START YESTERDAY

CommentID: 225109

Commenter: Brandon Crutchfield

Regulate Kratom Do Not Ban

Kratom has been a life line for me because of nerve pain

CommentID: 225110

6/5/24 12:49 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Keep Kratom Legal

Keep kratom legal! To ban a leaf of a plant seems like a backwards move in this day and age. Kratom is a natural leaf related to coffee that has helped thousands. Many cannot take pharmaceuticals or man-made chemical formulations. Herbs are here for a reason and many people have found it to be far more gentle than made in a lab chemicals or pharmaceuticals Drs. prescribe. We all know pharmaceuticals are big business in our world. Meanwhile, herbs have been around for thousands of years empowering people to help themselves. Protecting and allowing plants to be available for people should be a natural birthright, not a criminal act. People tend to demonize things they fear and do not fully understand and I've seen that right here in the comments. To ban a natural plant that empowers people to help themselves is a step in the wrong direction. Keeping natural remedies available empowers people. Keep it legal! Compassion and education over fear. Thank you.

Allow people to have access to natural plants that relieve their suffering.

Protect natural plants like Kratom and protect the right for people to choose natural plant medicines like Kratom over lab made chemicals. Thank you.

CommentID: 225111

6/5/24 12:51 pm

Commenter: Briana Fuller

Don't Ban / Criminalize Kratom

Criminalization of a product that has multiple medicinal benefits will ultimately *not* be a net positive for society or the communities in which it is sold / used. Kratom is used for things such as pain relief, increasing energy, and in more serious cases helping those who are addicted to opioids wean themselves off. Throughout history we have seen what happens when certain things become banned- the demand for those substances does not decrease, so making them inaccessible in a controlled setting just means that people will seek them out anyways, in less safer and less controlled settings. Having a substance sold in a controlled manner is better than people trying to get whatever they can as a supplement(for example someone using "spice" on accident instead of Kratom.) Also one of the most amazing things about America is the free will we all have as humans and citizens. As adults with autonomy we should be able to decide what products, substances, etc. to consume. Just like with alcohol, it is up to the individual to know the proper ways to use and to consume, and how to mitigate the risks. In addition to all of that, products sold (KRATOM) create revenue for businesses(such as a smoke shop), and the businesses pay taxes, which is money put back into local and federal governments.

CommentID: 225115

6/5/24 12:54 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom saved my life

Kratom saved my life and my daughters from opioids . It gave me my life back with no side effects . The fact they are trying to do this is so extremely sad and very disturbing to say the least. Keep it legal and let Americans use the plants God gave us !

CommentID: 225113

6/5/24 12:53 pm

Commenter: Mreynolds

No Ban on Kratom please. It's helpful for sleep and mood.

No to Ban on Kratom. It is helpful for sleep and mood.

CommentID: 225116

6/5/24 12:54 pm

Commenter: Jeff Lindsey

Enough is enough

Enough is enough, here we have, yet again, people attempting to ban a plant that is closely related to the coffee plant because it cuts into businesses in the pharmaceutical industries pockets. The American people are raped on a daily basis of their hard earned money by corporations and pharmaceutical companies alike. Here, kratom is a plant that helps millions of people cope with a myriad of issues from pain to mental health issues, and it does so completely natural. Millions of Americans don't want to turn expensive pharmaceuticals and synthetic drugs to help with this, therefore taking money out of the pockets of big business. So what happens? Here comes the pharmaceutical industry and members trying to take that away from the people that Kratom helps. They come with scary propaganda that is used much in the same way that the alcohol industry and kratom, who have never used it, bend and twist erroneous statistics to suit their goal. They will cry wolf that people have died from kratom and other tales. Well, Tylenol has killed people too, probably many times more than kratom. Is the pharmaceutical industry moving to ban Tylenol? No, because it's a money maker for them. This has got to stop. Stop taking away from the American people and siding with those that are seeking profit. Banning kratom is unnecessary and harmful to the public. Not only does it help millions with their passion and mental health, it has also allowed numerous to stop using opiate medications and allowed them to break the cycle of addiction. Addiction that can lead people to crime to get the means for their next fix. They don't need to rob, steal, or kill in order to get their hardcore opiates, because they have a natural plant that takes

6/5/24 12:53 pm

Commenter: April

Kratom is effective and safe!

There's no reason to ban this leaf from across the pond. It's safe and effective for so many people. Those people are consuming a natural leaf, to help their pain or anxiety or even coming off of illicit/street drugs that ARE deadly. Please consider the helpfulness of this plant, do not ban. Ty.

CommentID: 225117

6/5/24 12:55 pm

Commenter: Clarence Beasley

Keep Kratom Legal! Save Lives!

There is no health crisis attributed to kratom being legal but there will be a health crisis attributed to kratom being made illegal. Kratom keeps people from deadly fentanyl and tranq contaminated street drugs. Therefore kratom saves lives. People who take kratom come from all backgrounds and are functioning tax paying members that contribute to society.

Kratom saved my life. I was hopelessly addicted to prescription opioids for almost a decade. I have been clean for two years now, as I write this testimonial to keep the plant that saved my life legal.

6/5/24 12:56 pm

their withdrawals away while they detox from the opiates. Why ban this natural plant that has helped so many? Please close the matter on banning it.

CommentID: 225114

My addiction started with an automobile accident. I took the doctor's prescribed painkillers to heal. I kept taking them after I had technically healed to self-medicate persistent pain and my pre-existing anxiety attacks. Once the prescriptions ran out, I began sourcing the opioids from the street. This led me down a dark path. My life spiraled out of control. All that mattered to me was my next pill, bag-- my next high. I lost my job, I lost my family, I lost any true friend who genuinely cared about me. I lost everything. I was a criminal. It was only a matter of time before I ended up in prison or dead from an overdose. I wasted 10 years of my life like this, before an old friend reached out to me and told me about kratom and its potential to help me get clean. I had tried to quit my addiction to opioids many times over the years. I had been to rehab many times to no avail. I had attempted suboxone and methadone programs, but these substances were not much better than the drugs I was abusing and made my addiction worse. Kratom actually worked, though. Kratom alleviated my withdrawal symptoms just enough for me to function. It allowed me to clear my head and prioritize my life again. I never looked back from there. No relapses. I got my family back. Now, I have a beautiful little girl who just turned 2 years old, and my wife is pregnant with another child. I have a steady job, and I provide for my family and my loved ones. My wife and I own a home together where we are raising our children in a place that we love. We are part of a community that we love. It brings tears to my eyes as I write this and reflect on how far I have come. I couldn't have done it without Kratom. I would have been another overdose statistic in this tsunami of deaths that the United States has weathered over the past 10 years, amid this opioid epidemic. Kratom has saved my life and countless others. It is a wonderful medicine for many. I still use it occasionally to treat my anxiety and panic attacks. Kratom treats these conditions that I have suffered my entire life better than any medication prescribed to me by any doctor that I have sought for help. Kratom is a valuable aid against opioid addiction and the resulting death that has plagued our communities. To make it illegal would only fuel the ravenous fire that is the opioid epidemic. Please, hear the millions that it has saved. I am certainly one of them. And please consider keeping kratom legal in North Carolina and available to the many good people who need it.

CommentID: 225118

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 12:56 pm

Kratom

I'm sorry the board of Pharmacy is always making it hard for normal people not addicts. Stop thinking you're God's.

CommentID: 225119

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 1:02 pm

Do Not Take This Life Saving Supplement Away From People Who Need it!

There is a lot of disinformation and stigma around this medicinal plant that is leading to a lot of reactionary, fear based actions that help no one, and harm people who really need it. Please look at ALL the science, because there is much clinical science available now that shows that Kratom does NOT pose the risks that were feared earlier.

Kratom has been literally life saving for me. I suffer multiple comorbidities, including Fibromyalgia, severe arthritis, and long COVID, which has exponentially exacerbated the pain and fatigue cause by the Fibromyalgia and arthritis. I cannot take any of the pharmaceutical drugs that are usually prescribed for fibromyalgia, due to side effects that cause problems with other comorbidities.

Let me, and so many who are in similar circumstances with chronic pain, safe, therapeutic doses

of kratom have literally meant the difference between my being literally bed ridden much of the time and actually being able to participate in life, being able to manage my home (I live alone and don't have family or much other help), and being able to work at least some to keep my basic survival bills paid.

I would welcome some kind of sensible quality regulation as a supplement, so we don't have impure/poor quality supplements on the market. But to make kratom illegal and take away access to this life saving plant would be, in many cases for many of us, death or at least the end of any kind of productive life or any quality of life. I can't tell you how many times before I began to use kratom that my life was so unmanageable, and I was so completely unable to function and take part in life with other people, working to support myself, or doing any of the things that bring me some joy in life, that it would bring me to a place of deep despair and hopelessness, and a loss of will to live. Let's learn the lessons from the criminalization of cannabis. Often, natural, plant based medicine is superior to pharmaceuticals for many of us, especially for those of us with ailments that Western Medicine and Big Pharma haven't figured out how to deal with, or don't even yet fully understand. Let us live in harmony with nature and use the medicinal plants that nature has given us, especially when there are no other cures or remedies for the ailments we suffer.

CommentID: 225120

Commenter: Charlie

6/5/24 1:03 pm

No ban!

I am moving from Arizona to the east coast. I will definitely not move to Virginia if kratom is banned. It has helped me immensely

CommentID: 225121

Commenter: Tanner

6/5/24 1:03 pm

Moving backwards

american politicians would rather you die from fentanyl or be hooked on methadone your whole life than allow a natural plant to be used. Why? Because they cant make any money off of it, unlike pharmaceuticals. Ask the people what they want, a few politicians do not speak for all of virginia and they do not speak for all of us American citizens.

CommentID: 225122

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 1:07 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

Kratom saves people's lives. If this was really about helping people then we would be moving alcohol to schedule one. Alcohol is much more unhealthy and destroys more lives yet it remains legal. How then does it make sense to criminalize something that's much more benign? Keep Kratom legal and regulate it

CommentID: 225123

Commenter: Craig Burlingame

6/5/24 1:08 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

I almost fell into the deadly trap of Opiate addiction after I had a Surgery and they prescribed Norcos. I found Kratom two years ago and it saved my life. Pure Unadulterated Kratom is safe. The stuff you buy at gas station s and smoke shoppes definitely need regulation or a ban because those are ADULTERATED and can be dangerous. It's my pain management and without it, I live in a world of hurt,oleasw follow the science and don't just vote yes in a ban. Many people in the state of Virginia will die without it and nobody wants to live with that in their conscience

CommentID: 225124

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 1:08 pm

HHS said scheduling Kratom was NOT supported by data

I DO NOT SUPPORT THE PETITION TO MAKE THE ALKALOIDS IN KRATOM A SCHEDULE I SUBSTANCE.

Below is an excerpt from a letter from Brett P. Giroir, M.D., ADM, U.S. Public Health Service, Assistant Secretary for Health, Senior Advisor for Opioid Policy, Department of Health & Human Services, that was sent to the Acting Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in 2018 when the FDA made a push for Kratom to become a controlled Schedule I substance. The science did not support that action then, and it does not support that action now.

"I have reviewed the Acting Assistant Secretary's earlier recommendation as well as previous and new scientific data. In light of this review, combined with concerns for unintended public health consequences, I now conclude that while mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine have many properties of an opioid, scheduling these chemicals at this time in light of the underdeveloped state of the science would be premature. For example, one recently published peer reviewed animal study indicated that mitragynine does not have abuse potential and actually reduced morphine intake. As such, these new data suggest that mitragynine does not satisfy the first of three statutory requisites for Schedule I, irrespective of broader considerations of public health. While a single study is rarely dispositive, it strongly suggests that further evaluation is warranted."

"...the level of scientific data and analysis presented by the FDA and available literature do not meet the criteria for inclusion of kratom or its chemical components in Schedule I in the CSA (Controlled Substance Act) at this time."

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54d50ceee4b05797b34869cft/60145eab6df59e7e36a7cfc1/1611947693695/dhillon-8.16.2018-response-letter-from-ash-radm-giroir.pdf>

CommentID: 225125

Commenter: Steve weaver

6/5/24 1:08 pm

Please reconsider your scheduling of Kratom

Please reconsider the scheduling of Kratom in VA. This plant has saved so much misery and hurt for so many people including myself. Many of ua would not be able to go about our livea without it. I beg you, please reconsider. The plant improves quality of life for so many people!

CommentID: 225126

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 1:10 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

303

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

5977750

From some of the comments read, it is apparent there are a lot of misconceptions about Kratom: which is sad.

There is a wealth of legitimate knowledge on "Kratom" that has not been sensationalized to the point of being propaganda. Here is just one example:

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fphar.2022.801855>

The most salient point in the article being that "there are NO reports of deaths due to kratom use in SE Asia for over a century," (i.e., where the use of kratom is more common and more widely-available).

The article also discusses the misconceptions around kratom "causing deaths" in the United States (which there is zero evidence for).

Claiming that kratom "caused" a death (any death claims) is tantamount to claiming that coffee could cause death. Someone more sensitive to caffeine consumes a large cold brew (drink with the highest caffeine content) from Dunkin Donuts. On their drive to work, they begin to experience caffeine-induced anxiety, get shaky, and misinterpret a red light, getting T-boned in the process. They die. Would the cause of death be Dunkin Donuts? Coffee? In every claim of death related to kratom, there is a cocktail of other substances detected in the autopsy reports.

To those that truly believe kratom "caused" the death of a loved-one, I understand why they rationalize it. They feel as if they can do something about kratom. The other substances (that actually contributed to a loved-one's death) are either already illegal, or are prescribed pharmaceuticals.

However, capitulating to such flawed rationalizations would do **substantial** harm.

As cited in the article, people that already use kratom in a healthy manner/in moderation will be unnecessarily penalized. The negative stigma that would be created with a ban on kratom would hinder opportunities to gather more data and evidence (i.e., no one is going to honestly report to their doctors they consume kratom if it is banned, creating more danger for drug interactions).

It is a terrible idea to ban kratom and should be shot down immediately and decisively by every single lawmaker in the state of Virginia (nationally as well).

CommentID: 225127

Commenter: jim sourek

6/5/24 1:10 pm

Backwards Thinking

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) recognizes kratom as a substance that, when used responsibly, can have beneficial effects. Research indicates that kratom may help manage chronic pain, mitigate opioid withdrawal symptoms, and improve mood and anxiety. These potential benefits should not be overlooked, especially at a time when the opioid crisis continues to devastate communities across the nation.

Stop following junk FDA science

CommentID: 225128

Commenter: Robert J. Hartford

6/5/24 1:12 pm

Opiate related deaths continue to soar in Virginia, you should be ashamed for trying to ban Kratom

To remove one of the few natural alternatives available for people suffering.

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

598/750

CommentID: 225129

Commenter: Tyler t**MUST STAY LEGAL!!**

This plant has saved my life. Without it I would be dead and not here for my 7 year old, able to live life like normal because of it. Had zero side effects and it's affordable . It's literally a life saving accessible drug that HAS TO STAY THAY WAY

CommentID: 225130

6/5/24 1:15 pm

Commenter: Todd Hower**Kratom has saved many lives. please don't ban it.**

About 10 years ago I was in so much pain due to injuries. I would try anything for relief. Kratom was suggested. I did some research on it and ordered a little on the internet. I was skeptical but figured it couldn't hurt. It took a few days to dial in but I found what works for me. I couldn't be happier. something was finally working and it wasn't illegal. if Kratom is banned a lot of people including myself will go back to a life of pain and misery. I fear the worst if that happens. I can't deal with the pain I was in. Narcotics was the only choice back then and I was worried about the addiction effect of that. Dealing with pain is a rough road. Many people will lose their will without Kratom. please don't ban it. if anything it needs to be studied and observed.

CommentID: 225131

6/5/24 1:15 pm

Commenter: Concerned American citizen**Please don't make Kratom illegal**

I don't want to go back to my past problems it has saved my life and my job

Also my feet has been damaged over the years and it's the only thing that works for the pain I wished I could show the board a picture of my feet please contact me

CommentID: 225132

6/5/24 1:21 pm

Commenter: Jason Spencer**Kratom Saves Lives.**

Do not take away the peoples access or rights to use this plant. I personally have used and still use kratom to treat chronic pain. I have a choice a plant or a fist full of pills each and every day of my life. So I choose a plant. Kratom is extremely safe as long as it is from a quality vendor and you're not mixing it with other chemicals "medicines". If you look not one person has died with only kratom in their system. It has always been a combination of something else usually. gabapentin. Please do not take away safe and regulated access to kratom. Or infringe on those that use it. Fun fact I can still take the same dose size I took when I started taking kratom years later and I still feel the same benefit without having to increase my intake like with traditional pain killers.

CommentID: 225133

6/5/24 1:21 pm

Commenter: Cyrus Grimsphere**Kratom vs Opioid addiction. Winner is chosen by the state.**

From 2001 to 2015 I was addicted to painkillers. over that. of time my addiction became more and more severe. Kratom helped me come off of pills. No more was I searching every day for relief. I now had something safer and accessible to manage my pain.

A kratom ban would completely take that away. I would be forced to find it through less reputable means from out of state or country. And make no mistake, I would completely disregard any law that said I couldn't. Because going back to painkillers would be a literal death sentence. And if that's the only option ai have I'd much rather just speed up the process and do it myself, which honestly seems like what our state officials want for us anyway.

I would rather die than to be forced back into addiction because of ignorant lawmakers.

CommentID: 225134

Commenter: Devon**Kratom should NOT be banned**

We deserve our freedom of choice in America. We should be allowed to use this plant if we please. Kratom is not a narcotic and should not be treated as such

CommentID: 225135

6/5/24 1:23 pm

Commenter: Chris**KEEP KRATOM LEGAL FOR ALL LIFE SAVER!**

I was shocked to see this petition to ban Kratom. I live a happy and successful life because of my privilage to have Kratom in my life.

CommentID: 225136

6/5/24 1:25 pm

Commenter: Francis Murphy**Kratom should not be a Schedule I drug**

Kratom should not be a Schedule I drug.

CommentID: 225137

6/5/24 1:25 pm

Commenter: Hannah**Natural Leaf Supplement. Pls Don't Ban!**

Many of us including disabled people have found this to be quite helpful in making life somewhat more tolerable. It is by no means a cure but, being able to order it and have it come to your mailbox is additionally helpful for those of us that are homebound. If I know means causes a high

6/5/24 1:26 pm

or uncontrollable reactions. It's very much a feeling of what would be a really good puppy feeling coffee even though it is not from the Coffee Bean family. It would change my life a lot if I were unable to have my morning and evening tea. It's amazing for pain without a bunch of side effects of all of the other medicines I had to take while in pain management. Please don't ban it!
 CommentID: 225138

Commenter: Suzy Lindgren Joyful Solutions Health Coach

6/5/24 1:27 pm

Protect Kratom to Save Lives

I have been using kratom for my chronic pain caused by shingles, as well as my chronic fatigue. It has kept me from being dependent on opioid medication, as I had been before trying plant medicine. Some of my clients that have had debilitating pain have found dramatic results with no side effects or increasing dosage. Please keep this valuable option available to those who need it. Thank you!A

CommentID: 225139

Commenter: John Windscheffel

6/5/24 1:29 pm

Do Not Ban natural Kratom

Kratom is from the earth for mankind its a gift do not Ban

CommentID: 225140

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 1:29 pm

In support of VSHP's Stance on Kratom

I read many comments in opposition to this petition arguing that Kratom is "safe" and "effective." If this was true, it would have FDA-approval for use in the United States. Current review of clinicaltrials.gov does not show any current studies that might lead to FDA approval of this substance, but rather studies looking at withdrawal management and drug-plant interactions.

The other argument I see is that Kratom is plant-based and thus should not concern medical professionals. There are plant-based products that are approved for use - digoxin (derived from the foxglove plant), melatonin, and warfarin (derived from sweet clover in found in Wisconsin) are widely used agents that come to immediate mind as a medication expert with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree, Board Certification in Pharmacotherapy, and 15+ years of bedside clinical experience. So, ask yourself a question - if plant-based products can be FDA-approved, especially in the age of opioid abuse and the need for more effective pain management strategies, why is Kratom not being studied in this capacity and why has a New Drug Application not been filed? Also, why has the FDA stated that Kratom may not be marketed as a dietary supplement because it violates 402(f)(1)(B), 402(a)(2)(C)(i), and 409 of the FD&C Act?

Plants can be medicine, but every medicine has not only side effects, but also drug-interactions. In my clinical experience, I have watched at least 1 patient die of acute liver failure from Kratom. I've also had to deal with countless admissions for hallucinations, altered mental status, and abuse to our staff as a result of Kratom abuse. Drug-herb interactions are numerous, including a number of commonly prescribed cardiovascular medications, agents used for treatment of diabetes, and treatment of pain. Until there is data to support both the safety and the efficacy of a Kratom-based product, I support the petition to classify Kratom as a Schedule I substance.

Kratom interactions - Exhaustive List of Kratom Drug Interactions: (260+ Medications) -
 Kratom.org

FDA Statement on Kratom - <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/public-health-focus/fda-and-kratom>
 CommentID: 225141

Commenter: Susan McCool

6/5/24 1:29 pm

Kratom needs to stay legal

I have been able to use Kratom to lessen a painful chronic medical condition without becoming addicted to opiates over 12 years. When I have a flare I can take a small amount of Kratom to reduce the pain without a high. I do not feel groggy the next day and have had no issues stopping Kratom as soon as my flare has lessened. My doctor knows I use Kratom and has no issues with it. I requests that the Board amend 18VAC110-20-322 to include mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine, the active alkaloids found in kratom, in Schedule I

CommentID: 225142

Commenter: Former Kratom Addict

6/5/24 1:30 pm

It was a nightmare getting off kratom, please ban for the sake of public health!

I know one person who died from kratom and another went into a coma. This toxic plant should have been banned a long time ago.

CommentID: 225143

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 1:32 pm

Kratom is not bad

Keep it legal

CommentID: 225144

Commenter: Marcelle Morfin

6/5/24 1:33 pm

Kratom

I am an Army veteran whose life was saved by Kratom. I was close to suicide seven years ago. But then I found kratom. I am a wife, mother, sister, friend, and a veteran who was willing to fight to keep the freedoms of this country. I think at the very least I am deserving of access to plain leaf lab tested kratom, in any and every state in the United States. Please consider regulating what is for about 20 million Americans, a life saving botanical. ??

I have been contemplating where we will move once my husband retires. Virginia was one of those places. Unfortunately, if kratom ceases to remain legal, I will be forced to move elsewhere. And you can read more of my story her

<https://capitolweekly.net/a-veterans-journey-with-chronic-pain-and-kratom/>

Sincerely,

Marcelle Morfin

US Army Veteran

y,m/ere:aniny,m/e:

CommentID: 225145

Commenter: Elaine Bigsby

6/5/24 1:34 pm

My son died from Kratom

My son was a healthy young man, not a drug addict, he believed the lies of the kratom association & thought kratom was safe for energy until he became addicted to it & it caused him to have a heart attack and die. Please ban this drug.

CommentID: 225146

Commenter: Jason Osgoode

6/5/24 1:34 pm

Never ban kratom.

Many people have argued that kratom is some kind of gate way drug. In fact it is the opposite. For many years I was a homeless heroin addict, and then a severe alcoholic. Now I have my life back. I have a job, a home, pets that rely on me, and a beautiful wife. It's not just me, Since I made the discovery that kratom is a "gateway" back to a normal life, I've helped many others to get back on track.

If you ban kratom, you are taking away money from many hard-working American entrepreneurs, and giving it to alcohol manufacturers and Fentanyl cartels, and it's no secret big pharma hates that kratom can be used as a substitute for pharmaceutical pain relief.

So unless you want to be seen as a sith lord, a tyrant, an agent of the military Pharmaceutical media complex, please leave this traditional Asian herbal medicine alone.

306

CommentID: 225147

Commenter: Robert Valencia MD

6/5/24 1:37 pm

Several of my patients are addicted to kratom, please ban!

This is an opioid like drug and shouldn't be sold out of gas stations and smoke shops with unlimited supply to the consumer.

CommentID: 225148

Commenter: Wade

6/5/24 1:37 pm

Please do NOT schedule kratom

My wife utilizes kratom for her chronic pain and has for the past 5 years. Before she found kratom I saw her depressed and struggling almost every day.I have seen her transform into a happy and productive person after she found kratom. I know there are so many others who could benefit from this please do not schedule kratom.

CommentID: 225149

Commenter: Jay, a Virginian who works with Bluelight Harm Reduction

6/5/24 1:40 pm

Thousands more will die from fentanyl if you criminalize kratom!!!

Please do not ban kratom in Virginia. It is common sense that it helps with a multitude of issues, and is a safer alternative to prescription pain killers and opiates. It does not cause respiratory depression, and there is much less risk of overdose from kratom, unless it is combined with other substances.

Instead of outright criminalizing this natural substance with thousands of years of safe history, the state government should be looking towards doing studies to make it's use safer, and to help more people with chronic pain and substance use issues.

It would be incredibly irresponsible to ban this substance in the midst of an overdose crisis that is killing thousands of Virginians every year. If you ban this substance, you are actively putting a gun in the hands of millions of people and pushing them into an unregulated black market.

Do not make the same mistakes that were made decades ago with cannabis. You see how long it took to turn back on that right?

CommentID: 225150

Commenter: John

6/5/24 1:41 pm

I get a reaction to poison ivy...do we ban that too?

My grandpa died of alcohol, will we ban it? People are allergic to nuts, do we ban it? My great grandfather committed suicide from a gun...do we ban guns? No. There are irresponsible people in the world who will abuse ANYTHING (food, alcohol, sofa cushioning,milk) . This is what regulation is for, yes? Again, with less than 100 deaths from kratom abuse (way, way less than a lot of things that are readily available), why would you schedule it? The FDA has been unable to prove it's harmful enough to schedule or ban, have been caught lying, and simply are ignorant

because they choose not to regulate or do studies. The nasty ingredients in our food have given me an IBD, but we will never ban those chemicals. Let's focus on that and how colon cancer is alarmingly on the rise due to our food. This hyper focus on an herb is embarrassing.
CommentID: 225151

Commenter: Christen Grangee

6/5/24 1:41 pm

A Nurse's Story

Dear Regulatory Body,

As a former nurse, I have witnessed the devastating effects of substance abuse disorder both in clinical settings and within my own circle. Kratom is not part of the problem; in fact, it has been a life-changing solution for many.

I personally suffer from Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, Lupus, and Fibromyalgia, all of which cause intractable debilitating pain. I diligently followed doctors' recommendations, yet their prescribed medications and the side effects left me nearly bedridden and contributed to weight gain ballooning my already disabled body to 300 pounds.

Discovering kratom in 2018 has been a godsend. Instead of taking nearly 20 prescribed medications, I now consume a very small amount of kratom once or twice daily. This change has allowed me to regain control of my life, and my children have their mom back.

Since incorporating kratom into my daily routine, I have successfully weaned off the harmful pharmaceutical cocktail and lost over 150 pounds. My health has significantly improved, with lab results returning to normal and my blood pressure no longer elevated. Most importantly, my pain has decreased from an unbearable 10 to a manageable 2 when consuming kratom.

I urge you not to believe the misinformation surrounding kratom and listen to the science, as this plant has genuinely saved lives, including mine.

Sincerely,

Christen Granger, PN

CommentID: 225152

Commenter: Bob Archer

6/5/24 1:41 pm

My fiance died from kratom, it was causing her to have seizures, and she DIED at 30 yrs old.

Please ban this poisonous plant.

CommentID: 225153

Commenter: Mary Jones

6/5/24 1:41 pm

Kratom

I have been a kratom consumer for over 17 years. I have never once felt that my health was jeopardized. On the contrary, I was prescribed opioids to deal with pain and fatigue. The opioids caused me. Kratom restored me. I take it daily. It's disappointing that kratom consumption is being targeted. There have been extensive studies, including the University of Florida, that have deemed the leaf to be safe. Sadly, some have died while consuming kratom. A deep dive will tell those

seeking truth, that other drugs were ingested. Other drugs were in the system Please keep the leaf free.

CommentID: 225154

Commenter: Zeeshan

6/5/24 1:42 pm

So many businesses will go out of business

So many smoke shops will be closed down and so much loss for Virginia

CommentID: 225155

Commenter: Bobby

6/5/24 1:43 pm

Kratom

Kratom is helpful please don't ban it

CommentID: 225156

Commenter: Melody Hutson

6/5/24 1:43 pm

3 of my friends are addicted to kratom, and are unable to quit because withdrawals are horrible

Please ban this drug!

CommentID: 225157

Commenter: Beverly Icke

6/5/24 1:43 pm

Kratom gave me back quality of life

I am a 60 year old woman with degenerative bone disease as well as severe scoliosis and have had multiple surgeries. Kratom has given me back my quality of life. What narcotic pain meds did left me in a horrible state. Kratom manages my pain with no brain fog no fatigue and no addiction. Thank you for your time in reading this I hope you come to find the true benefits of Kratom it has been a game changer for me. I enjoy my grandchildren am able to play with them, care for my chickens and my small dog.

Sincerely,

Beverly Icke

CommentID: 225158

Commenter: Peter Stephens

6/5/24 1:44 pm

Kratom saves lives

Kratom has saved me so many times from turning back to fentanyl and I can say it's not just helped me but many more, how many people I know you use it to help with everyday challenges. I can guarantee if you try to criminalize kratom, fentanyl and other drugs will increase in use. DO NOT CRIMINALISE KRATOM!!!

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

CommentID: 225159

Commenter: fuji ice

6/5/24 1:45 pm

dont ban

dont ban kratom please

CommentID: 225160

Commenter: Brenda

6/5/24 1:45 pm

I tried kratom and vomited profusely. Natures way of protecting plants from animals & people.

Why is this still legal when so many are dying from it?

CommentID: 225161

Commenter: Richard Morris

6/5/24 1:45 pm

Please keep unadulterated Kratom available

Date: June 4, 2024

Please accept this statement FOR Kratom being kept legal is unadulterated form.


My wife and I are retired and suffer from age related issues. My wife has had two back surgeries and often deals with the associated pain. I have severe arthritis with aching joints. My fingers are no longer straight. The discomfort is a constant reminder of the ravages age takes on our body.

My wife is an Accountant. I worked in manufacturing rising to be a General Manager of a high tech sonar equipment company. We have four children, all of whom have graduated college and successfully pursuing their own careers. I mention this only so you will know we are responsible, mature adults that take life seriously. Neither of us have any criminal records. We are typical, middle Americans that love our country and are engaged in our society.

We discovered Kratom several years ago and found it minimizes our pain and discomfort to such a degree that it allows us to function as we did in younger years. There have been no side effects and no problems stopping it which we have done several times. My wife typically takes 3 "OO" capsules twice a day and I take 5 (I am 6'2", 250lbs).

Please do not restrict access to unadulterated Kratom. It is a natural product with little to no downsides. I hope you consider that there are those that would like to see Kratom restricted so they can profit from a ban or restrictions. We live in a fast changing world where there are many that seek money and power. We must always be on guard to protect our freedoms from those that wish to profit from restrictions. Our elected Officials are our best defense against allowing our freedoms to be taken away. Please help us keep unadulterated Kratom available.

Sincerely,

 Richard & Sheril Morris

P.O. Box 422

Opperas Cove, TX 76522

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

6077750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Cell: 425-417-5556

Email: RichardMor@aol.com

CommentID: 225162

Commenter: Mohamed Journey

6/5/24 1:46 pm

Not ban for kratom

Kratom is helping us with with pain with stress gives energy so we can work and pay the bills helping us with anxiety . No ban for kratom , yes for kratom .

CommentID: 225163

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 1:46 pm

Please don't ban this effective pain medicine

I'm a 52 year old woman who has multiple invisible disabilities, including chronic pain, fibromyalgia, psoriatic arthritis and other conditions. 9 years ago, I was prescribed 90 mg of opioid pain medication and it didn't help at all. I was bedridden and on a path to addiction (which took my beloved brother). I had no desire to continue living. I was desperate for help and relief from the overwhelming pain...I discovered a plant called Kratom in a pain support group. A plant that could help my pain? I did heavy research and armed with the truth, I tried it. This plant saved my life. No other way to look at it. The pain relief I found with Kratom allowed me to return to work (part time) and regain my desire to LIVE! It's so much safer than opioids. It doesn't suppress breathing. You can't OD on pure unadulterated Kratom. Please don't believe the propaganda. Please don't make chronic pain patients suffer and be criminalized!

CommentID: 225164

Commenter: Kevin James Fox

6/5/24 1:46 pm

Helpful plant that's saved thousands of lives

Mitragyna Speciosa (aka Kratom) is a helpful medicinal plant that is related to coffee and has nothing in common with papaver somniferum (opium poppy, bread seed poppy, etc) from which opiate medications come from. The active alkaloids in kratom (mainly Mitragynine and 7-OH) which are present in trace amounts in the raw plant matter do interact with some opioid receptors, but as partial agonists. Neither of these alkaloids are known to contribute to cardiotoxicity nor respiratory depression as traditional opioids/opiates do. However, the drug has anecdotally seen success in assisting with safely discontinuing said traditional opioids medication.

There is the possibility of misuse and dependable, but discontinuing the drug is not dangerous, and the main side effect is moderate physical discomfort. A controlled taper can reduce or even completely eliminate discontinuation symptoms. Another common side effect is that overuse can cause temporary sexual side effects such as delayed orgasm or erectile dysfunction, but these are alleviated by refraining from taking the drug for several hours. Over indulgence may also cause nausea and vomiting. There is little evidence that a fatal overdose of kratom alone is potentially fatal. There should be more research done for that.

Thank you for your consideration.

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

608/750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

CommentID: 225165

Commenter: Paulina

I support Kratom!

I strongly oppose the petition and want Kratom to remain accessible to the public.

CommentID: 225166

6/5/24 1:46 pm

Commenter: Self Employed (Business)

Do not ban kratom

So many people I know have been able to kick much more dangerous addictions by using Kratom. It is a blessing... do not ban!

CommentID: 225167

6/5/24 1:48 pm

Commenter: Maria Gomez

I'm in liver failure because I used kratom for back pain, natural doesn't mean it's safe! BAN

I'm waiting on a liver transplant all because of kratom. I never did drugs, and believed the lies of kratom dealers that it was a safe natural remedy for pain, now I may die because of kratom according to my doctors.

CommentID: 225168

6/5/24 1:49 pm

Commenter: Randy

Reddit r/quittingkratom over 43 thousand people trying to get off kratom in this group

With 43 thousand people trying to get off kratom you got to know how addictive it is.

CommentID: 225169

6/5/24 1:51 pm

Commenter: Kate

PLEASE DONT BAN KRATOM

Please, I am a chronic pain patient of 17 Years of pain day in and day out and my Dr fired me, I was left with no other options to treat my pain. I turned to kratom and have been safely using it for more than 5 years. It's a miracle for many of us not just pain patients.

CommentID: 225170

6/5/24 1:53 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Read r/Kratom it has 170k people using Kratom to improve there lives

Who is reading Reddit as proof though ??.

CommentID: 225171

6/5/24 1:53 pm

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Commenter: Patty

Kratom effects are addiction, vomiting, aggression, muscle pain, seizure, coma & DEATH

My brother died from kratom.

CommentID: 225172

6/5/24 1:53 pm

Commenter: Jonny

No to the ban

Kratom helps my life daily. We already have consumer regulation. No to the ban.

CommentID: 225173

6/5/24 1:54 pm

Commenter: Smith

No plain and simple

Virginia doesn't need to schedule Kratom. No to the ban

CommentID: 225174

6/5/24 1:55 pm

Commenter: Misteas

Kratom meets the criteria for Schedule I. Please Ban this drug!

Kratom is a dangerous drug

CommentID: 225175

6/5/24 1:56 pm

Commenter: Seth

No to the schedule

We have adequate consumer protection laws for Kratom. That is enough. No to the ban.

CommentID: 225176

6/5/24 1:56 pm

Commenter: William E. Rollins

We are losing the drug wars for lack of knowledge

In 2022 there were about 110,000 US citizens deaths from the drug wars on the USA. This cannot be denied, nor passed over, not suppressed. How can we ignore such a great crisis? This number is approximately the total number of US deaths in all the wars since World War 2 which ended almost 80 years ago. Many are now living and have successful lives because of the benefits of this one plant, Mitragyna speciosa, also known as kratom. Banning kratom gives the CCP/Mexican drug cartels more money and power in your neighborhood. In my opinion Kratom is about as effective as methadone and Suboxone maintenance programs. I have used kratom for this purpose and for pain management for

6/5/24 1:56 pm

almost 8 years. My doctor told me to stay on kratom. Kratom works and it works well. The choices you make concerning this plant will have major consequences. If you ban it, are you not adding to the death toll of US citizens from the drug wars? Are you willing to increase or decrease this drug war crisis and it's death count in the USA? Recovery takes courage and hard work and it is worth it! The lives of many people are in your hands. --> It is your decision. Choose Wisely

CommentID: 225177

Commenter: Eris Casey

Do not ban kratom

Please do not ban kratom it will negatively impact so many people's lives. Kratom is not dangerous and is absolutely life changing when used properly. Due to chronic pain I cannot go without it and I cannot get through the day.

CommentID: 225178

Commenter: Anonymous

Keep Kratom Legal

Keep Kratom Legal

CommentID: 225179

Commenter: Amanda

No to the schedule

Me and my husband use this plant and I don't think it's right for Virginia to tell us what to do. We do not support this. We have consumer laws that protect us.

CommentID: 225180

Commenter: Anonymous

Stop the ban of Kratom

I don't support the criminalization of Kratom.... Keep it legal! Banning Kratom will just make things so much worse, not better.

CommentID: 225181

Commenter: Stephanie Johnson

Stop to adding Kratom as Schedule I



CommentID: 225182

Commenter: Jenny McCain

Kratom is NOT legal to import therefore all kratom in the United States was illegally smuggled here.

Kratom is a deadly drug and very addictive. I've been trying to get clean from kratom, but the withdrawals are just like opioid withdrawals.

CommentID: 225183

Commenter: Heather

Kratom Needs to Stay Legal in Virginia

My mother ended up losing everything and could not afford the medications that she once had. If it was not for Kratom, she would have never been able to withstand the pain that comes with her illness. We are planning to move to Virginia to be with my partner and his family, but Kratom suddenly being banned will create quite a hardship for both me and my mother. Please, please do not place this ban. It has been an incredible gift to those in need, and from personal experience, there has been no adverse side effects. God bless.

CommentID: 225184

Commenter: Kate Law

Kratom got me off the bottle!

I was a RAGING alcoholic. Nothing helped. Not AA, not the DWI, not jail, nothing. Ruined a marriage, jobs, relationships with my children, friendships and family relationships.

Then I found kratom. I never touched alcohol again. I'm now 7 years sober.

I function like a normal person with kratom. I go to work, pay my taxes. There is nothing dangerous about it. Every death had multiple drugs in their system, it is never kratom alone. You take too much, you throw up and feel better immediately.

You guys want me to go back to the bottle? It won't be pretty... for me or a lot of other people. Others used it to get off heroin and other hard street drugs. Not sure why you would want to do that...

CommentID: 225185

Commenter: Zaid Albadani

Harm reduction

Kratom is an excellent harm reduction tool, prohibition will lead to unnecessary loss of lives.

CommentID: 225186

Commenter: J M Viggiano

Please keep Kratom nonprescription!

6/5/24 2:00 pm

I used Kratom to withdraw from opioids. It is safe and effective, affordable and easy to get. Studies show that there are few adverse effects. Please do not take away our access to this very helpful substance.

CommentID: 225187

Commenter: Candice

6/5/24 2:00 pm

My uncle died from kratom, why is this poison sold out of gas stations as safe?

Please ban kratom.

CommentID: 225188

Commenter: Ronny

6/5/24 2:00 pm

No to the scheduling

We already have consumer protection laws. No to this stupid ban.

CommentID: 225189

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 2:01 pm

KEEP KRATOM

Why ban Kratom when there are TONS of pharmaceuticals and other drugs available to the public that kill thousands of people a year!! Get real and start banning the things that are an actual problem to our society and nation!

CommentID: 225190

Commenter: Joseph

6/5/24 2:02 pm

Banning a plant native to South East Asia just because you don't understand it, is incredibly foolish

It is a plant that is used in traditional medicine in South East Asia for centuries. Ignorance of the science of kratom and the rampant misinformation is honestly sad to see. People who live where kratom is naturally consumed would think this is insane.

CommentID: 225191

Commenter: Mary Dörner Stephens

6/5/24 2:04 pm

Leave Kratom alone please!

My husband of 41 years passed away in 2015. He left a small well built house that he built, seven acres of wooded land, nearly thirty raised bed gardens and an orchard with canes, grape vines and approximately 30 fruit trees. I have had to study how to care for all of this because I was not raised on a farm. I love it all and it has saved my life from endless grieving for him. However, I have not been able to afford to hire any help. I have taken care of all of this property ONLY WITH THE HELP OF KRATOM. I don't know how much longer I'll be able to work this hard but I know I need Kratom to do it. NSAIDS tear up my gut and can cause heart attack. I am the healthiest 70

year old person you could meet. That is because I have used natural remedies for any health issues I've ever had. If anyone claims they got addicted to Kratom, they simply already had an addictive personality. Kratom is NOT the culprit. Anyone claiming that someone died doing Kratom is failing to mention that person was also doing other drugs! Do not ruin this PLANT by lying! This is big pharmaceutical companies wanting to restrict Kratom the same way they restricted marijuana. Now we're finally researching marijuana enough to learn that it shows in studies to prevent and possibly cure dementia. Come on boomers! Keep Kratom legal. Keep the dirty hands of the pharmaceutical companies OFF!

CommentID: 225192

Commenter: Kenny

6/5/24 2:04 pm

Keep the consumer legislation as it stands

No to the bad, we don't support this. It has been tried numerous time to schedule but not effective. Keep the correct legislation

CommentID: 225193

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 2:05 pm

Kratom

Please we are begging keep kratom legal and easy to access it helps so many people in so many ways

CommentID: 225194

Commenter: Rocky USA

6/5/24 2:05 pm

Leave Kratom, it is not marijuana or harmful to health. Look at more important matters than that.

Leave Kratom, it is not marijuana or harmful to health. Look at more important matters than that.

CommentID: 225195

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 2:06 pm

FDA unable to get Kratom Scheduled

I do not support this petition.

The FDA has been pushing for Kratom to become a Schedule I substance for over a decade. But when a Federal Judge called on the FDA in February 2024 to present witnesses or testimony under oath on whether Kratom was dangerous, the FDA refused. The reason they gave was that they have not yet made a determination regarding whether Kratom was dangerous. However, the FDA completed a kratom "dose finding study" on humans where no significant adverse events were observed even at very high doses. The FDA acknowledged the data showed no significant safety concerns in the ascending dose study on kratom use.

FDA Dose finding study: <https://speciosa.org/fda-dose-finding-study-what-it-actually-means-to-kratom-consumers/>

FDA in Federal case: <https://e17085.p3cdn1.secureserver.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Screenshot-2024-03-04-at-11:38:26%E2%80%AFAM.png>
CommentID: 225196

Commenter: Heather D

6/5/24 2:06 pm

Kratom saves lives when doctors refuse to help

As a person who suffers from Chronic pain as a result of Rheumatoid Arthritis, Kratom has saved my life. The pain was so bad before I found Kratom, and doctors stopped prescribing medication for people who actually need it. I am unable to take anything other than Tylenol and Kratom bc of the dangers NSAIDS pose to my GI tract. Kratom has helped ppl with addiction/dependency and it DOES NOT alter respiration or pose an overdose threat.

thanks

CommentID: 225197

Commenter: Brooklin

6/5/24 2:07 pm

Do Not Ban this Substance

I am an active user working a full time job in a security field and a contributing member to society. I use this benign herb for pain control since a botched surgery 3 years ago. It has saved my life, and has contributed to no deaths and prevented me from using expensive opioids which kill and maim. Kratom should be clean and regulated, the drug war has FAILED. Continuing with banning every psychoactive substance while ignoring the real life ruin it will cause us users, is absolutely evil.

CommentID: 225198

Commenter: Nicol 007

6/5/24 2:07 pm

Keep kratom

We are for selling kratom, not banning it.

CommentID: 225199

Commenter: Tammy Fletcher

6/5/24 2:08 pm

Don't support scheduling kratom

Don't schedule kratom. The science proves it's safety please actually read the studies and you'll be able to see all the lies. You will be causing deaths of people who depend on this safe plant. They can not get pharma help for pain they rely on this plant which harms NO ONE.

Think of the deaths YOU will be causing if you schedule/ban this plant.

CommentID: 225200

312

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 2:10 pm

Considering the ban of this supplement is wildly irresponsible for health & safety of Virginians

If the concern surrounding Kratom is about public health, prohibition could drive Kratom consumption underground, leading to unregulated black market sales and potentially dangerous products. Instead of criminalizing its use, we should focus on education, harm reduction, and responsible regulation to protect public health and safety.

Furthermore, by implementing an amendment on the legislation including quality control measures and age restrictions, we can ensure the safe consumption of Kratom while minimizing any potential risks. Regulation would also allow for proper labeling and dosage information, empowering consumers to make informed decisions about its use.

To conclude, banning this supplement will only increase deaths of Virginians who will turn to actual drugs (Fentanyl, Opioids, etc.). Nothing good will come from ignoring constituents stories and how it has changed their lives for the better.

CommentID: 225201

Commenter: Elizabeth Alejandro

6/5/24 2:10 pm

No ban

I don't know why the government they need to bend everything

CommentID: 225202

Commenter: Janice M Cirrione

6/5/24 2:11 pm

Kratom saves me daily

I was on so much pain meds I was dependent and didn't want to spend my life on drugs. I discovered Kratom when looking for natural pain relievers. For 5 years I've been able to function every single day because of Kratom.

CommentID: 225203

Commenter: Crissy Y

6/5/24 2:12 pm

No ban

No need to ban

CommentID: 225204

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 2:18 pm

Please keep Kratom legal!

Please do not make Kratom illegal in your state! Many people are helped by this plant. When I had my tooth extracted, the doctor gave me all sorts of pain medication, but what really worked the best was Kratom. Many people use it for pain purposes. Also, I take a depression medication known as "Wellbutrin." I can tell you for a fact that it does not work as well as Kratom, especially the green strains. This is a plant! God made it. And I feel that He made it for me, and so do many other people. It would be absurd to make this beautiful thing illegal. Thank you for , being willing to hear our voices. I know there are many more like me.

CommentID: 225206

Commenter: David Alex

6/5/24 2:18 pm

No ban

all the pharmacy they are busy so you need to take something it's healthy and nothing issue with it so why all this they need to ban it for what?

CommentID: 225207

Commenter: Former Police Officer

6/5/24 2:19 pm

Listing/Banning Kratom is incredibly uninformed and short-sighted

As a former police officer & Deputy Sheriff and now Chemistry teacher, I have witnessed first hand the incredible ability of Kratom to take dangerous drug addicts and make turn them into productive law abiding members of society.

During the opioid crisis I witnessed thousands of people over dose on the Pharmaceutical companies products. And I have yet to witness even 1 case of alleged harm caused by Kratom.

The forces pushing this ban are well funded and back by the Pharmaceutical Industrial complex--- it nullifies our needs for their opioid "cures". And if Kratom was so dangerous [Schedule 1]? Then why are there Pharmaceutical patent applications trying to isolate the beneficial alkaloids found naturally in the Kratom plant?

This is about power, money, and control-- it is NOT about the safe use of Kratom purchased through regulated Kratom vendors.

Get behind the Kratom Consumer Protection Act [KCPA] and set aside the "research" [allegedly unbiased] by the Pharmaceutical Industrial Complex.

CommentID: 225208

Commenter: Bash

6/5/24 2:21 pm

No band

Kratom should not be banned. it's all Nacher And it helps a lot of people with a lot of different illnesses, and it hurt a lot of businesses The only people benefiting are the pharmacy industry

CommentID: 225209

Commenter: Tara Giuffrida

6/5/24 2:23 pm



Please follow the science. Kratom saved my life.

CommentID: 225210

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 2:25 pm

No ban without science

Banning a relatively harmless substance like kratom just because it is poorly understood by some is not good policy. Many people, including myself, benefit from kratom with little in the way of harms.

CommentID: 225211

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 2:26 pm

Keep this medicine!

I am a strong advocate for the Kratom leaf and the medicinal purposes it has. I have Myositis, IBM, of which there is no cure and just as frightening, no treatment. I deal with chronic and acute pain daily. I lose muscle mass percentage on top of that pain and inflammation rules my world. I have been on prescription pain medication and was not feeling well after some time using them. I had to be tapered off because of the addictive attributes of the medication. I can across Kratom leaf strains and have found relief. I use it for the days I'm unable to get out of bed and also to help with the depression and anxiety brought on by my medical conditions. I support this medicine for the thousands upon thousands of people it helps and very many close friends who it has changed their life. It is a safe and effective way towards a road to a healthier and happier life for many and should be considered an advancement towards healthcare. Learn more about it, meet those who can testify to it's effectiveness, and give a voice to those who no one ever listens to; the sufferers who are standing back up for their health, despite doctors giving us no options.

CommentID: 225212

Commenter: Melody Woolf

6/5/24 2:27 pm

DONT Ban Kratom

Before kratom, I was bedridden, using a walker and wheelchair for 8 years due to arthritis, shoulder tendinitis, spinal stenosis, frayed meniscus, fibromyalgia, and sciatica. My kids had to use fans at night to drown out my cries of pain, and I missed out on their concerts, plays, and after-school activities.

WITH KRATOM, I lead an active life. I volunteer for a children's foundation, visit kids in hospitals, go rock climbing with my son, and camp out west. In 2022, I took care of my newborn granddaughter, pushing her stroller at the zoo where my children once pushed me in a wheelchair. Now, I cherish being part of my adult children's lives and calling them my friends.

Leading medical organizations like NIH, NIDA, US HHS, NEJM, Sloan Kettering, Yale, WHO, and the UN have shown support for kratom. Check the science on my Facebook page or contact me for more information.

Should I give up my quality of life?

Read more about my story [here](https://www.bridgemi.com/guest-commentary/opinion-kratom-has-given-me-better-life-michigan-needs-regulation).

CommentID: 225213

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 2:28 pm

Kratom over drugs!

If kratom is banned people will go back to the hard drugs! Please let us keep our healthy tea!! I would rather have a long life with kratom than die from pain pills.

CommentID: 225214

Commenter: Troy Courton

6/5/24 2:30 pm

Kratom saves lives!

Kratom should remain legal as is. There is absolutely no reason why it deserves to be banned. I've been taking kratom for 10 years and am perfectly healthy. I go to the doctor and get blood drawn every year. Benefits for me personally would be it allows me to live an active lifestyle without debilitating pain. Kratom does not make you feel "high". I'd strongly suggest you try it before making any regulatory action. Feels like MMJ discrimination all over again. But the kicker here is you don't get high off it.

CommentID: 225215

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 2:31 pm

Kratom saved my life

Hello, I'm a 65 year old. I have bone on bone in both knees. Approximately 10 years ago I became addicted to the oxycotin at my doctors had prescribed me I abused the pills for possibly as much as seven or eight years and was close to death. Neither the doctors nor the psychiatrists knew any type of medication to stop the cravings and I am almost died several times. I started reading on how to grow my own poppies to make my own opiate that's how bad I was then I saw a little flashing sign on the internet that said do you have a problem with opiates try kratom. After researching it for about 10 hours online I ordered some it came within 3 days and 3 days after I started taking it I had no more cravings I was cured for my opiate addiction I know it's hard to believe but I would testify it in court it works so well that I told other friends that I had been hanging around with because of this opiate addiction and a dozen of them started taking it and they all cleared their systems of the opiates. To me it's a miracle leaf it has so many properties to it that need to be understood it saved my life plain and simple this was over 10 years ago I take Kratom now to help with my pain roughly I'd say about 8 years. Another good thing about Kratom is it can't be abused if you take too much you go to sleep I know of nobody that abuses kratom because it's literally not doable. I urge you to can reconsider keeping kratom legal and available as people that have used it if you take it away from them or make it unavailable to people that need it you're opiate addiction problem is going to skyrocket in your area and you'll be responsible for that by making Kratom illegal don't fall for the fda's nonsense they're in cahoots with big pharmacy and care nothing about the people that are actually in need something to help with pain as now that the pharmacies have overloaded the country with opiates and now the government has made them illegal or almost impossible to get Kratom is a good fallback for people that need I'm 65 I'm not out on the corner partying with a beer in my hand I'm retired I work my entire life I work since I was 14 years old reconsider your decision on kratom thank you for listening Scott sandquist

CommentID: 225216

314

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 2:33 pm

leave it alone!

there are far more important matters at hand than how someone chooses to use a naturally growing plant for their own medicinal purposes

CommentID: 225217

Commenter: Timothy McMath

6/5/24 2:33 pm

Kratom is a Life Saver!

I'm a 47 year old father of two and have been using Kratom daily for around 5 years. I don't drink, I don't smoke, I don't use any drugs and I don't take any prescriptions. Kratom, aside from good clean food and water, is the only input I need to live a quality life.

I could spend an hour telling you all what benefits it provided me but here's just a quick overview:

Kratom is a strong anti-inflammatory, which means it helps with pain, gut issues, brain trauma, autism, anything caused by inflammation.

Kratom lowers blood sugar and blood pressure.

Kratom enhances mood.

Kratom does all this while hardly affecting the person beyond what a cup of coffee would.

Kratom should remain unscheduled and free to be used by anyone. Redirect your anti-Kratom energy towards educating the public on safe and effective ways to use the plant.

The American Government has made this mistake too many times... making a plant illegal and destroying far more lives than could be helped.

Stop making plants illegal!! Learn to use them instead!!

CommentID: 225218

Commenter: veda p

6/5/24 2:33 pm

Banning kratom will lead to fentanyl deaths

This miracle plant helps me and countless others to manage their chronic pain without the use of opiates and pharmaceuticals. Losing access to kratom will lead many to find other more dangerous alternatives to manage pain. Don't schedule this plant.

CommentID: 225219

Commenter: Alex bush

6/5/24 2:34 pm

Kratom saved my life

Kratom has a list of benefits and helped me with life more than the drawer full of medication pills that's was prescribed to me.

It's natural and I can actually wake up in the morning feeling like a normal person again instead of going back to the dr and his only solution was to prescribe more and more pills. Before you know it I was taken more than 13 pills a day!

Am glad those days are over and behind me. I never knew this kratom was actually out there that's natural and effective in my treatment.

please don't take this from me and my family in Urge You guys

CommentID: 225220

Commenter: Cassandra Patrick

6/5/24 2:38 pm

Kratom Saves Lives

After breaking my ribs at work, twice-I became addicted to pain meds. A nightmare of trying to find medication at a drs office, the street, from friends, all came to an end when I discovered kratom. I used kratom to stop taking prescription pain pills, & I have my life back. Kratom is harmless, cheap, & I'm not addicted to it(I regularly take breaks for a couple days & I'm fine) not at all like the life shattering withdrawal from opiates-no withdrawal at all from Kratom, maybe I'm a little less social, like when you want a cup of coffee. Actually my caffiene addiction is WAY worse than my use of Kratom. Kratom gave me back to my family & got me away from drug dealers. I wish more people had access. Thank you for your time

CommentID: 225222

Commenter: Steve

6/5/24 2:42 pm

Kratom saves

Kratom is a wonderful product that helps keep all arthritic symptoms under control and; therefore enhances a healthy functional qualitative life! Kratom will Keep people away from drugs created in the pharmaceutical world (for arthritis) that are dangerous and hurting their users!

CommentID: 225223

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 2:42 pm

DONT BAN KRATOM

Dear Virginia Government This will do more harm than good.....Kratom saved me from opiate addiction and has been doing so for 100s of years very safe

CommentID: 225224

Commenter: Jordan

6/5/24 2:44 pm

Keep Kratom legal!

3 In the last 3 months I was able to stop taking my prescription opioid painkillers completely thanks to Kratom. It's a safe and effective alternative to addictive and dangerous drugs. Banning Kratom will force chronic pain patients and addicts alike into the arms of hard drugs or the black market. **5** **ts** will cause the deaths of your citizens. DO NOT BAN KRATOM

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

6217750

CommentID: 225225

Commenter: Drea Discussions

6/5/24 2:44 pm

DO NOT BAN KRATOM

Hello,

I have been a consumer since 2015. I have never had any issues arise from Kratom use. In fact, I am able to walk without the assistance of a cane. I used to be bedridden with a stomach suffering bleeds from NSAIDs. I cannot use opiates or NSAIDs as I am allergic to them and the last two gave me stomach bleeds.

I almost lost two siblings to fentanyl. Kratom has saved their lives. My sister is a terrific mother and has been sober for years! I have lost a brother to fentanyl which Kratom could have saved his life, too.

Please, I beg of you- scheduling Kratom is going to cause way more deaths. Fentanyl is a weapon of mass destruction as I and others see it. I am a fentanyl awareness activist and Kratom advocate. I have seen myself how it transforms all walks of life. Kratom truly saves!

I'd be glad to comment further and have a meeting with whoever would be willing. I'd be glad to go into great detail.

If Kratom is scheduled/banned, our nation is going to have far more deaths and blood will be on the hands of those working to make Kratom illegal. Chronic pain patients will go to whatever lengths they need to, in order to function. I am a healthy 38 year old woman who would be bedbound from pain without this miraculous plant.

Respectfully yours,

Drea Discussions

KRATOM SAVES LIVES!!!!!!

CommentID: 225226

Commenter: Kris Barber

6/5/24 2:46 pm

Kratom gives people a second chance of life

Kratom has helped me with my mental health. As someone with PTSD and depression with no medical insurance, I take kratom to be able to live a productive life. I don't want to go back to the life I had without it. I don't want to have the fear and sadness my mental issues causing. Kratom saves lives. From pain to addiction problems, kratom has helped so many.

CommentID: 225227

Commenter: BS

6/5/24 2:46 pm

Kratom saved my son's life

My son was stuck in the horrible addiction of fentanyl which began with prescribed opiates. I've seen my child die thrice. He has been alive and sober thanks to Kratom. I used to be afraid of it

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

6227750

until I learned and educated myself on it. My son wouldn't stand a chance without kratom. He tried everything and I am now in full support. It doesn't cause intoxication, I tried it myself! Leave Kratom alone. Too many of us are having to bury our children. Kratom saved my son's life!
CommentID: 225228

Commenter: Citizen

6/5/24 2:48 pm

Please do not ban

There are so many benign and therapeutic uses to this plant. Scheduling it would be such a miscarriage of power and push many residents into black markets unnecessarily. I hope we do not intend to put more people in jail simply because the news has reported on deaths somewhere... how many Virginians die each day from alcohol-related morbidities? The state literally sells it to them.

CommentID: 225230

Commenter: Lou

6/5/24 2:49 pm

Kratom saved my wife

I didn't understand how important of a plant this is until seeing my wife get her life back with it. Our kids have a mother who is succeeding in life. She can walk, play with them, exercise, run errands, and drive all thanks to Kratom. Nothing else has worked. I am not a consumer but I advocate for my wife and the millions of others who have had their lives saved.

CommentID: 225232

Commenter: M B

6/5/24 2:49 pm

Kratom helped me when doctors could not

Kratom should be kept legal. It is the only thing that has had a noticeable and beneficial effect for my medication-resistant anxiety and depression, and my chronic pain I have had for over a decade. When doctors could not help me, kratom did. I have had zero negative side effects in the last 8 years when taking it, and no negative health effects have been observed from my doctor. Stop this nonsense and listen to the people that it has helped. I am from Missouri, but I am commenting because I do not want banning kratom to become the norm throughout more US states. Some people like me really need the help that kratom provides.

CommentID: 225233

Commenter: Curtis white

6/5/24 2:50 pm

Kratom

No ban, much better than narcotic pain medication.

CommentID: 225234

Commenter: Kratom - An Important Plant For Recovery & Healing

6/5/24 2:53 pm

Kratom Saves Lives - A Remarkably Effective & Safe Tool for Addiction

Kratom is quickly becoming one of the safest and most effective tools that nature has for relieving the symptoms of opiate addiction/withdrawal, pain management & certain mood disorders. When taken in it's pure, unaltered form it has no rival in the recovery & pain space. Veterans, trauma survivors and many others are finding relief, peace and hope with the alkaloids in this plant. It does NOT cause overdose or respiratory depression that opioids can cause and has no known toxic levels. Even the FDA has been unable to schedule this plant. Kratom is an important tool to have in these difficult times. Lab tested, regulated Kratom that is available to those over the age of 18 has the potential to change outcomes and lives. Banning/scheduling this plant would be a horrible mistake and cause immeasurable harm.

CommentID: 225235

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 2:55 pm

Stop taking our options seriously

Poor community and lack of resources for adequate help in pain management legal is how I found this amazing herb. I have stopped smoking cigarettes with it and sustained pain management after loosing a kidney with ongoing hernia multiple ones as a result of the huge incision and I'm on my feet 40 hours a week for hairdressing. The amount of pain I endure is something the er doctor administered morphine for the spasms. I went to my favorite place PitBull and found out today is the final day to take action I'm so tired of do gooders making my body their business. It sickens me at56 I have been working since 13 yrs old. The state of finances requires me to work 3x as hard. The carpal tunnel in my hands and spasms subside when I'm working only when I take the herb. It's not easy to because I can't use naproxen or ibuprofen. Don't take my right our right as adults to use a viable alternative to the pills. I can't use opioids. This is sure to be one more reason I can't maintain work. I don't have options. Please don't let us suffer because of political correctness.

CommentID: 225236

Commenter: Oliver

6/5/24 2:55 pm

Help save lives and keep Kratom legal!

This is an all natural plant that is saving countless lives, please keep this legal! Kratom has proven to help victims of the opioid epidemic to have an all natural and safe way to alleviate withdrawal symptoms and keep them off of opiates without the need for pharmaceutical companies alternatives which are often equally as addictive and deadly as the illegal drugs they claim to cure them of. Having lost 2 family members to opiate addiction, if Kratom was readily available years ago I would still have them with me today. People don't realize how important this truly is. Methadone and other prescribed medication for treatment is just as addictive and deadly as the illegal drugs they are trying to get off of. Please please please help save lives and keep this plant legal for the sake of our country and it's citizens.

CommentID: 225237

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 2:56 pm

Kratom

Please keep this legal. It is safe and shown to help people. Don't let big pharma decide what we put in our body's and not have a safe alternative

CommentID: 225238

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 2:57 pm

Kratom Literally Saved My Life

I was a heroin addict half my life. Kratom has been the only thing that has kept me off of it. I would literally be dead or on the streets without Kratom. If Kratom is banned it will severely impact my life. I never want to go back to the life I used to live and I tried EVERYTHING to get off heroin before I found a balance with Kratom. Multiple rehabs, jail, other medications. Nothing worked. Please reconsider this ban as it has the potential to ruin my life.

-Cory

CommentID: 225239

Commenter: Gretchen Powers

6/5/24 2:57 pm

keep kratom off schedule I

no minimally processed plant matter should be schedule I adults have the right to access to plant medicine there are therapeutic uses for kratom and low risk with educated use adverse events have typically included consumption of other substances concurrently

CommentID: 225240

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 2:57 pm

MANY PEOPLE WILL NOT VOTE FOR YOU IN THE ELECTION IF YOU BAN KRATOM

Me and many MANY others will not be voting for you in the elections if you schedule Kratom. KRATOM IS NOT A LETHAL DRUG AND HAS MEDICINAL PURPOSES THEREFORE IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE TO MAKE KRATOM/KRATOM PRODUCTS A SCHEDULE ONE SUBSTANCE. We know what this is about, pushing pharmaceutical companies PROFITS higher. WE DO NOT SUPPORT SCHEDULING KRATOM!

CommentID: 225241

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 2:58 pm

Wife of kratom user

It saved our marriage, my husband was in shambles due to chronic pain. Was hooked on doctor prescribed opiates, stopped, withdrew, and was still in disabling pain. Kratom came into our lives and it's been a miracle. He's back to work full time, saving towards a new home, and best of all additionally/psychically better. There is pain still but it is manageable, he's not all high and in a daze anymore. Please don't ban this plant! People will turn to worse alternatives that have been proven to not work.

CommentID: 225242

Commenter: Lauren Hall

6/5/24 2:58 pm

People in pain will kill themselves; PWUD will overdose

The World Health Organization recently sternly warned the FDA AGAINST banning Kratom or Kratom derivatives, especially, they pointed out, given all of the overdoses from illicit street drugs (w/ fentanyl etc.) occurring here in the States.

We need a Kratom Consumer Protection Act to make sure that products are not adulterated. Most states are taking this approach.

People who use drugs will be forced to turn to the street if you take Kratom away.

I — a person w/ chronic pain — will be forced to leave my home, my state, if you do this. My daughter is in Fairfax County Public Schools, and me and my husband are tax paying productive members of the NoVa economy and community. This all could not happen, however, if I did not have access to the pain relief that ONLY Kratom (or prescription opioids, which doctors are too terrified to prescribe now!) can provide. No — not a "high," simple pain relief from a couple teaspoons of powdered leaf in hot water each morning, which allows me to get up and take my kid to school.

You see, I have polyarthralgia, fibromyalgia, myofascial pain syndrome, chronic pelvic pain, and even CPTSD (from being denied pain medication, harassed and abused about the medical use of prescriptions pain meds simply because the CDC and DEA have restricted the scripts SO much/scared the hell out of pain mgmt docs by raiding their offices etc).

What you don't understand is that pain patients like me are at the end of our rope. If you take Kratom away, we have no other options. They've already taken the prescription opioids away from us (CDC opioid guidelines harm pain patients, see media about this) and we have had to suffer so much abuse in attempting to maintain consistent access to those meds so we can work, sleep, cook dinner, etc.

Many of us use Kratom so we don't have to deal with the government and doctor and public stigma and abuse anymore. What I do in my private house should be none of your business. I am not hurting anyone, as a matter of fact, Kratom has kept me off disability, and so therefore it is a benefit to everyone.

CommentID: 225243

Commenter: Nabeel

6/5/24 2:58 pm

Kratom

You will be forcing me to use drugs if kratom is illegal. If I overdose state will be responsible of my death.

CommentID: 225244

Commenter: Thomas Paige-Maciejko

6/5/24 2:59 pm

I have been sober for several years now by using kratom and focusing on harm reduction

Hi there, my name is T.J., I am 31 years old. I have a degree in psychology at the University of Alaska, and I have studied substance abuse in great detail throughout my life. I grew up in Indiana.

At 19 years old I was using heroin and other opioids daily. It started with pharmaceuticals and ended with IV street heroin use. This lasted for several years. I started drinking heavily to help fight off the opioid withdrawals when I would not have access to the drugs. This in turn caused me to become heavily addicted to whiskey, as well as on and off opioid use, throughout my early 20s. I began studying harm reduction and substance abuse treatment to help myself understand the issues I was facing, and I moved to Alaska to get a clean start. At 24 I found kratom.

Through the use of this plant, I have managed to go from being a barely functional alcoholic, to a college graduate and healthy member of society. Today, I simply drink a glass of this tea like it is my morning coffee, and I start my day. I do not use any other substances at all. I travel a lot as of recently, so the idea of states banning this plant affects me personally as well, even if my current state residence allows its use legally.

I ask on both a professional level, and a personal level to please keep this plant accessible for those who are in similar situations to what I was in. Using substances like buprenorphine or methadone can be incredibly difficult to get off of, and have access to, when you do not have insurance. Even if you have access to methadone, it is just another set of shackles in addition. In my 7 plus years of using this plant daily, I have found there to be no other alternative that has been as helpful as drinking this plant. If you ban this, there will be many individuals who are in serious pain, or facing extreme addiction issues, that will no longer have the help that this plant offers. It really pains me to see fear being put ahead of the welfare of individuals who suffer. I can assure you that this tea leaf is substantially safer and less addictive than any of the substances you can pick up at your local liquor store. It legitimately saved my life.

Thank you for your time,

Thomas Paige-Maciejko

CommentID: 225245

6/5/24 2:59 pm

Commenter: Oliver

Help save lives and keep Kratom legal!

This is a mild, all natural plant that is saving countless lives, please keep this legal! Kratom has proven to help victims of the opioid epidemic to have an all natural and safe way to alleviate withdrawal symptoms and keep them off of opiates without the need for pharmaceutical company's alternatives which can be equally as addictive and deadly as the illegal drugs they claim to cure them of. Having lost 2 family members to opiate addiction myself, if Kratom was readily available years ago I would still have them with me today. People don't realize how important this truly is. Methadone and other prescribed medication for treatment is just as addictive and deadly as the illegal drugs they are trying to get off of. Please please please help save lives and keep this plant legal for the sake of our country and it's citizens.

CommentID: 225246

6/5/24 3:00 pm

Commenter: Alex Rodriguez

Kratom is Life Saving

I OPPOSE THIS MOVEMENT TO SCHEDULE KRATOM. ABSOLUTELY RIDICULOUS.

CommentID: 225247

318

Commenter: Adam

Kratom saves lives

Kratom saves lives and should not be banned

CommentID: 225248

6/5/24 3:02 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

KRATOM = BETTER HEALTH

Kratom has saved many people battle addiction. I was an alcoholic for 3 strong years drinking a pint of vodka everyday. I was recommended to try Kratom and it has made significant improvement in my everyday life. I have my days back and live a healthy lifestyle with taking Kratom once a week, twice or month or whenever. It has been life changing for me!

CommentID: 225249

6/5/24 3:04 pm

Commenter: Heather lambart

Kratom

I can't imagine my sister not being able to take her Kratom due to her chronic pain.

I also don't think anyone who hasn't gone thru chronic pain can say it should be taken away from people who truly need it.

My sister was unable to do anything and her quality of life was taking a toll on her and now that she takes Kratom she can successfully live the best life and take care of her daily needs.

CommentID: 225250

6/5/24 3:05 pm

Commenter: NP

Kratom has saved my life

After over a decade of dealing with chronic pain due to trauma injury and degenerative disease I could no longer handle prescription pain medication, which I was on maximum doses of multiple medications. I converted to Kratom six years ago. My pain will never be gone but this helps curb it to where I am functional. I am only 43. This supplement has given me back life. I have no euphoric effects. I have not had to continually increase dose to account for tolerance. Aside from pain I have autoimmune disease and neurological disease which have been treated since I was 18. This has not interacted with the medications I am on to control these and other physical issues. My laboratory work ups have been great. So minimal side effects. I would be dead if not for Kratom. I recommend it to anyone I can. When before a judge and physician for disability hearings, my switch to Kratom was applauded. They know the effects of these prescription pain medications, but also understand those that are in true pain must control it somehow. There are other uses for this supplement and anyone needing access should have it readily available. Save Kratom!!

CommentID: 225251

6/5/24 3:06 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 3:06 pm

Stop Criminalizing Nature

Let the people drink tea. Particularly those living with debilitating pain, who don't prefer to risk their lives taking deadly pharmaceuticals.

CommentID: 225252

Commenter: Alexandria Vargas

Kratom

I feel as though as a Kratom consumer in the state of Missouri that Virginia should be able to keep their rights to choose whether or not they want to medicate with something that is completely organic I've been taking it for years now and it has helped to save my life and many others just like me who have stories just like mine and I feel as if it's something natural we should be able to use that opposed to big farm I hope my comment is taken into consideration as someone who was a big farm user and only a big farm user I only medicate with plants now that is my choice my god-giving right in Virginia should have theirs as well!!!!

CommentID: 225253

6/5/24 3:07 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Stop government overreach!

Let doctors be doctors and make the best decision for their patients if that means using Kratom, so be it.

CommentID: 225254

6/5/24 3:08 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Stop legally torture of Pain Patients

Pain patients are suffering and taking their own lives in record numbers. This plan to take one more option away from them. Is cruel and sadistic! You will create more actual addicts and more suicides. This is wrong!

CommentID: 225255

6/5/24 3:12 pm

Commenter: Zachary Lipscomb

Do not ban Kratom

I do not agree with the ban on kratom. It has saved my life and many others.

CommentID: 225256

6/5/24 3:13 pm

Commenter: Cook

Unfair and Unfortunate to those who need this.

I am going to make this simple, this is something helpful to so many people and if you schedule this, it's only going to make those people feel like the world has kicked them down when they have



suffered from so many illnesses,pains and other reasons they have chosen Kratom to help their quality of life be better. I have family who rely on Kratom to help them function daily. Never once have they had any issues with using is as a daily supplement.

Without them having access to Kratom,I fear they wouldn't be able to survive their chronic pain with out it. So hopefully someone will see this and have a understanding of this and others words.
CommentID: 225257

Commenter: Anonymous

Taking Away Rights

It's baffling to me that some pharmacist is trying to ruin the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. Like wow, we choose to use a NATURAL plant to help. (I was in a car crash and both legs were broken and I still have leftover issues from that. Kratom is the ONLY thing besides PRESCRIPTION PAINKILLERS that help me. Big Pharma is trying to be a monopoly once again and are ■■■■ed that kratom is ruining their profit margins. This is ridiculous. If you vote yes to scheduling kratom you can bet your butt you won't be voted for ever again.

CommentID: 225258

6/5/24 3:13 pm

Commenter: Brian Quinn

ANTI-FREEDOM

I haven't had a drink of alcohol in years. Alcohol almost killed me. I do not think alcohol should be illegal because of that. I use Kratom everyday and enjoy a high quality of life. This bill would make criminals out of people like of me for ingesting a plant. Presumably someone close to you could not handle the personal responsibility of taking Kratom in a positive manner and now you would like to make criminals out of the segment of the population that can take care of themselves. This is anti freedom and unamerican. You should be ashamed of yourselves.

CommentID: 225259

6/5/24 3:13 pm

Commenter: Kevin Mason

Keep Kratom Legal!! Life saving plant

I do not support the proposed ban on kratom in Virginia. Kratom should remain legal, it helps millions of people and it is much safer than pharmaceuticals. Kratom has saved my life!

CommentID: 225260

6/5/24 3:16 pm

Commenter: Elizabeth

Saved my life

I was diagnosed with cancer 4 yrs ago. I've been in remission for 2. I was unable to the opiates for pain. My body wouldn't tolerate it. I would constantly vomit. I found kratom and my pain was instantly received. It also helped with inflammation and strengthened my immune system. I'm not the only one. There are thousands this plant has helped. Also despite what I've heard you don't have to keep taking more to get thr same relief. I've been on the same amount since I started using it.

CommentID: 225261

6/5/24 3:17 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 3:19 pm

please don't schedule kratom

I'm not a Virginian, but I feel very strongly about kratom. I've been a user for a year, and it has been very beneficial and not addictive or detrimental in any way. There are many legitimate, life saving uses for kratom, notably as a mitigating substance against dangerous opiates. You are risking people's lives by scheduling kratom at a time of a nationwide opioid epidemic. It is very foolish and you need to reconsider. Kratom is not dangerous. Look at the science. The experts in this YouTube video communicate this fact very clearly here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OW34ziFNdK>

Please listen to the scientists and the community!

CommentID: 225262

Commenter: Jason

6/5/24 3:21 pm

Kratom has helped me

Kratom has helped me very much and it is not dangerous at all. This natural plant helps with many things!

CommentID: 225263

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 3:22 pm

Don't ban kratom

Kratom is taking my pain away pls don't take it from me

CommentID: 225264

Commenter: Renee Canfield

6/5/24 3:23 pm

Please keep Kratom legal

Prohibition doesn't work!!!! It only makes the black market bigger!!! Please keep Kratom legal and don't make Kratom consumers criminals. I suffer with severe chronic pain and numerous serious health conditions - with the help of my Kratom tea I have a quality of life I couldn't even dream possible when I was taking Dr. prescribed medications. I like the fact that with Kratom I'm clear headed and have great concentration and that's definitely not something I could say while taking my Dr. prescribed medications. Kratom isn't a cure and it doesn't take my pain completely away but it makes it manageable and life a lot more bearable. I've been drinking Kratom tea responsibly for over 10 years and I have never gotten a tolerance to it - I'm still taking the same amount as day one and I have no problem with being addicted to it - I've stopped out of curiosity to see what happened and I had excruciating unbearable pain happen - nothing else. I'm grateful every single day for Kratom and I feel Kratom saves lives - I'm living proof. PLEASE KEEP KRATOM LEGAL

CommentID: 225265

320

Commenter: Jeasley

6/5/24 3:24 pm

Saved my life

This plant is the reason my recovery from opiates is so strong today. I'll happily be celebrating 7 years clean from all drugs on June 20th. Please consider how taking this away can hurt many people!

CommentID: 225266

Commenter: Joh Dalby

6/5/24 3:25 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

I am a Virginia resident. Kratom is not only the ONLY product I've found that provides me with a good night's sleep but it does so without the awful "hangover" feeling you get from over-the-counter meds. Please keep it legal.

CommentID: 225267

Commenter: Jaime Jurgensen

6/5/24 3:25 pm

Kratom saves lives

Me and my wife were both diagnosed with life altering conditions, and chronic pain.

The doctors had me on so much pharmaceutical drugs that I ended up in the hospital 3 times with complications from the pharmaceuticals they had me on.

Found herbal rva 10 yrs ago and both me and my wife have stopped using pharmaceutical drugs and went straight to kratom. I was told I would never be able to work again. 7 yrs later I'm back to work. I could not do this with out herbal rva and kratom.

CommentID: 225268

Commenter: Aaron Mathews

6/5/24 3:26 pm

Don't ban kratom. ?? I support regulation. ????

I believe kratom should not be banned. While I understand the concerns regarding its use, kratom has provided significant benefits for many individuals, particularly in managing pain and supporting withdrawal from more harmful substances. Instead of banning it, I advocate for regulated usage and further research to ensure its safety and efficacy. This approach would allow us to maximize its potential benefits while mitigating risks.

Kratom is an exceptional botanical product that has garnered significant attention for its diverse benefits. Many users have found kratom to be highly effective in managing chronic pain, reducing anxiety, and enhancing overall well-being. Its natural properties offer a promising alternative to traditional pharmaceuticals, providing relief without many of the harsh side effects associated with synthetic medications. Additionally, kratom has been instrumental in helping individuals overcome opioid dependency, offering a path to recovery that is both natural and supportive. The versatility and potential of kratom make it a valuable resource in promoting health and wellness.

CommentID: 225269

Commenter: Stephanie Baker

6/5/24 3:27 pm

Do not ban kratom!

I do not support the ban on kratom, it has saved my life and many others!

CommentID: 225270

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 3:28 pm

Let me guess "protecting the kids!"

I'm tired of being infantilized! I'm a law abiding adult who pays a ton in taxes and I'm sick of being told what I can and can't put in my body. Kratom helps a lot of people, including me (a cancer survivor). I'm sick of the lie that you have any interest in protecting children, because if you did you would ban LUNCHABLES. Which is literally poison.

CommentID: 225271

Commenter: Heidi A Sykora

6/5/24 3:28 pm

Kratom Saves Lives

I suffer from multiple chronic conditions, including Chiari Malformation, Tethered Spinal Cord, Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, Hereditary Alpha Trypsinemia, and Thoracic Outlet Syndrome. These conditions cause me persistent pain and discomfort, significantly impacting my quality of life. In my experience kratom is by far the most effective and safest option for pain control. Contrary to misconceptions the natural plant is not intoxicating. It improves my focus, balance and sleep. I have taken it safely without adverse events or side effects for more than 5 years. I have tried every pharmaceutical option and experienced serious consequences. For me it's Kratom or nothing. Kratom for me is hope for a future and a better quality of life.

CommentID: 225272

Commenter: Jared

6/5/24 3:28 pm

Don't ban it

If I didn't have access to Kratom in 2014, I wouldn't be alive to write this.

CommentID: 225273

Commenter: Jason Hefflin

6/5/24 3:30 pm

Statutory requirements likely preclude scheduling on June 25

I previously noted, I oppose scheduling these alkaloids. Doing so would be unscientific and harmful to my fellow Virginians. The FDA itself admitted in litigation that it has made no finding that kratom is harmful to human health.

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I write separately to note that VA ST § 54.1-3443 sets forth the means by which the Board may schedule substances. One avenue, set out in subsection (d) of the statute, is for the Board to consult with DFS before making a determination. When this option is used, the substance is descheduled after 18 months unless a law is enacted adding the substance to schedule I or II. If the Board must schedule these alkaloids, I encourage the Board to take this route. In the absence of good science, kratom is essentially a political issue. The Assembly has many options the Board does not have to address the kratom question. The Board should leave room for the democratic process to resolve the question.

If the Board takes the other avenue, subsection (b) of the statute, it must make findings after considering several enumerated factors. I believe an honest assessment of these factors and the existing evidence must lead to the conclusion that these alkaloids should not be scheduled.

In either event, I believe the law requires the Board to either consult with DFS or perform a detailed assessment and make findings before scheduling these alkaloids. I doubt that it could do either in its meeting on June 25.

For the avoidance of doubt: None of the above is intended to be or is legal advice or counsel. I am not a member of the Bar of Virginia, though I am a Virginia resident. I am a member of the Bars of New York and DC. I make these comments solely on my behalf as a citizen.
CommentID: 225274

Commenter: Cameron S

6/5/24 3:31 pm

Kratom is safe

-I have been married for 23years, father of 5. Professional Firefighter/paramedic for 17 years and I have spent all of that time in Montgomery and Greene County Ohio. Ground zero for the opioid crises. I am intimately familiar with drug abuse.

-I have revived countless people that have overdosed on narcotics and dealt with abusers of all manner of illicit drugs. I have also been present when countless others were not revived. None of them has ever been due to Kratom

-Pure leaf Kratom has never been proven to cause significant harm.

-My wife and I discovered Kratom approx 7 years ago in a search to treat the symptoms of her genetic disorder. I have watched her try all manner of prescription drugs and OTC drugs and supplements with no real benefits that outweighed the side effects of most of those medications.

-As a stay at home mother to 5, her quality of life has been improved greatly due to Kratom. I don't have any chronic pain issues, but I have used to somewhat regularly to help with sleep disorders that come from a 24 hour work schedule.

-Additionally, I also use it to help with energy from time to time, and I have never noticed any physically addictive properties or any withdrawal symptoms when I have gone any length of time without it. It has never impaired my ability to function or operate any equipment. I don't have experience with any illicit drugs, but I have never experienced what I would consider to be any so-called "high" from Kratom.

-The proposed ban of Kratom is grossly disproportionate to any proven or even anecdotal public threat. The DEA did not even include a Kratom in their 2024 National Drug Threat Assessment. Based on what I have seen in my personal life experience, this appears to be an over-reach of authority that will unfairly harm and/or possibly criminalize tens of thousands or more citizens with no concrete benefit to the Public interest.

CommentID: 225275

Commenter: Joseph villella

6/5/24 3:32 pm

Please don't schedule kratom

Kratom replaced all of my pharma drugs my state will not give legit pain meds nih snuck the Moderna in me 2015 told me it was MRI ink for contrast as I got my mri there . They retired all my drs and Disability lawyer and kratom and cbd are the only things keeping me alive it's a plant . Kindly ~~—~~ off and leave plants alone you have no right to tell people they have to be free of any God given plant . They just want us weakened and dependent on pharma were easier to control. The agendas have to stop bad enough you wanna make us transhumanism with mirna shots like the covid shot . I busted what nih has been doing to my moms side of the family 1989-2015. They pretended to be working on cures and treatments for als4 but nope they just wanted to test on those with good genes . They got me 2015 and side affects and features of the biometric tracking system shot took over 2017. The shots are also connected to cern and is an open invitation to demon possession. They have been decades in the works and I know kratom and covid shots don't mix that's why they want it gone . Kratom over powers the mind control part of these shots . I found out about kratom 2017. As they cut me off from pain management I have no addiction issues but as a x Christian I rather plant medicine then control meds that don't even work as well as kratom. My mom and I are targeted individuals after I learned what nih did to me I connected what they did to my mom early 2000s and my whole mom's side of the family . They want full control body and mind . Kratom would be in their way of that hell they don't even want us eating meat . Please leave kratom alone and unschedule all plants even the should've never became illegally rick Simpson oil can undo and has undone stage 4 cancer . Thank you for listening you will literally end lives by scheduling kratom . Mine included by all means contact me 304-616-8607

CommentID: 225276

Commenter: Anonymous

Keep Kratom Legal

6/5/24 3:34 pm

I'm writing to keep kratom legal. I have used this amazing plant for almost 10 years. Because of this plant, I no longer had to receive prescription pain medication for my degenerative disc disease, which has left me with multiple herniated discs in my lower back. I was having to have my nerves along my spine burned, so my brain would not register the pain, as a preventative to surgery because I was in my very early 20s when this injury was found. As a now mother of two in my mid thirties, if I weren't able to use kratom to help with my pain I would have to resort back to prescription opiates and back surgery, which compared to drinking a cup tea in the evening and not affecting my overall life at all, to having to rely on pain medication and also hopes that I would even have access to it, would be a much worse option in my mind. Please consider how many people are able to live a normal functioning life because of this plant and not having to rely on strong pharmaceuticals or worse surgery, simply to continue on with a somewhat normal life. I absolutely despise opiate medication as I have seen what it can do to people who don't abuse it, how easy it is to abuse, and how incredibly easy it is to have a prescription for a long time and then have it taken away abruptly and the person in pain and forced medical withdrawal having to resort to other options to simply live.

CommentID: 225277

Commenter: Dennis Candey

Please don't ban the Natural, less harmful alternative to addictive pharmaceuticals

6/5/24 3:35 pm

There is documented proof and numerous studies and statistics confirming that hundreds of thousands have died due to opioids including numerous prescription drugs. As cited on the FCC website Connect2Health.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:



- More than **560,000 people**(opens new window) in the United States have died from overdoses involving opioids since the epidemic began;
- The number of annual opioid overdose deaths remains more than **8 times higher**(opens new window) than it was in 1999;
- There were approximately **69,000 opioid overdose deaths** in 2020(opens new window) and **82% involved synthetic opioids**, and
- Provisional data reflects that the number of drug overdose deaths continued to increase during the pandemic, peaking at over 107,000 in the 12-month period ending in December 2021(opens new window), the highest number ever recorded. This trend emerged despite underreporting due to incomplete data."

By comparison, as stated on the National Institute on Drug Abuse website (<https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/kratom#safe>):

"A very small number of deaths have been linked to kratom products compared to deaths from other drugs. While more research is needed, it appears that **fatal overdose from kratom use alone is extremely rare**. A 2019 report found that **11 deaths** between 2011 and 2017 in the United States were associated with kratom exposure, including **two deaths** associated with kratom exposure **alone**. In contrast, during that same period, **more than 200,000 people died from opioid-related overdose**."

Another study cited by National Library of Medicine, was the Frontiers of Psychiatry website: <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/psychiatry/articles/10.3389/fpsy.2023.1332999/full>

Methods: This study investigated coroner autopsy reports from Kern County in California for the year 2020 which included qualitative data on substances from blood toxicological reports. Of the **214 opioid-associated** accidental overdoses reported, **4 subjects (1.9%) had mitragynine (kratom) exposure** on the autopsy report and were included in the study. We reported available demographic information and comorbid substance findings from the associated autopsy reports.

Results: All 4 individuals with mitragynine (kratom) toxicology had accidental opioid overdose deaths noted in autopsy reports. **Each subject also had toxicology positive for at least one other substance. Fentanyl was found in 3 (75%) of the cases and suspected to be the primary contributor to opioid-related deaths in those cases. However, one fatality was without fentanyl, but instead had tested positive for benzodiazepines, cannabis, and other psychiatric medications.**

Deaths from alcohol related auto accidents alone accounts for several thousand times the small number of kratom related deaths (the overwhelming majority of which also included addictive synthetic Opioids and other substances).

The irony of this petition of regulatory action against Kratom, is that it has been brought forward by individuals and organizations that profit from the sale of prescription opioids.

I have friends whose lives have been changed for the better by the use of Kratom, enabling them to **break their addiction to prescription opioids** for the control of pain.

Banning this **natural plant** solution to pain management and for other beneficial uses will force people to go back to prescription opioids (and non-prescription opioids) resulting in significantly more deaths, ruined lives, and hundreds of millions of dollars in additional public and private healthcare costs.

Please allow natural plant options to remain available in your state. You have constituents that depend upon Kratom and other non-addictive plant options to lead a normal productive lives.

CommentID: 225278

Commenter: Johnny downs

6/5/24 3:37 pm

kratom legality

I herby petition to keep kratom legal, as well I also petition to see resonable and scientific data that gives concrete proof that theres a legitimate reason to ban it in the first place.

CommentID: 225279

Commenter: Amy DeLong

6/5/24 3:37 pm

Kratom is life saving

Please keep kratom legal. It is a life saving plant that helps People in pain and also helps people get free from narcotics.

CommentID: 225280

Commenter: David Parker

6/5/24 3:39 pm

Safe Pain Relief

Kratom does not slow down the central nervous system like Opiates do. Kratom has made it possible for me to get off prescription pain pills and get my life back.

I have CRPS and am in pain 24x7 with no cure for this devastating condition that the US government says is the 4th most painful disease on earth.

There wets so many ill-effects from constipation to enormous mood swings on Hydrocodone that just does not happen with Kratom.

CommentID: 225281

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 3:40 pm

Kratom

Dear Virginia,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a concerned citizen, I feel compelled to address the issue of kratom and its legal status. Kratom, a herb native to Southeast Asia, has garnered significant attention in recent years due to its potential benefits and controversies. Here, I present my case for why kratom should not be classified as an illegal substance, especially under Schedule I, and why we must consider a balanced approach.

The Benefits of Kratom:

- Natural Pain Relief:** Kratom has been used traditionally for pain management. Its active compounds interact with opioid receptors, providing relief without the respiratory depression associated with traditional opioids.

2. Anxiety and Depression: Some users report positive effects on anxiety and depression symptoms.

3. Energy and Focus: In lower doses, kratom acts as a stimulant, enhancing energy levels and alertness.

4. Potential Opioid Dependence Treatment: Advocates suggest that kratom could help treat opioid dependence, although further research is needed.

Why Kratom Is Controversial:

1. Safety Concerns: Kratom can mimic synthetic opioids, potentially leading to overdoses and severe withdrawal symptoms. The FDA advises caution due to these risks.

2. Legal Ambiguity: Kratom's legal status varies across states. Balancing its potential benefits with safety concerns is essential.

3. Big Pharma Influence: While not the sole reason, concerns about competition with pharmaceutical companies exist. However, we must prioritize safety and patient well-being.

Conclusion:

Virginia, I implore you to consider the evidence and engage in an informed dialogue about kratom. Criminalizing it under Schedule I may hinder research, limit access for those who benefit from it, and perpetuate misinformation. Let us seek a rational approach—one that acknowledges both the potential benefits and risks.

Sincerely,

An Unhappy Citizen

CommentID: 225282

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 3:40 pm

Kratom saves lives

I have a lot of bad health issues also auto immune disease.This plant I'm able to function without so much pain .I would be in the bed everyday without kratom please don't ban it in Virginia or Tennessee please

CommentID: 225283

Commenter: Dolly Murphy

6/5/24 3:41 pm

Kratom saves lives

I have a lot of bad health issues also auto immune disease.This plant I'm able to function without so much pain .I would be in the bed everyday without kratom please don't ban it in Virginia or Tennessee please

CommentID: 225284

Commenter: Ahmed Asuamiri

6/5/24 3:41 pm

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Kratom saved my life

I been having back pain for 15 years , pain killers almost destroyed my kidneys thankfully for Kratom it kills the pain with stress on kidneys

CommentID: 225285

Commenter: Matthew Hone

6/5/24 3:42 pm

Do not ban Kratom as it saves lives!

Kratom is an extremely benign herb that allows opiate addicts to take back their lives, and free themselves from the chains of addiction. Please don't do this!

CommentID: 225286

Commenter: Matt E

6/5/24 3:43 pm

Against Ban

I am a regular consumer of Kratom and have been for 8 years. Kratom has helped me in many ways. I have a professional career, happy family, and exercise almost everyday all while using Kratom. This plant has been used for many years in other countries. I am for studying Kratom and the need for regulation. I believe the cases the FDA have brought concerning harm and not presented fairly and are exaggerated. Kratom does not equal fentanyl. It can cause dependence but many things can. People have a very hard time stopping SSRIs. Should we ban those?

CommentID: 225287

Commenter: Peter Brooks

6/5/24 3:43 pm

Keep Your Scheduling Away From This Plant

This plant has saved lives of people. Lives that were ruined by the opioid epidemic that pharmaceutical companies started. Don't not schedule this life saving plant!

CommentID: 225288

Commenter: Majdi Alsumeri

6/5/24 3:43 pm

Please don't ban it

It's very natural herb helps me and many people, please don't ban it,there is more harmful medication need to band

CommentID: 225289

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 3:44 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

As a first responder with chronic back pain and PTSD, kratom has been an excellent alternative to addictive pharmaceuticals. I see no benefit in scheduling alternative forms of medicine, so that

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6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

pharma companies can corner the pain management market and turn hard working Americans into drug addicts criminals.

CommentID: 225290

Commenter: Jennifer Spencer

6/5/24 3:44 pm

My life saver!

Kratom is the only relief I get from Chronic pain and it's not addictive. Unlike the prescription drugs, everybody wants to give me.. I don't get high off of it. So I can still work my job if I need to take some.. Taking this away from people who use it for life-saving pain relief Will create only bigger problems in our lives..

CommentID: 225291

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 3:46 pm

Do don't criminalize Kratom.

Banning / criminalizing kratom is silly and has zero merit. it's not like a hard drug that Oregon legalized much to their dismay. Banning kratom is like banning coffee...it'd impact many small businesses very negatively, as well as many people as well.

CommentID: 225292

Commenter: Self

6/5/24 3:47 pm

Keep kratom legal

Banning kratom is going to hurt all the people that use this miracle of a plant for all the right reasons for pain they don't want to use big pharma's opiates. I use kratom daily it doesn't impede my motor skills or ability to function and it should most definitely not be banned or put on a national controlled substance list. Kratom had saved my life and so many others and if you think rationally alcohol and tobacco kill and contribute to an astronomical amount of deaths yet it remains legal and doesn't get talked about enough i just don't understand why you would want to ban something that is helping people it really blowsy mind. You guys think this stuff gets you high when that couldn't be further from the truth. I hope you change your decision and find it in your hearts to leave something as harmless as the kratom tea leaf be. An enormous amount of americans use this daily and find it helpful as an alternative to harmful opiates everyday be for the people i think the number of people who use this leaf daily speaks for itself. Have a wonderful day.

CommentID: 225293

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 3:47 pm

Keep natural medicine legal

Kratom has many benefits to reduce pain and be used as coffee alternative. This is simply dried leaves natural medicine belongs to humanity do not violate people's natural right to use plants in their natural form. Big pharma has enough money and power.

CommentID: 225294

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 3:48 pm

Kratom saves lives

Well it refreshed and deleted my comment. Name a reason why it should be banned? Leave it alone. It helps people and it's not toxic. U can't overdose on it. Let the people out what they want in their bodies especially when it doesn't harm anyone. It doesn't make people belligerent. This makes no sense unless this ban is sponsored by big pharma

CommentID: 225295

Commenter: Sam Bristol

6/5/24 3:50 pm

Kratom has saved my life

As someone who has personally battled addiction to oxycodone for years, I strongly advocate for the continued legality of kratom in Virginia. Kratom has played a crucial role in my recovery, offering a natural and effective alternative for managing pain and opioid withdrawal symptoms without the harmful side effects and addictive potential of prescription opioids.

For years, I found myself trapped in a cycle of dependence on oxycodone, facing not only physical pain but also the devastating consequences of addiction. It wasn't until I discovered kratom that I began to regain control over my life. Kratom provided me with much-needed relief from pain and withdrawal symptoms, allowing me to taper off opioids gradually and eventually break free from their grip.

Banning kratom would not only deprive individuals like myself of a valuable tool for managing pain and addiction but would also hinder efforts to combat the opioid crisis. Denying access to kratom will likewise have unintended consequences, such as driving users towards more dangerous substances in the unregulated black market like fentanyl, exacerbating the very problem we are trying to address.

Instead of criminalizing kratom, policymakers should focus on implementing evidence-based regulations that ensure product safety, quality control, and proper labeling. By fostering a responsible and transparent kratom market, we can protect consumers while preserving access to this natural remedy for those like myself who need it most.

In conclusion, I urge policymakers to consider the perspective of individuals like myself who have experienced the transformative potential of kratom in overcoming opioid addiction. Let us work together to ensure that kratom remains accessible to those who rely on it for relief and support in their journey towards recovery.

CommentID: 225296

Commenter: Daniel

6/5/24 3:50 pm

Keep kratom legal. It saves lives.

I and countless others have had kratom change their life. I am a plumber and my body aches every day. Kratom helps me with the pain and most of all not having to take pain medicine. I can work every day and not worry about where or how to get pain medicine everyday.

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Please listen to these people, it could be life or death.

CommentID: 225297

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 3:51 pm

Physician Here: Kratom Is Life Saving Treatment

Hello,

As a physician that has had several chronic pain patients and those recovering from PTSD and traumatic brain injuries to Kratom, this would be an absolute disaster for those who find it medically necessary. Kratom provides many of the benefits associated with some pharmaceuticals with far fewer of the drawbacks, meaning that it can equalize dopamine levels without overwhelming pathways, leading to overdose or impairment. Because it does not react in a profoundly psychotropic way, it is a great solution for many patients who need support throughout the day and for which traditional pharmaceuticals present significant complications.

There are issues in the Kratom market, such as ensuring quality of product, consistency of dosage, and access when necessary, but banning it would do the absolute opposite. What would make more sense is to impose state regulations to ensure only quality products are sold in specified amount to people who meet an age threshold, and to encourage the use of Kratom in consultation with a medical professional. The reality is that there are enough studies available to undermine the notion that legal Kratom access presents a public health risk above and beyond the risks available with any other substance used in over the counter medical treatment, and far fewer complications that hospitals see associated with pain relievers like Paracetamol.

I think you should consider the fact that there are literally thousands of Virginia patients who use Kratom right now for verified medical reasons and of whom complications are radically low in comparison to all commonly prescribed medications. It's important to remember that suddenly taking an important medication away from a patient pool is the most serious health crisis state officials can engage in.

CommentID: 225298

Commenter: Emily

6/5/24 3:52 pm

Kratom Saved Me From Becoming An Alcoholic

Banning Kratom would be against the best interest of the American people, if you fear it because you don't know it, put it in research trials to see how to best use it safely and effectively. When used correctly, Kratom can change peoples lives for the better. Kratom completely saved me from becoming a full blown alcoholic, and I don't know where I'd be today had I not have it. I don't even still take it regularly, because I don't need it anymore. It did it's job to help me as any medicine does and I'm so much better off because of it.

CommentID: 225299

Commenter: Jonathan

6/5/24 3:55 pm

My story

I am a 58-year-old father, husband, and small business owner. I have a very close and wonderful family with two high achieving college graduates. I own a very successful local business that employs 7 people full-time.

I also suffer from moderate depression and anxiety. I have used western medicine and traditional talk therapy over the years to manage my symptoms. Due to side-effects, harsh withdrawals, and a natural disposition toward neuropathic remedies I found that most pharmaceutical solutions are not a long-term solution. It was easier to just deal with the symptoms and the reduced quality of life.

I found Kratom 7 years ago, and it was a massive relief. Taken in small to moderate doses, it completely eliminated my symptoms. The mood enhancement allowed me to let go of the struggle and concentrate more on the important

things in life like family and work. My business has thrived since I started taking Kratom and all those around me have benefited.

I DO NOT take this herb to get high, but rather to balance out a serious propensity toward an uncontrollable anxiety and depression. Taken once a day about 4-5 days a week is all I need. I am responsible in my dosages and take care to take a break every week as to not increase tolerance. When I stop I do not experience much withdrawal with the exception of some occasional sleeplessness.

The few times I took more than my usual dosage, I have had the unpleasant experience of nausea. This passed after an hour or so and was a reminder that there is no way for me to overdo it.

While I feel that this herb should be regulated like any other substance for ingestion, I do not believe that it should be scheduled with other very hard drugs with no medical uses. To cut off the possibility for further research and force the use of the drug underground will have adverse effects on the possibly millions of individuals who are now using it responsibly. Disallow any adulteration of the leaf and make the minimum age to buy be 21.

CommentID: 225300

Commenter: Danny

6/5/24 3:56 pm

Kratom has saved my life.

Hi, I have a rare disease called CHH (Congenital hypogonadotropic hypogonadism), despite being on testosterone for the past 6 years, my energy levels at 40 have been in the toilet. I can drink all the coffee in the world and still only have energy for 4-5 hours.

It wasn't until I was introduced to white leaf Maeng Da (Kratom tea), that I could have endless amounts of energy. Kratom as a stimulant has brought me back to life. I'm back to working full-time, I can stay awake during the bigger rush hours without needing a several breaks. I feel great on Kratom without the side effects I get with too much caffeine.

Regulation is fine, kids shouldn't have access to it, but adults like myself should have access to it, especially in safer forms such as powder or tea. If you want to ban something try banning cigarettes or alcohol first. Heck, make energy drinks 21+ for kids.

The point is I'm a law abiding citizen today and you're making me a criminal if you make a move to criminalize it tomorrow..

CommentID: 225301

Commenter: Andrew B

6/5/24 3:57 pm

Stop regulating a plant

As American's we reserve the right to safely ingest natural botanicals as we see fit.

CommentID: 225302

Commenter: Robert

6/5/24 3:57 pm

Schedule Kratom #kratomkills

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/newsletters/2023-10-23/kratom-a-dea-drug-of-concern-is-driving-growth-at-kava-bars>

CommentID: 225303

Commenter: Richard Hopley

6/5/24 3:58 pm

Kratom saves, improves lives. A doctor's perspective.

Caffeine, Nicotine, Alcohol - 3 substances that are commonly used, which cause Much more mortality and morbidity than Kratom in the USA (particularly the latter two!) As a physician (pathologist) in reading the few instances of deaths allegedly caused by Kratom - there is very little evidence that Kratom has even contributed, never mind **caused** death in anyone. (Certainly not in its natural leaf form.)

Kratom in its natural form - tea, powder - is self-limiting in its negative effects. Meanwhile, the positive effects - as an anxiolytic, pain reliever that can lead to improved mood, sleep, energy, a safe and effective method of alleviating the very real withdrawal effects of actually dangerous opioids - are almost miraculous. As a physician/scientist, I dislike terms such as 'miraculous' when it comes to supplements; in this case, I will use it.

I would support the regulation of the production and extraction of Kratom compounds; these 'extracts' are to Kratom, as caffeine-containing energy drinks are to Coffee. Extraction and increase in concentration of these individual compounds could potentially be harmful. However, if you are to regulate Kratom in its entirety, in this natural leaf form, you would be depriving the citizens of Virginia (and eventually, the US) of a very helpful substance. Please learn from the failure of prohibition; if Kratom was banned, this would not solve a drug crisis - it would force users to seek out an illegal substitute, which would inevitably lead to further crises and loss of life.

Sincerely,

Dr. R Hopley

CommentID: 225304

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 3:59 pm

keatom

son uses for anxiety

CommentID: 225305

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 3:59 pm

Kratom really helped my brother

My brother had a pretty serious problem with prescription painkillers and had reached the point of buying illegal ones as well. When he had really reached the end of his rope he started taking kratom to help him get off of them

Like they say in AA, one day at a time, but so far 2 years he is still off them and holding down a job and raising his family. Please don't take this tool away from him and others like him

CommentID: 225306

Commenter: Kratom fan
Kratom helps

6/5/24 4:00 pm

Fiance disabled, pain management has not worked her until kratom. Miracle plant that has saved her, made her life livable again.

CommentID: 225307

Commenter: Anonymous
Kratom

6/5/24 4:02 pm

Kratom is same as CBD
CommentID: 225309

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 4:03 pm

Kratom saved me from prescription pain medicine

I used kratom to get off of norco. Had no issues getting off of it. I would still be on pain medicine if I didnt use kratom.

CommentID: 225310

Commenter: Jennifer Nicole Brandt

6/5/24 4:04 pm

I wrote this petition and I stand by it!

Dear Members of the Virginia Board of Pharmacy,

I strongly advocate for the immediate classification of kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance in Virginia. This recommendation is based on substantial evidence highlighting kratom's severe health risks, potential for abuse, and the alarming rise in related fatalities and medical incidents.

1. Significant Increase in Mortality Rates:

Recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report an alarming surge in deaths associated with kratom, totaling over 900 fatalities nationwide in 2022, with Virginia accounting for 53 of these. This stark statistic alone underscores the urgent need for regulatory action to address this growing public health crisis.

2. Public Health Incidents:

In 2017, a salmonella outbreak linked to contaminated kratom products affected nearly 200 individuals across 41 states, exposing serious lapses in product safety and quality control. Further investigations by the FDA revealed that for 26 recalled kratom products, critical information regarding their origins and manufacturing could not be verified, highlighting significant safety and regulatory discrepancies within the industry.

3. Escalating Poison Control Calls:

The increasing frequency of calls to poison control centers concerning kratom exposure further emphasizes its danger. In 2022, U.S. poison centers received over 1,000 reports involving kratom, many of which involved severe toxicity and life-threatening conditions, underscoring its substantial risk to public health.

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4. FDA Findings on Adverse Events and Mortality Risk:

According to the FDA Adverse Events Reporting System (FAERS) from January 2004 to September 2021, there were 489 reports involving kratom, with death and withdrawal symptoms being the most frequently reported events. A pivotal FDA study revealed that kratom is 63 times more likely to result in death than other over-the-counter supplements, clearly illustrating its inherent danger.

5. Aggressive and Misleading Advocacy by the American Kratom Association:

The American Kratom Association (AKA) has engaged in deceptive and aggressive tactics to thwart regulatory measures, including a vast letter-writing campaign/email campaign designed to intimidate and manipulate public opinion. This organization's conduct reveals a stark and dangerous disregard for consumer safety, blatantly prioritizing industry interests over the well-being of the public.

6. Necessity for Stringent Regulation and the Protection of Our Youth:

Given its high potential for abuse, lack of any recognized medical benefits, and substantial evidence of serious health risks, it is clear that kratom meets the criteria for classification as a Schedule I substance. This classification is essential to combat the misleading packaging that often appears child-friendly, posing an even greater risk to our youth. The time to act is now, to prevent further exploitation of regulatory loopholes and to safeguard the health and safety of Virginians, particularly our children.

I urge the Virginia Board of Pharmacy to take immediate and decisive action by classifying kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance. Implementing strict controls is crucial to preventing further tragedies and ensuring the health and safety of our community.

Thank you for considering this critical public health issue. I look forward to your prompt action in addressing this urgent matter.

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<https://www.webmd.com/vitamins/ai/ingredientmono-1513/kratom>

2. Health Effects Associated With Kratom (Mitragyna speciosa) and ...
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9130800/>

3. What You Should Know About the Potential Risks of Kratom
<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/07/26/well/mind/kratom-health-risks.html>

4. Kratom: Dangers, Side Effects, and Overdose <https://americanaddictioncenters.org/kratom/side-effects>

5. Statement from FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, M.D., on the ... <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/statement-fda-commissioner-scott-gottlieb-md-agencys-scientific-evidence-presence-optoid-compounds>

6. Kratom: What Are The Health Benefits vs. Risks?
<https://www.hackensackmeridianhealth.org/en/health/2023/06/23/kratom-health-benefits-and-risks>

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<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5813050/>

8. FDA releases test results identifying dangerous levels of heavy ... <https://www.fda.gov/news->

events/fda-brief/fda-releases-test-results-identifying-dangerous-levels-heavy-metals-certain-kratom

9. FDA warns companies selling illegal, unapproved kratom products ... <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-warns-companies-selling-illegal-unapproved-kratom-products-marketed-opioid-cessation-pain>

10. FDA issues warnings to companies selling illegal, unapproved ... <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-issues-warnings-companies-selling-illegal-unapproved-kratom-drug-products-marketed-opioid>

11. Presence of kratom in opioid overdose deaths: findings from coroner ... <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10806006/>

12. Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths with Kratom Detected ... - CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/wr/mm6814a2.htm>

13. Is Kratom Legal in Virginia? <https://www.getkratom.com/blog/is-kratom-legal-in-virginia-b103.html>

14. RFA-FD-24-025: Cooperative Agreement to Support a Human ... <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/rfa-fd-24-025.html>

15. Hundreds died using kratom in Florida. It was touted as safe. <https://project.tampabay.com/investigations/deadly-dose/kratom-overdose-deaths-florida-mitragynine-testing/>

16. Is Kratom an Addictive Drug? - American Addiction Centers <https://americanaddictioncenters.org/kratom/addictive>

17. Kratom: A Legal Drug That's Dangerously Addictive <https://childmind.org/article/kratom-a-legal-drug-thats-dangerously-addictive/>

18. FDA and Kratom <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/public-health-focus/fda-and-kratom>

19. DEA Announces Intent To Schedule Kratom <https://www.dea.gov/press-releases/2016/08/30/dea-announces-intent-schedule-kratom>

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21. Li X, Ndlungu P, Taneja SB, Chapin MR, Egbert SB, Akenapalli K, Paine MF, Kane-Gill SL, Boyce RD. An evaluation of adverse drug reactions and outcomes attributed to kratom in the US Food and Drug Administration Adverse Event Reporting System from January 2004 through September 2021. Clin Transl Sci. 2023 Jun;16(6):1002-1011. doi: 10.1111/cts.13505. Epub 2023 Mar 20. PMID: 36861661; PMCID: PMC10264943.

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CommentID: 225311

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 4:04 pm

I support this petition

Kratom took the life of my best friends son 8/30/2020

A father of 3 and business owner. He didn't consume alcohol or any type of drugs or medications He was perfectly healthy. He was told Kratom was a natural supplement he could use for energy.

He consumed for approximately 3 yrs , experienced grand mal seizures. He died in his sleep . Just simply died while watching tv . COD was accidental mitragynine toxicity. This young man was my friends only child and left behind 3 beautiful boys .

Please keep your community safe and schedule this evil substance

Thank you

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CommentID: 225312

6/5/24 4:05 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom

Kratom is helpful to a lot of people.

CommentID: 225313

6/5/24 4:05 pm

Commenter: Richard Buchman

Needed For Depression

I have had clinically proven depression for almost 30 years and have been prescribed 13 different anti-depression drugs and none of them have helped as much as kratom. I've been using it for 2 years now with no side effects. It's the only thing that actually works for me.

CommentID: 225315

6/5/24 4:08 pm

Commenter: Joseph

No ban no ban no ban no ban no ban

No ban no ban no ban no ban no ban

CommentID: 225316

6/5/24 4:09 pm

Commenter: Greg

Why isn't the DEA focusing on illicit drugs instead of things that help people

I don't understand why the DOJ and DEA are focusing on Kratom, that is so helpful to so many people? An article in one of the comments cites a comment by the FDA that Kratom is an opioid.

Just because certain medications or supplements have a similar molecule or structure to substances that bind partially or fully to the opioid agonist system, doesn't make it an opioid. We all know one little difference in molecular structures, can make all the difference in the world as to what something is. When Tramadol became used more, I was on it for intractable pain I deal with everyday and the paperwork always said it's "similar to an opioid" or "opioid like" medication. Then all of a sudden, the powers just decide to make it a full opioid, which isn't true. How come the FDA, CDC and drs aren't making a big deal about all these injections being pushed on patients w/pain conditions that aren't approved by the FDA? How about all these medication commercials where they state the side effects and all the awful life threatening side effects (they say "can lead to death") of biologics and other medications. Are they concerned about how these other drugs (definitely Gabapentin) are causing harm? Leave Kratom alone. It has saved lives. Why isn't the DEA going after Valerian, Passionflower or other herbs that are sedating and help people sleep? Keep the DEA, FDA, and CDC away from our bodies when people are just trying to have some modicum of quality of life since you are taking away everyone's pain medications and creating a suicide epidemic (as stated by the AMA). Put our tax dollars to better use. Go after the cartels coming into the country and all their drugs they bring with them that are skyrocketing the overdose rate (even the CDC admits they overstated the prescription drug overdose rate since the guidelines came out). Leave Kratom alone!
 CommentID: 225317

Commenter: David Sui

6/5/24 4:11 pm

Keep kratom safe

Kratom is a wonderful product that I have seen help many people. It helps me with sleep but I have seen it help friends and family with pain and energy. I have never met some Rome that it harms, worst case it doesn't have any effect.

CommentID: 225318

Commenter: CB

6/5/24 4:11 pm

Please consider the impact this will have on the Chronic Pain community

As a 48yr old mother with 3 chronic pain conditions (arthritis, fibromyalgia & interstitial cystitis), I have successfully used Kratom for the past 5 yrs to manage pain, increase my quality of life & rebalance my own health & daily productivity. I made this empowered choice collaboratively with my GP and my family after years & years of suffering with mystery pain, medicinal trial & error and the cost of searching for better solutions to my health crisis. The freedom to be able to create the most suitable natural pain management program for myself has been absolutely invaluable to me & my family. We have all witnessed a huge difference from a time when I was once stuck in bed and constantly being "Guinea-pigged" by specialists on multiple FDA approved medications as opposed to when I decidedly took back the reins of my health protocol and began a more natural, multi-modality approach to my healing & pain management that includes a moderate daily intake of Kratom. This blessed botanical has allowed me to travel again, to take long car rides again, to cook/clean/grocery shop and to show up in various ways in life for the people I love, even on the really hard pain days.

I have to say that banning this substance based on the false information disseminated by the FDA or false claims made by special interest groups with no real life experience with the plant would be a mistake that would impact many chronic pain patients just like me who have already been harmed and suffered years of unnecessary pain from either irresponsible pain clinics or frightened drs who flat out refused to address chronic pain issues. To finally have found something that truly works for me & my lifestyle has been a godsend, as it has been for the many people in this community with similar stories to mine. The injustices that the Chronic Pain Community has

undergone in recent decades are in one word "criminal". Please do not make criminals out of these same people who are only trying to find better ways of living with pain. We know better than anyone that nothing is a "cure all" but please allow us, the citizens of Virginia, and America at large, the freedom to have continued access to this beneficial botanical, to have better scientific research done on behalf of those who would like to utilize Mitre Speciosa as a future option of care & for regulations to be made for the safety of consumers within the Kratom industry by way of the Kratom Consumer Protection Act. Thank you for your time & consideration in this matter that hits so very close to home for me and the multitudes who have found benefit & freedom from the responsible usage of this plant.
 CommentID: 225319

Commenter: Luigi

6/5/24 4:13 pm

If Virginia is going to criminalize Kratom then they might as well criminalize caffeine.

I came across kratom in my outdoor decorating business seven or eight years ago. I am not pro drugs per se however I did grow up in the '80s during the say no to all drugs era. I've seen firsthand what drugs like heroin and alcohol can do to people. I luckily do not have any dependence issues or addictions towards substances in general. However, I have witnessed my share of people who suffer from addiction to alcohol and opiates who have received benefits from kratom. I personally use it only as a tool for hard work. More or less like a cup of coffee. Although it's effects are different from caffeine. For me it is beneficial for long duration endurance work and has helped me grow my business and my productivity with certainty. I have never used it to any degree of developing great tolerance and would be very disappointed if it was criminalized. Where are all the statistics of horrible things happening to people from kratom? I use kratom about 60 to 90 days a year. Maybe a total of three to five grams a day. Once I stop, there is a few day where I notice a little drop in my moods while my body recalibrates. Within a week everything is back to normal. I also experienced this when I cut back on caffeine. The compounds in Kratom aren't that different from caffeine and alkalooids that are in coffee. Until there are statistics supporting serious societal issues like what's going on with fentanyl and what has happened in the past with methamphetamine, crack and cocaine, criminalizing kratom in Virginia is an unnecessary overreach in government power.

CommentID: 225320

Commenter: K B

6/5/24 4:14 pm

Keep Kratom Legal!

Keep Kratom Legal!

CommentID: 225321

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 4:15 pm

Keep Kratom legal

Helps with pain management, better then other medication and supplementation

CommentID: 225322

Commenter: Shawn Canfield

6/5/24 4:15 pm

Please keep Kratom legal

Kratom has been a life saver for me . I suffer with severe chronic back pain from serious back injuries. Before life with kratom was was a struggle with horrible- debilitating pain, numerous Drs, tests, procedures and surgeries, all kinds of Dr prescribed medications , I even had an implanted spinal cord stimulator in my lumbar for pain that had to be removed due to the life threatening bad reaction I had to the stimulator. Now with the help of kratom tea my pain is manageable and my quality of life is so much better. I'm grateful every single day for kratom and the relief it gives me. Please don't make me a criminal because kratom helps me. PLEASE KEEP KRATOM LEGAL

CommentID: 225323

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 4:16 pm

Don't let big pharma win, again!

Making a natural remedy illegal only helps big pharma!
People only having big pharma as a pain remedy turns people into opiate addicts, some again.

CommentID: 225324

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 4:17 pm

Kratom

Please keep kratom legal.

CommentID: 225325

Commenter: Patrick D Murphy

6/5/24 4:17 pm

Kratom saved me from relapse, and continues to relieve pain

I was a health care professional when I became injured severely 15 years ago. After 5 years of prescriptions for 30 mg/day, I quit oxycodone. But cravings went on for months. I found both pain relief and relief from cravings with a half tsp of kratom each day. This is a solution to your doctors failed legacy of creating addicts across Virginia. I use it only in winter months now to help with arthritis. Don't make me go to another state to get it. Keep Virginia's freedoms. Make it 18 years or 21 years old to buy, but don't elevate it to the drug schedules. That means we can't get it. Let's move Virginia forward, not backward.

CommentID: 225326

Commenter: Mike S

6/5/24 4:17 pm

Kratom benefits many

I am nearly 50 years old and have severe arthritis in my hands which kratom tremendously helps me from the debilitating pain. I a business owner, own a home, have a family and employ several people. Making kratom a Schedule I drug would make me a criminal. Without it I would have to look for alternatives. None of which work as well or are much more addictive.

CommentID: 225327

Commenter: Smitty

6/5/24 4:18 pm

Kratom saves lives

Kratom saves lives

CommentID: 225328

Commenter: Cindy Labuy

6/5/24 4:20 pm

Use the Kratom Consumer Protection Act to make Kratom safe

This is extremely important. Kratom has and will continue to save many from the Opioid crisis (those addicted and also those w/no addiction but needing relief from chronic pain). I took opioids for 15+ years. Never took more than prescribed. Starting w/Opioid crisis most doctors will not prescribe it and I found it extremely hard to obtain for my chronic pain. Many people had to look to illegal purchase on the street which is very dangerous, and many have died due to this. Kratom does not meet the definition of a schedule 1 drug. Many people are using Kratom in a responsible manner to replace Opioids for their pain and many people have used Kratom to save them from their addiction to Opioids. Please do not take a solution for the Opioid crisis away. Concerns over children taking Kratom from Gas stations can be taken care of by simply enforcing age restrictions. Any death associated with Kratom has come from ridiculously high alkaloid containing extracts or really due to other drugs but Kratom happen to be listed as 1 of several drugs. The Kratom Consumer Protection act will cover any and all concerns. I am able to lead a normal life without severe pain due to Kratom. Without Kratom I will go back to Opioids.

CommentID: 225329

Commenter: Ben Howell

6/5/24 4:20 pm

An In-Depth Argument Against Including Mitragynine and 7-Hydroxymitragynine in Schedule I

While the intention to protect public health is understandable, there are several compelling reasons to oppose this amendment.

1. Lack of Evidence for High Abuse Potential

One of the key criteria for a substance to be classified under Schedule I is a high potential for abuse. While kratom can lead to dependency and addiction, its abuse potential is significantly lower compared to stronger opioids like heroin, fentanyl, or oxycodone, which are associated with severe physical dependence and a high risk of overdose.

Research indicates that kratom has a lower risk profile. For example, the withdrawal symptoms associated with kratom, while present, are generally milder and less severe than those of stronger opioids. Furthermore, kratom's addictive properties are far less pronounced, with fewer cases of compulsive use and overdose compared to Schedule I opioids. This comparative analysis suggests that kratom's abuse potential, while notable, does not warrant Schedule I classification, which is reserved for substances with the highest potential for abuse and no accepted medical use.

2. Therapeutic Potential and Benefits

Another criterion for Schedule I classification is that the substance has no accepted medical use. However, emerging evidence suggests that kratom and its alkaloids have significant therapeutic potential. Research has demonstrated that kratom can be effective in managing chronic pain,

reducing opioid dependence, and alleviating symptoms of anxiety and depression. Many individuals have reported positive outcomes using kratom as an alternative to more harmful substances, indicating its value in harm reduction strategies.

3. Negative Consequences of Scheduling

Scheduling mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine as Schedule I substances could have unintended negative consequences. Firstly, it could push kratom users towards the illicit drug market, increasing their exposure to dangerous adulterants and unregulated products that kratom has been helping them abstain from. Secondly, it could hinder scientific research on kratom, as Schedule I status imposes significant regulatory barriers that complicate the process of obtaining research approvals and funding.

4. Regulatory Alternatives

Instead of a Schedule I classification, a more nuanced regulatory approach could be more effective in addressing concerns about kratom. For example, implementing quality control standards and proper labeling requirements could ensure that consumers have access to safe, uncontaminated kratom products. Additionally, public education campaigns could inform consumers about responsible use and potential risks.

5. Comparative Risk Analysis

Comparing the risks associated with kratom to those of other substances currently available, such as prescription opioids, is crucial. Prescription opioids, such as oxycodone and morphine, are not classified as Schedule I, and have been linked to significant morbidity and mortality due to overdose and addiction. In contrast, kratom-related deaths are rare and often involve polydrug use, suggesting that kratom itself may pose a lower risk to public health than many legally prescribed medications.

6. International Perspectives

Looking at how other countries regulate kratom can provide valuable insights. For instance, in Thailand, kratom has been decriminalized and regulated as a traditional herbal remedy, recognizing both its risks and benefits. This balanced approach has allowed for continued use and research, offering a model that could be adapted to fit the regulatory landscape in the United States.

Personal Testimony

As someone who has used kratom for a decade to manage depression and anxiety, I can attest to its benefits. It has significantly improved my quality of life and helped me abstain from much more harmful and destructive substances. Throughout my use, I have suffered no ill side effects, nor has it had any negative impacts on my health. That being said I've no intention to stay on it for the rest of my life and am currently tapering off. I believe it to be a very useful tool that can help countless people better their lives. Making kratom schedules 1 would be so wrong and counterproductive, we need more funded research and structured regulation for quality control.

Conclusion

The petition to classify mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine as Schedule I substances is not supported by the current evidence regarding their abuse potential, therapeutic benefits, and the broader implications of such scheduling. A more balanced regulatory approach that includes quality control, research facilitation, and public education would better serve public health interests without the severe drawbacks of Schedule I classification.

References

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2. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7423016/>

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6. <https://www.rilegiature.gov/Special/comdoc/House%20Corporations%202024/03-14-2024--H7231--Kratom%20Science%20Update%202024.pdf>

7. <https://www.americankratom.org/truth-in-labeling>

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CommentID: 225330

Commenter: Sharie Zaza

6/5/24 4:21 pm

Kratom is addictive and deadly

Kratom is a dangerous drug and it has killed many people.

I for one have a very dear friend of mine that has lost her son from this addictive drug.

This drug should be taken off the streets and be controlled by doctor prescribed ONLY.

Anyone can buy this very addictive drug anywhere.

Smoke shops, vending machines and pretty much anywhere.

This is so dangerous.

It doesn't even tell you how much you should use.

People are dying from this DRUG.

It needs to be controlled and off the streets or just banned.

CommentID: 225331

Commenter: Kratom advocate

6/5/24 4:24 pm

Pro Kratom

I find Kratom to be extremely useful for medical/anxiety reasons. Any limitations regarding this natural remedy would be an abomination, and clearly an act to support big pharma

CommentID: 225332

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 4:26 pm

Kratom

Please don't stop the use of kratom. I am 65 years old retired registered nurse and I use it for pain. I don't have to take narcotics for my: degenerative disc disease, my fibromyalgia, arthritis

and other aches and pains that comes with age. My Dr is very pleased that I use kratom instead of oxycodone or other narcotics. I told my Dr to follow the science behind kratom before asking me to take anything else. It works for me and if I don't need it, I don't take it with no adverse effects. I honestly feel that kratom has kept me from being dependent on narcotics. I don't need them and don't want to have to start using them. If kratom was banned I would become addicted to something much worse or be chair bound and in pain most of the time. My son was able to stop an addiction to opiates with kratom. When I had knee replacement surgery last August my surgeon said I would have pain for a year after surgery. Other than the 90 oxycodone he gave me for 2 months, I have only used kratom and tylenol. Please let kratom stay what God intended it to be, a helpful plant. Thank you.
 CommentID: 225333

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 4:27 pm

Kratom does not kill, pharmacy board is lying about this

This is a ridiculous finding. Kratom has never killed a soul. The main st that happens if you take to much you throw it up. Any deaths with kratom in the system is caused by another factor. The board is clearly lying and making up false information. For this you should throw out their findings as they really can not be trusted to tell the truth. The board wants kratom banned so they can fill us with their pills and take our money. Don't ban kratom.

CommentID: 225334

Commenter: Sherell Davis

6/5/24 4:28 pm

Amendment to 18VAC110-20-322 (Kratom)

I do NOT support Amendment 18VAC110-20-322. I believe everyone over the age of 18 should have access to this supplement. I'm a chronic pain patient, and I was taking 180 oxys each morning along with maximum gabapentin dosage and other muscle relaxers. I chose to get rid of all of those needs and try to manage my anxiety and pain with more natural methods. I take morning, adhwagnda and kratom daily to improve the quality of my life. I have been using kratom for 7 years. I have stopped and started without any withdrawals. I'm never impaired. I couldn't be in charge of my grandchildren when I was on oxy for pain. Now, my life is enhanced because I will no longer take synthetic opiates (oxys), when there is a wonderful natural plant that can allow me that freedom to be active in my grandchildren's lives. Before you vote on this, ask yourself if you are open enough to try kratom yourself before you vote. See for yourself that it doesn't produce a high or euphoria.

CommentID: 225336

Commenter: Dayna

6/5/24 4:28 pm

Keep kratom legal

This all natural plant has given me my life back. I have severe anxiety and panic attacks. My hands will seize up for roughly a half hour. I found this amazing plant back in 2018. I can go out into public again. This plant cuts my anxiety in half. Guess what? I don't have to take any synthetic DRUG to help my anxiety. I have also seen this magical plant save people from addiction. So please from the mother who can now be the best version of myself. It truly is an amazing plant with many benefits.

CommentID: 225337

332

Commenter: Joe Sosa

6/5/24 4:29 pm

Regulate Kratom/Do not ban

As a kratom user of low dose products, kratom has given me a healthier option to alcohol and caffeinated energy drinks. There needs to be regulation of kratom companies, so bad actors on the manufacturing side do not put unsafe products out into the market. We need regulation in the kratom community.

CommentID: 225338

Commenter: David Perez

6/5/24 4:29 pm

Unacceptable

I say this without exaggeration; Kratom saved my life, and it saved the lives of several people I know. With all sincerity, this decision will lead to preventable loss of life for many people battling addiction, chronic pain, depression and other issues. It would be a wholly reckless decision to list kratom as a schedule 1 substance, and this would have knock on effects impacting communities, families, and individuals. Please take the time to reconsider this decision.

CommentID: 225339

Commenter: Tj Eye

6/5/24 4:32 pm

DONT YOU DARE BAN KRATOM

MY NAME IS TJ. I HAD CERVICAL STENOSIS OF MY NECK. MY SPINE WAS TO BIG FOR MY SPINAL CANAL. DR JANE SR FROM UVA DID THE SURGERY. I HAVE 3 TITANIUM RINGS IN MY NECK. I HAVE SACRILIZATION OF MY L6 VETBRAE TO R2 SACROILIAIC JOINT. ITS KINDA LIKE A FUSION. ITS VERY PAINFUL AND UNCOMFORTABLE. ITS EXCRUCIATING. IT HURTS SO BAD I LAY IN BED IN TEARS AND CANT DO ANYTHING. GOD FORBID I GET ANY REAL PAIN MEDICINE FROM THE DOCTOR CAUSE THEY ARE SO INDOCTRINATED OVER OPIATES. THE INFO THEY HAVE ON OPIATES IS ALL A LIE AND THEY ARE INDOCTRINATED WITH THOSE LIES. CHRONIC PAIN PATIENTS NEED RELIEF AND YOU KEEP THAT FROM HAPPENING. KRATOM HELPS ME SO MUCH AND THE QUALITY OF MY LIFE IS SO MUCH BETTER BECAUSE I HAVE RELIEF FROM MY PAIN. I CAN ENJOY TIME WITH MY WIFE AND KID. I CAN GO DO THINGS WITH THEM. I CAN GET THINGS DONE LIKE FIX THE VEHICLE AND DO THINGS AROUND THE HOUSE. WHEN I HAVE TROUBLE GETTING MY OPIATE PAIN MEDS EVERY MONTH I TAKE KRATOM UNTIL I GET IT. KRATOM HELPS ME TREMENDOUSLY. CHRONIC PAIN PATIENTS NEED HELP AND RELIEF INSTEAD YOUR DRIVING THEM TO THE STREETS AND SUICIDE. STOP THE INDOCTRINATED WAR ON OPIATES AND DO NOT BAN KRATOM

CommentID: 225340

Commenter: Margo

6/5/24 4:34 pm

Don't take away what helps relieve our chronic pain

I've been successfully using kratom for chronic pelvic pain for ten years. My doctor knows and is glad I found something that helped, when even vicodin didn't touch my pain. Kratom needs to be

withdrawing the proposal." <-- BECAUSE TOO MANY FEDERAL LAW MAKERS USE KRATOM THEMSELVES!

<https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/news/story/study-pokes-holes-in-kratoms-bad-rap>

"The herbal supplement can be abused, but given the explosion in opioid deaths, eliminating this safer substitute will almost certainly lead to more deaths"

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-fda-shouldn-rsquo-t-support-a-ban-on-kratom/>

"The dual pressures of deregulation in the health sector of the economy and the dominance of Big Pharma, has the consequences of proliferating the use of non-sanctioned forms of health care." <-- People don't trust big pharma and as adults they have the right to choose which treatments they wish to utilize for their ailments.

<https://api.mountainscholar.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/e1cb6a37-c752-4f84-ab05-3deae944cec4/content>

Most recent count of how many Virginians are without health insurance just to show that not everyone has access to healthcare to allow them to receive the proper pain management that they NEED. (The number is **544,000** Virginians without health insurance as of 2022)

<https://www.vhcf.org/data/profile-of-virginias-uninsured/>

CommentID: 225345

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom helps

My partner has been taking Kratom for 6 + years and it's helped her with staying off drugs helps her manage her pain so I have seen what kratom can do in a helpful and positive way please don't ban kratom it helps people in every way

CommentID: 225346

Commenter: Shannon Bowers

Former User PRO Kratom

I user 10mg percocettes for 7 years of my life and extremely debilitated and bed bound outside of working my job that I struggled to do just to come home and go to bed. Thought I was dying. Moved to a state where I had more options to try to get off the opioids. 1st I tried cannabis and didn't care for it except for sleep. Then I found kratom. WHAT A GAME CHANGER. I was no longer bed bound d felt great and worked and volunteered and took my kids to theme parks and DID EVERYTHING I could. I recently 2 months ago decided to quit kratom because I found another therapy option. One thing I learned for MY circumstances is that after quitting I actually didn't need it anymore. I didn't need anything for pain. I was able to work through my own issues not having as demanding of a job helped me a lot. I still have aches and pains and if I ever need it kratom will be my 1st defense as I will hopefully NEVER have to use opiates again. They are the main reason in my opinion people go to heroin and fentanyl. It took me about a week to come off using 5-6 heaping teaspoons a day for 7 years. Yes it was uncomfortable at 1st but I should have tried to wean instead of cold turkey. This feat in pure for is amazing for those truly struggling with addiction and chronic pain. It easily helped me transition off the percocettes and I'm so thankful to have been able to use kratom during my time of need. It truly gave me my life back! Xoxo

Shannon Bowers

CommentID: 225347

334

Commenter: Anonymous

Keep Tea Legal

Why must you attempt to criminalize those drinking tea? Kratom is a cousin of the coffee plant.

CommentID: 225348

6/5/24 4:43 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Do Not Schedule

Leave the leaves alone please.

CommentID: 225349

6/5/24 4:44 pm

Commenter: Lynn Provo

A deadly mistake to schedule this

I have been drinking Kratom tea for almost 10 years. I had been on a lot of dangerous prescriptions prior to this. I really do not want to have to go back to those addictive and dangerous medications. If I am even able to get any relief from those medications or obtain those due to the new guidelines. There are SO many people in chronic pain and we are grasping at straws to hold onto some semblance of a normal life. I, myself cannot use medical Marijuana to help with pain and I'm sure I'm not alone. Kratom has been the only thing that has brought me relief without making me feel drugged or sleepy. It is very difficult to understand unless you have been there, please find some empathy in your heart.

There are so many people that have this tea to thank for sobriety. I've heard miraculous stories of people kicking heroin with help from this tea. There are also people who have stopped drinking alcohol thanks to this tea. I fear so many will return to old ways and there will be MANY deaths if this is taken from us.

Thank you for reading this. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, I would love to talk. I have dexterity problems so I apologize if this is all over the place.

Respectfully Yours,

T. Lynn Provost

CommentID: 225350

6/5/24 4:47 pm

Commenter: Amanda

Kratom saves lives

Kratom is my only relief from constant chronic pelvic pain. I had a friend that was able to quit heroin using kratom, I worked with him at a difficult job. It saved his life. I know of many other people whom kratom has saved and helped.

Anything can be dangerous if abused. It is very easy to figure out how much to take and how, and where to get it with testing posted. If too much kratom is ingested at once the person just feels ill

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and can sleep it off. Usually it's only dangerous if the person is also using/abusing other opioids/drugs. There is no reason to ban or criminalize kratom beside monetary gain and a major lack of empathy or care for people's lives and wellness.

Chronic pain patients suffer and are neglected enough, leave us this one aid. We will not sit quietly while you wrong us and try to push us to live in misery or die.

CommentID: 225351

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 4:47 pm

Do not ban kratom please

It is a natural plant that helps with pain and so much more there is no reason to ban it is not harmful in anyway

CommentID: 225352

Commenter: PG JU

6/5/24 4:49 pm

Keep Kratom legal for our health

This herb is NOT addictive, it DID save my life. No exaggeration. Back pain was excruciating after surgery, physical therapy and pharmaceutical medications such as Cymbalta and Lyrica. Nothing was really helping me function each day. I found Kratom. I took it for about 8 months. It enabled me to work through pain to stretch, work and strengthen myself. It also really helped improve my mental outlook. Once the strength and flexibility in my back improved, I no longer needed the herb. I would highly recommend this herb to anyone looking for a safe, effective aid for back pain and mental health. I had no side effects at all while taking about 300 mg per day. And, it was affordable for me. There is no reason this herb should be demonized or made illegal. None.

CommentID: 225353

Commenter: Lonnie Marie

6/5/24 4:50 pm

Keep kratom legal

An ancient herbal tea that helps so many people and gives people a choice, let's keep that choice legal and protected

CommentID: 225354

Commenter: T J Eye

6/5/24 4:50 pm

DO NOT BAN KRATOM

DO NOT BAN KRATOM. YOU HAVE PEOPLE THAT DIE, END UP IN THE HOSPITAL AND HAVE ADVERSE EFFECTS FROM KRATOM. YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY?? ITS BECAUSE THESE PEOPLE ARE MORONS AND THEY TAKE THE WRONG THING. THEY THINK OH YEA LETS TAKE SOMETHING REALLY STRONG SO THAT WAY I KNOW IT WORKS. YEA THATS CALLED BEING DUMB. SO THEY END UP SICK HAVE SEIZURES OR GO TO THE HOSPITAL OR OR END UP DEAD. NOBODY'S FAULT BUT THEIR OWN. THEY ARE TAKING EXTRACTS OILS AND CONCENTRATES. THESE FORMS OF KRATOM ARE VERY STRONG. THATS HOW THESE PEOPLE END UP SICK OR IN THE HOSPITAL OR DEAD. THATS THEIR FAULT. THE ONLY TRUE SAFE FORMS OF KRATOM ARE PURE KRATOM POWDER AND KRATOM



<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

6617750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

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CAPSULES I HAVE NEVER KNOWN ANYBODY THAT TAKES PURE KRATOM POWDER AND KRATOM CAPSULES TO GET SICK GO TO A HOSPITAL OR DIE. I TAKE KRATOM CAPSULES MYSELF I TAKE LIKE 40 KRATOM CAPSULE WITHIN 12 HOURS FOR MY PAIN AND IVE NEVER HAD AN ISSUE. THAT JUST GOES TO SHOW THAT KRATOM CONCENTRATES OILS AND EXTRACTS ARE THE PROBLEM AND PURE KRATOM POWDER AND KRATOM CAPSULES ARE SAFE. KEEP THIS IN MIND. POWDER AND CAPSULES ARE NOT THE PROBLEM ITS THE OILS EXTRACTS AND CONCENTRATES THAT ARE THE PROBLEM. ONCE AGAIN PURE KRATOM POWDER AND KRATOM CAPSULES ARE SAFE.

CommentID: 225355

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 4:51 pm

Kratom saved my life

I suffer from crippling chronic pain. Pharmaceutical painkillers are deadly. A cup of green tea has allowed me to function. The tea also does not cause respiratory depression unlike the incredibly dangerous prescription pharmaceuticals. Pharmaceuticals are the true epidemic in this country. Stop trying to criminalize people suffering from pain, who safely drink tea.

CommentID: 225356

Commenter: John

6/5/24 4:52 pm

Banning kratom is very irresponsible

People should not be denied the right to make their own health choices, regarding this supplement, and negative reports are based upon questionable evidence at best .

CommentID: 225357

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 4:53 pm

Saved my life.

It saved my & many others live.

CO

CommentID: 225358

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 4:54 pm

HUMANS DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO BAN NATURE

No one, and I mean NO ONE should have the right to make NATURE illegal. You and any other politician do not own the earth. I completely disagree with the push for the criminalization of KRATOM.

CommentID: 225359

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 5:01 pm

No to scheduling this plant!

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

6627750

Please don't schedule this plant. We deserve to have a choice between big pharma and what's natural. Scheduling kratom would only inflict harm on the people who need it the most. Those without insurance for example.

CommentID: 225360

Commenter: JULIE ROSE

6/5/24 5:05 pm

PLEASE REGULATE .. DONT BAN!

I found kratom 2 years ago, it has helped me with my uc and sciatic pain. I never get high on it it merely relaxes your muscles to not contract. Similar to tycosamine. Please don't ban it I will turn to other means to control my pain.

CommentID: 225361

Commenter: Brandy Novicka The Doctor Paitent Forum

6/5/24 5:07 pm

Keep Kratom legal

I am a pain patient advocate, I advocate for our government (DEA) to remove themselves from our healthcare system. Since 2016 opioid RX propaganda has been on full display and this has cause many patients to be abandoned by our healthcare system. People are suffering in pain. Kratom has been a great alternative, only from American Kratom Association accredited vendors. Unadulterated pure leaf Kratom is saving lives. I myself needed to use Kratom when my Hydrocodone was out of stock and it absolutely helped me be in less pain. I even sat it's saved my life. I have many patients who are/have successfully used Kratom post op from removing Cancer!

Please keep this PLANT legal and available. Thanks you!

CommentID: 225362

Commenter: Tom

6/5/24 5:08 pm

DO NOT BAN KRATOM!!!

I was an EMT, driving an ambulance that got rear ended on the highway and I suffered two herniated discs in my lumbar spine as a result. The doctors prescribed my Vicodin, Gabapentin and gave me Toradol injections which worked temporarily but still I could not get out of bed. The pain was constant unless I stayed perfectly still in bed. Then I found Kratom. My pain was reduced by about 3 to 4 times as much when compared to Vicodin.A legal and much safer alternative to opioid drugs which worked much better and did not impair my abilities but rather offered a boost in mood and energy. It allowed me to be able to participate in Physical therapy and heal. Kratom is much safer than the opioid drugs on the market today like Vicodin, Oxycotin and Fentanyl. It should not be banned but instead used as it was in my case to help live effectively with chronic pain . It is the superior choice and many people would still be alive today if they found Kratom before Fentanyl. Keep it legal. Please, it is the right thing to do.

CommentID: 225363

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 5:10 pm

Kratom shouldn't be banned

336

Kratom is a wonderful plant that helps promote pain relief among many other things with very mild side effects if any. Making such a miraculous plant illegal will only hurt people seeking relief in their everyday life's from a plant instead of harmful drugs that could even be fatal. Do Americans a favor, and keep kratom legal everywhere so people who need it can access it.

CommentID: 225364

Commenter: Andrew raya

6/5/24 5:12 pm

Banning kratom will result in countless death of people trying to get off opioids.

With the fentanyl crisis in high gear people are dying by the boatload every 5mins in this country. I was once a fentanyl addict for 3 years until one day I found myself wanting to stop. That's when I found kratom and it saved my life. Without it I would be dead. I was looking for something that wasn't a prescription drug peddled by big pharma. Something that won't make things worse than they already are. Suboxone and methadone are the only 2 options for those trying to get off fentanyl or any other opioids. And those are very powerful and extremely addicting compared to kratom. I chose kratom Because it's a natural and safer alternative to those. And Kratom by itself is not an opioid. Kratom has little to no effect on me. Literally 0 feeling of euphoria or anything. It just helps you feel better when you're in withdrawal from opioids. I'm not the only person who kratom saved. There are people in Virginia that benefit heavily from kratom and it saves them every single day by keeping them off hard drugs or even those that suffer with chronic pain. Kratom helps those people. And if you ban this plant you will effectively be killing people. People will go back to fentanyl, people will start to die Because of the decision to ban kratom. Historically prohibition has never worked and will only push things underground. The Virginia government could Benefit from all the tax revenue that the Kratom industry provides. I'm telling you. If this bill is signed you will see a massive uptick in overdose related deaths and the people suffering from chronic pain or addiction that have no insurance and low income will have no choice but to go back to taking fentanyl. Don't do it. Have a heart. This plant has never killed anybody in history. Has been used for centuries in Thailand with zero deaths. And same here. Anything you see online or tv is mass propaganda paid for and orchestrated by the big pharmaceutical companies. They hate the fact that people are getting better and finding safer alternatives to the deadly opioids they are selling. And even for those who have chronic pain a lot of those people can't get opioids so where are they to go ? To the streets. Again. People will die if this bill is passed. If you really cared about your people this bill should not be passed. This plant is the future of opioid drug treatment and has helped millions including myself get off hard drugs. Again it's just a plant. It isn't killing anybody unless 100 tons falls on top of you. If you do research and listen to what the American Kratom association has to say they will tell you everything you need to know. Thank you for reading. I am just a concerned citizen of America that loves what this plant has done for me. And I only wish that this plant will be available to those in Virginia who are looking for a way out of the dark hole which is synthetic opioid addiction.

CommentID: 225365

Commenter: Ron

6/5/24 5:12 pm

Kratom saved my life

Once again you are trying to take the supplements Kratom away from people. Yet you allow Marijuana. You cannot get a "high" from Kratom but you can get pain relief. I have used it for pain relief for over 20 years. Had it not been for Kratom I do not think I would be alive today. I was hooked on prescription drugs but couldn't get pain relief. As soon as I found Kratom, I got pain relief but was not high! It has given me back my life! Shame on you Virginia

Why take a pure plant away when it has helped millions of people. DO NOT take this from us!

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

CommentID: 225366

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 5:14 pm

Support Pharmacists by Supporting This Petition

As pharmacists, we confront the opioid catastrophe daily, battling addiction, witnessing overdose deaths, and seeing our communities crumble. We are exhausted and fed up. The introduction of kratom undermines every effort we've made to combat this crisis. We demand kratom be classified as a Schedule I controlled substance immediately. Enough is enough. We refuse to watch another substance wreak havoc on our neighborhoods. Act now—protect our communities from further devastation.

CommentID: 225367

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 5:16 pm

Cancer survivor

Dude, this is so beyond awful. U guys really need to nix this idea. Kratom has saved way too many lives. It doesn't just help ex-addicts. I had cancer and my fibromyalgia has been extremely bad since my 18 months of strong chemo and radiation ended 6 years ago. I tried (& keep up with) regular exercise and a strict lean, clean organic diet. It doesn't make the pains much better. I do not want to be like the billions addicted to pain medication for the rest of my life, and to be treated differently for reasons beyond my control. I have taken kratom in place of pain medication for 6 years. I have a regular dose that I take in the am, afternoon and evening. I haven't needed to increase my dose in over 5 years. This is a helpful natural botanical for many people.

It seems like the people claiming that kratom is trouble are those experiencing prescription and illegal substance addictions which are unrelated to kratom and strictly a product of their own mental health. Most of us take it regularly without any problems. It shouldn't be illegal. There should be stricter laws protecting the purity of it, instead. The only potential problem that I see is the possibility of heavy metal and other contaminations by the distributors and farmers.

CommentID: 225368

Commenter: Shahid

6/5/24 5:17 pm

Don't ban Kratom

Kratom is good for my pain and anxiety. Don't ban that

CommentID: 225369

Commenter: Bossman

6/5/24 5:20 pm

NO KRATOM BAN

Kratom has been a remarkable relief for my pain, offering substantial comfort that I haven't found elsewhere. Its natural properties have significantly alleviated my discomfort, making my daily life much more manageable. Without Kratom, I would be enduring a lot more suffering and hardship. Its benefits have been truly indispensable for my well-being.

CommentID: 225370

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

665/750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 5:23 pm

Don't ban kratom

Another clear attempt by government to ban a helpful plant because they can't patent it for sale. Don't ban Kratom. Kratom is not harmful and the r consequences of banning it would be disastrous for those who need it

CommentID: 225371

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 5:23 pm

Kratom truly saved my life

if it weren't for kratom i would have never had a chance getting off opioids. tried suboxone and methadone and ultimately neither helped me get off opioids. kratom is truly a safe plant, i've never had any negative effects from it and the death count isn't accurately displayed.

CommentID: 225372

Commenter: Shannon

6/5/24 5:24 pm

Please dont !!

Please don't ban Kratom !!

You can legalize marijuana but not Kratom ! Come on VA do better ! This helps my restless leg syndrome and keep my fibromyalgia from flaring up . Why don't u use this platform to get people off the streets who have multiple DUIs and breakins and everything else

CommentID: 225373

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 5:26 pm

No ban

Please no ban on Kratom. This has help me stay away from pills and improved my life. Thank yall

CommentID: 225374

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 5:27 pm

If it weren't for Kratom, I never would have gotten my life together and would still be stuck in VA

...and/or dead from alcohol and opiates. Thanks for reminding me what a great decision it was to leave.

CommentID: 225375

Commenter: A mom of 4

6/5/24 5:28 pm

Why would you ban & not regulate instead?

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

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Hello, I am a mother of 4 young children who unfortunately also suffers from rheumatoid arthritis, and anxiety among a few other conditions. We live in a world where "all natural " relief options is often frowned upon, laughed at, or pushed to the side as "big pharma" is shoved down your throat. My visit to the rheumatologist consisted of all three of these things. I decided then I wouldn't go back to where I felt so embarrassed that day and would continue with my "all natural" relief, which is Kratom. Kratom helps me be a mother to my children, it's able to give me just enough pain relief to make it out of bed in the morning and get them to school, to care for my household and make dinner,attend doctors appointments, sports events, and school functions. If you think that banning kratom is the right move then you couldn't be more wrong. You should be concerned about regulating it and making sure consumers in your state are safe. If you ban it you are doing nothing but creating criminals out of mothers, fathers, teachers and doctors, lawyers, and who knows, maybe your best friend. Im keeping this anonymous in the event that you do make this illegal, to keep my children safe, but my words need heard!

thank you for your time. -A mom of 4

CommentID: 225376

Commenter: Blake sparks

saved me

Kratom saved me from alcoholism. I would not be where I am today without it.

CommentID: 225377

6/5/24 5:28 pm

Commenter: Tim Pruitt

Do not ban kratom

It serves no good purpose to ban kratom, it's quite harmless and is of great help to many people for many conditions. It's a relative of coffee, and no more harmful and addictive.

Sincerely, Tim Pruitt

CommentID: 225378

6/5/24 5:30 pm

Commenter: Erica Jermain, ER Nurse

Please Ban Kratom it's flooding the ER with users having seizures, liver failure, kidney failure

This is the most dangerous drug I've seen sold out of gas stations, we lost several patients to cardiac arrest from kratom, and I'm in a small town.

CommentID: 225379

6/5/24 5:30 pm

Commenter: Cindy

My nephew died from kratom, he didn't use drugs or alcohol, it was only kratom that took his life.

Support this ban.

CommentID: 225380



Commenter: Nicky

My brother died from kratom, he was told it was like coffee, it caused him to go into cardiac arrest

Scheduling kratom will save lives.

CommentID: 225381

6/5/24 5:34 pm

Commenter: Joseph Cusimano

Support for Scheduling Petition

Hello:

I am a licensed pharmacist in the state of Virginia and a board certified psychiatric pharmacist. I am writing to express support for amending 18VAC110-20-322 to include mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine, the active alkaloids found in kratom, in Schedule I.

Kratom is a potentially dangerous drug with no well-established medical use and known harmful effects. Mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine act as "weak opioids" (mu-opioid receptor partial agonists, analogous to the opioid buprenorphine, used for managing opioid addiction and treating pain), which explains why people use kratom for pain management and opioid addiction. Mitragynine is also an alpha-2 agonist (analogous to the FDA-approved drug clonidine, commonly used off-label for opioid withdrawal), which may also contribute to pain relief and relief of opioid withdrawal. People use kratom for many other reasons, including anxiety, difficulty sleeping, and depression. People often use other illicit opioids for these purposes as well, managing "emotional pain" in addition to physical pain. Kratom may also possess weak stimulatory properties and pro-arrhythmic potential. While some patients report successful use of kratom, there are no high-quality clinical trials supporting its efficacy for any indication. However, the literature is replete with evidence of harm. One case series noted seizures and neonatal abstinence syndrome (Cumpston et al. 2018). One poison center found several critical care admissions, including one in an infant that was unintentionally exposed (DeJonge et al. 2023). Older adults, who are more likely to have chronic pain, may be particularly susceptible to the toxic effects of kratom, with an analysis of U.S. poison centers finding a higher prevalence of neurologic, cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, and respiratory effects in people age 70 and above (Graves et al. 2021). Kratom-induced liver injury has also been reported (Ahmad et al. 2021), including by some commenters here (Comment ID: 225168, 224990). A full literature review is beyond the scope of this comment-- suffice to say there are many published reports of serious adverse effects to kratom.

I empathize with the commenters struggling with addiction, chronic pain, depression, and anxiety. However, as a psychiatric pharmacist, I do not believe that kratom is safe, and strongly discourage its use. There are safer, FDA-approved treatments for all these conditions, as well as life-saving non-pharmacological treatments. While it's not implausible that kratom may be better studied in the future, leading to the discovery of a use and dose with a reasonable balance of benefits and risks, it is not in the interest of the public health to allow its unregulated use in the meantime. Therefore, I support placement of mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine, the active alkaloids found in kratom, in Schedule I.

Sincerely,

Joseph Cusimano, PharmD, BCPP

References

Ahmad J, Odin JA, Hayashi PH, Fontana RJ, Conjeevaram H, Avula B, Khan IA, Barnhart H, Vuppalanchi R, Navarro VJ. Drug-Induced Liver Injury Network. Liver injury associated with

6/5/24 5:35 pm

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DeJonge P, Gummin D, Tittelbaum N, Meiman J. Description of Kratom Exposure Events in Wisconsin as Reported to the Wisconsin Poison Center, January 1, 2010 to September 1, 2022. WMMJ. 2023 Jul;122(3):187-190. PMID: 37494649; PMCID: PMC10403292.

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Commenter: Lisa

6/5/24 5:36 pm

Please Do Not Ban Kratom

There is so much misinformation regarding a wonderful substance that has helped many people. Why would you outright ban kratom instead of regulating it, specifically the extracts? This drug is no worse than alcohol, and is certainly more helpful than alcohol.

CommentID: 225383

Commenter: Jonny Ward

6/5/24 5:38 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

Banning this substance will push people toward more dangerous opiates. This substance saves lives.

CommentID: 225384

Commenter: Cathy Amerling

6/5/24 5:39 pm

Kratom saves lives

I am a 64 year old responsible adult and Kratom has been a Godsend for chronic pain, depression and anxiety for the last nine years. I was able to stop taking antidepressants thanks to Kratom. The antidepressants that I had taken had horrible side effects and caused me to have to take several more medications to try and counteract the medical problems they were causing with my heart and blood pressure. Thanks to Kratom I was able to get off of all those prescription meds and now have zero side effects. It has been a real lifesaver for me and many other people. I work a very physical job and have two more years to go till retirement. Kratom enables me to do my job and to do it well without pain. Kratom has given me my life back. To criminalize Kratom would be criminal. Kratom is nothing but good. And another great thing about it is that it doesn't zonk you out. I remain clearheaded and alert. I can't say a single bad thing about it. Try it for yourself. You will see, there is nothing bad about it at all.

CommentID: 225385

339

Commenter: Jennifrr

6/5/24 5:41 pm

Keep Kratom legal

Years of depression was cured by periodic and responsible kratom use. This herb has saved many lives. This will be a huge disservice to the citizen who also use it for pain mgmt among many other reasons.

CommentID: 225386

Commenter: Lewis

6/5/24 5:46 pm

Not in support

I do not support this ban. There is already regulatory laws. I do not support the scheduling .

CommentID: 225387

Commenter: Arnold

6/5/24 5:47 pm

Not supporting

I do not support this nonsense. There are already regulatory laws. Not in support

CommentID: 225388

Commenter: Chris

6/5/24 5:54 pm

Banning is a bad idea

Don't ban kratom. Kratom helps many people. If you need to do something about a natural plant in the world, regulate it. Make sure companies aren't making fake labs or offer testing. Banning is a bad idea and will hurt a lot of people.

CommentID: 225389

Commenter: Amanda

6/5/24 6:00 pm

Not supporting

I am not in support of this proposed scheduling. We have regulatory laws that are fine. Not in support

CommentID: 225391

Commenter: Erin

6/5/24 6:01 pm

No ban

This is not ok we have regulatory laws for a reason. Get big pharma out of Virginia

CommentID: 225392

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Commenter: Sophia

No ban

Virginians are not in support of this ban. No means no!

CommentID: 225394

6/5/24 6:05 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Please do not ban kratom in Virginia. There is no public health crisis.

I do not support the petition to include mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine in Schedule I. Please keep kratom accessible to the general public as there has been no established public health crisis due to kratom consumption.

CommentID: 225395

6/5/24 6:05 pm

Commenter: Support for Kratom

Do NOT ban Kratom

Do NOT ban Kratom.

CommentID: 225396

6/5/24 6:05 pm

Commenter: Dan Kupczak

Please be weary of fake comments. I am living proof of this plant's safety and effectiveness.

I love the open comment concept, but be weary of the 3 outrageous claims from Nicky, Cindy, and Erica Jermain "ER Nurse", all posted within 5 minutes of one another. As an active member of the kratom community, any deaths even remotely related to this plant would've come to light for full examination (which they haven't).

I have been a kratom user for 13 years, having only missed a handful of days in this span. Kratom has given me a quality of life that prescription pain medications couldn't provide me after a life changing car accident at age 18. Daily kratom use has lead me to a life of minimized pain and calm mental clarity. Yearly physicals and blood work have shown no negative impact on my health (my liver enzymes are impeccable), with the exception of minor dehydration. Taking the opportunity to live your best life away from even one citizen would be a gross disservice, and I implore you to hear out the kratom users in your community.

I am a resident of Michigan and I truly do not have a dog in this fight. However, if you would like any sort of first-hand testimonial about what it is like to be a daily user of kratom, please don't hesitate to reach out. The good that this plant provides cannot be understated, and I would be happy to have a conversation about its benefits (and its negatives!)

CommentID: 225397

Commenter: Joseph Paige

Please don't ban

6/5/24 6:06 pm

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Please don't ban Kratom. it's helps so many people live a healthy life. And not relying on pharmaceuticals that are actually dangerous. And ruin lives. I've used Kratom everyday since 2011. My life has been great and I have excelled in my career. Please don't ban Kratom. It helps so many.

CommentID: 225398

Commenter: J. Gilmore

This Plant Has Helped Me

This plant has benefited me greatly in the treatment of depression and anxiety. Please make your decision based on sound science and not the interests of the pharmaceutical industry or the wishes of a vocal minority pushing a moral agenda.

If banned I will return to prescription medication, but I am concerned that others will seek out alternatives on the street resulting in an increase in fentanyl addiction and the worsening of opioid addiction in the state.

CommentID: 225399

Commenter: Anonymous

We do NOT support this ban.

Maybe focus your time and energy on drugs that KILL PEOPLE EVERY DAY. Whose side are you even on, because it's not ours!!

CommentID: 225400

6/5/24 6:10 pm

Commenter: Tracey Henderson

Keep Kratom Legal

Kratom saves lives simple as that! Why take away something that's helping a worldwide epidemic? Not hurting anyone only helping including myself!

CommentID: 225401

6/5/24 6:12 pm

Commenter: Max

Not in support

My whole family doesn't support this proposition. No to this. There are regulatory laws.

CommentID: 225402

6/5/24 6:12 pm

Commenter: Beth Cadiou

Vote NO

Do Not Support this ban.

CommentID: 225403

6/5/24 6:14 pm

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

6/1/750

6/2/750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

Commenter: Michael Glaser

6/5/24 6:16 pm

Do not support! Please don't make Kratom criminal and a Schedule 1 substance

It's absurd that Kratom would be a schedule 1 substance. It helps SOOO many people, including myself. I personally take it in small doses for its mood enhancing and stimulating effects instead of coffee. I hate coffee and it upsets my stomach. It also helped me stop taking Adderall or other prescription stimulants with no negative effects to my health and mood. Although I don't personally take Kratom for pain relief, I know that many people do. There is a huge opioid problem in this country and criminalizing Kratom would exasperate the problem.

CommentID: 225404

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 6:17 pm

Keep Kratom

Understand this is used by people who do not want or need to be on sched. 1 drugs from pharmacies!!! Like any substance on this earth, moderation. We need to ban coffee and mt. Dew because more people are addicted to that legal drug!!!

CommentID: 225405

Commenter: Jackie

6/5/24 6:17 pm

Don not ban! Please!

How about you put more effort into advocating for more research before bringing a petition for an outright ban?

CommentID: 225406

Commenter: Crystal

6/5/24 6:19 pm

My brother died from kratom, toxicology showed kratom/mitragynine was the only drug in him.

My brother is dead from kratom, banning it would save other families from the nightmare of burying their loved one.

CommentID: 225408

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 6:20 pm

No

No. Please do not do this. Thank you for listening.

CommentID: 225409

Commenter: LT

6/5/24 6:20 pm

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

DO NOT CRIMINALIZE THIS LIFESAVING PLANT

This is a safe plant changing lives for those who need it!

CommentID: 225410

Commenter: Mary lewis

6/5/24 6:24 pm

Please leave this life saver alone.

This plant has saved my life! I have disc degenerative disease joint degenerative disease stenosis and I currently have a spinal cord stimulator implanted this plant has saved my life I will never again have to go to narcotics I will always be able to take my plant and live a fulfilling life. Please consider just making it 21 or above but please do not ban this plant! Thank you.

CommentID: 225411

Commenter: Foster Rowe

6/5/24 6:24 pm

Please don't ban kratom

I would be supportive of some sensical regulation of Kratom, such as an age requirement and requiring lab data to be available on products. However, a ban would be draconian and I ask that you please do NOT enact one. Thank you.

CommentID: 225412

Commenter: Salexa

6/5/24 6:25 pm

Ban kratom, I was addicted to kratom, the AKA brainwashes people to say, "it saved my life"

Kratom addiction is as real as opioid addiction, if it would have been scheduled in 2016 when the AKA duped us user into making many accounts to fight the ban, I wouldn't have suffered for years addicted to this mind altering drug.

CommentID: 225413

Commenter: Bridget Wright

6/5/24 6:26 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

Kratom, crushed up leaves of a plant from the Earth- needs to remain legal. As someone who needed a liver lobectomy due to a tumor, endometriosis in my colon (that no prescription pain pills could help - and I need to be clear headed to work) and a cancer survivor that just turned 50, Kratom has saved my life.it allowed me to continue to live, work, eat, sleep and recover through all of these medical issues without any kind of dependence. My health, my labs and my mental state are top notch. Why on earth would a natural substance get banned that is literally saving lives and helping people the healthy way. It's a shame narrow minded people are trying to do this

CommentID: 225414

Commenter: Morgan

6/5/24 6:27 pm

341

Thank you for attempting to ban kratom, my nephew is dead from kratom.

Schedule I kratom, so many already dead from this gas station heroin.

CommentID: 225415

Commenter: De

Do NOT ban!

This plant is a lifesaving medicine for many many people. It Helps them to navigate chronic pain, or many other health issues without the use of opiates and regain their quality of life! Thank you!

CommentID: 225416

6/5/24 6:27 pm

Commenter: Dominick S

PLEASE DO NOT BAN KRATOM, IT SAVES LIVES!!

PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS!! I have lost too many friends to the disease that is opioid addiction, and Kadon has been something that I have seen with my own two eyes help people not only relapse, but when off of painkillers entirely, or choose to stick with the option that has shown to be the least harmful. it is well documented that overdoses on Krat are unbelievably rare, and any any overdoses that I've been noted, have been, either typically due to mix it with other substances, based off of the reports that have been coming out. This would be such a huge mistake, and will exponentially increase overdoses and boost the power for those in the black market. This will absolutely destroy families, communities, and pain, patients all alike, and do absolutely nothing regarding decreasing opioid use. There are a plethora of studies showing the high safety profile of Krat versus things such as prescription opioids, as well as NSAIDS. This would be the worst mistake and absolutely the worst decision. Someone could make in trying to assist people in drug addiction and addiction in general. I have been studying Psyko, pharmacology and chemical, additions, specifically, and criminalizing this drug, especially putting it in schedule. One, would be unbelievably detrimental to the recovery process for so many people. If you want to save lives, do not ban Kratom! All it will do is increase black market, use and overdoses.

CommentID: 225417

6/5/24 6:29 pm

Commenter: Jennifer Durham

Please do not ban kratom

Hello,

As someone who lives one state south of Virginia and has frequently driven through it, I am deeply concerned about the petition to ban kratom. My story is one of many, many others like it.

I suffer from chronic auto-immune pain and thankfully found kratom before finding anything dangerous. I found it in 2016 when the DEA's attempt to ban it rightfully resulted in a large public backlash. I was experiencing increasingly intolerable pain and wondered if kratom would help. It sure did, and sure has since then. I don't believe I'd be functional without it now due to pain. The best part is that kratom isn't a dangerous opioid, and it gives no high. I can honestly say that caffeine gives me more of a "high" than kratom, which is a relative of the coffee plant.

I started taking kratom for pain but found it has additional benefits. Anxiety and insomnia have been my "friends" for life, and kratom helps with both. I've yet to hear anyone else say it helps with stress leg syndrome, but it sure does for me. And that affects my sleep.

All that said, I am not at all opposed to regulating kratom, establishing age limits, and taking measures to stop unscrupulous vendors who adulterate kratom in harmful ways. A number of states have adopted legislation that protects consumers and their right to use safe kratom. The American Kratom Association has developed good manufacturing practices and vendor certification toward this end.

Please consider these alternatives to bans. The quality of many people's lives depends on keeping kratom legal. My symptoms are only some that kratom helps. Others report kratom helps with opiate withdrawal, and our veterans find relief from PTSD.

A ban on kratom would be immeasurably hurtful to many people. It would create criminals out of everyday, law-abiding citizens.

Thank you,

Jennifer Durham

CommentID: 225418

6/5/24 6:32 pm

Commenter: Karina

If you ban kratom, what will we used to get legal high? Fent? Kratom euphoria is best

i use kratom for years no problem besides losing some hair, and shakes if i go too long without it.

CommentID: 225419

6/5/24 6:33 pm

Commenter: Alexa

Kratom saved my life. I would be dead without it.

Kratom saved my life. I would be dead without it.

CommentID: 225420

6/5/24 6:34 pm

Commenter: Calvin

Let adults decide what is best for them. This is not a dangerous supplement.

Don't believe the fake headlines of how kratom is a dangerous product. I have taken it for years as a replacement for OTC and prescription medications. I take it with my coffee and have never been concerned with becoming addicted or any ill side effects. It is safe. Keep it legal.

CommentID: 225421

6/5/24 6:37 pm

Commenter: William Huffman

PLZ DONT

Please don't pass this ban this plant saved my life.

CommentID: 225422

Commenter: Ian
6/5/24 6:37 pm

Regulate don't ban
We have regulatory laws in place. I do not support the ban.
CommentID: 225423

Commenter: Tom
6/5/24 6:39 pm

This plant saved my life.
This plant helped solve my gastrointestinal issues at low amounts per day. No prescription medication helped IBS like kratom has helped me keep IBS under control.
CommentID: 225426

Commenter: Marvin Stewart
6/5/24 6:39 pm

Please do NOT schedule kratom
Kratom doesn't get you "high", it curbs the cravings that opiate addicts fight when they are in recovery, trying to stay off of opiates. Scheduling kratom would be a huge mistake. I've successfully fought alcoholism and addiction through kratom. Kratom is nothing at all like already scheduled drugs.
CommentID: 225427

Commenter: Laura
6/5/24 6:43 pm

Do not ban
We have regulatory laws that are plenty fine. No need to schedule. I do not support
CommentID: 225428

Commenter: Brian
6/5/24 6:44 pm

If you ban kratom people will die
Please don't buy into misinformation. The only reason to ban this plant is greed. It has save thousands of lives including mine.
CommentID: 225429

Commenter: Melissa Carpenter
6/5/24 6:45 pm

KEEP KRATOM
I am the Virginia Board of Pharmacy, and I strongly oppose the petition to classify kratom's active alkaloids, mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine, as Schedule I substances. Kratom has been a lifesaver for countless individuals, providing natural relief from pain, anxiety, and addiction. Criminalizing kratom would

unjustly deprive many people of a safe and effective herbal remedy, pushing them towards more dangerous alternatives.

This move would not only harm those who depend on kratom but also set a dangerous precedent by criminalizing a natural substance that has helped so many. Please consider the voices of those who have found hope and healing through kratom. Do not let fear and misinformation dictate this decision. Keep kratom legal and accessible.

Sincerely,
Melissa Carpenter
CommentID: 225430

Commenter: Anonymous
6/5/24 6:51 pm

Do not ban
Keaton helps many Virginians. Virginia already decided on Kratom leave it alone.
CommentID: 225431

Commenter: Michelle
6/5/24 6:52 pm

Kratom saved me!
I've lived with chronic pain for over 20 years. The first 7 years I had to take opioids just to function. Pain MGMT took those away (I was ready to stop them anyway,) and tried kratom . I could not handle even getting around without some kind of relief. Kratom not only makes my pain bearable, there are NO side effects! I'm a grandma of two and able to enjoy my grandkids because of kratom. It's NOT dangerous, and it saved my life.
CommentID: 225432

Commenter: Bryan
6/5/24 6:55 pm

It helped me
The only thing I could see being done is to make it to where you have to be 21 to purchase it. I got off all my pain medication and don't need the pain clinic anymore. If you use common sense this is a great product and should not be regulated by the government. I save 4500. bucks a year by not having to rely on a pain dr that treats you like a drug abuser. I don't use drugs or smoke weed. Please let us get this product lime we have been. The Kratom I get is third party tested and I trust it. Thank you. Bryan
CommentID: 225433

Commenter: William Huffman
6/5/24 6:57 pm

Kratom helped me overcome alcoholism!

Kratom saved me from severe alcoholism! The prohibition of kratom would be a downward spiral to prohibiting more life saving herbs that deserve to stay legal!

CommentID: 225434

Commenter: Tamera smith
Ban kratom!

6/5/24 6:57 pm

It's ruined my husband's health. He looks like and feels like he's going to die without it has been taking it for 8 years and is highly addicted. He's lost his hair, and ability to function off of it cant even sleep without it, when he tries coming off of it he has severe muscle spasms, vomiting, diarrhea and is competing exhausted. Blood pressure runs 172/138 doctors say it's stroke level and that at his point were very lucky to still have him. He has constant kidney pain and is very irritable and mean w the kids once hes spent his whole paycheck on it (375.00 a week) leaving all financial burdens on me and to provided for our children wo any help. This needs to be out of our stores and country! He might live long enough to walk his daughter down the aisle she's 8, our youngest is 3!

CommentID: 225435

Commenter: Noah bibb
Don't ban kratom

6/5/24 6:57 pm

It has been the main thing to keep my moms over and that allowed her to be the mom she had to be for me and my brother. Whatever you do please don't ban it!!!!

CommentID: 225436

Commenter: Milli
Kratom saves lives


6/5/24 6:59 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT THE ADDITION OF KRATOM TO SCHEDULE 1, YOU MUST NOT BAN THIS PRECIOUS LEAF! This plant has saved countless lives, helping people in need that don't want to suffer the crippling effects of the pharmaceutical industry. Please don't take away the people's medicine out of spite. Save lives, don't end them. KEEP KRATOM LEGAL.

CommentID: 225437

Commenter: Erik
This plant saved me

6/5/24 7:00 pm

 We have regulatory law that are there for a reason. No support here, no ban!

CommentID: 225438

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 7:02 pm

Please Do NOT Ban Kratom

To Whom It May Concern,

I write to you today to implore you to not proceed with criminalizing kratom. Kratom should be adequately regulated, yes, but to ban it would be a major mistake. Research needs to be conducted unencumbered, too. And hundreds if not millions of Virginians and Americans use kratom responsibly. To deny them the right to use what's most beneficial to them is not just poor policy, but immoral as well.

Please do not ban kratom. That'd be a mistake. Regulate it properly, but don't ban.

Regards,

Connor B.

CommentID: 225439

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 7:05 pm

My quality of life is better.

Have been taking kratom for about a year now. I sleep better I eat better I have less pain. I was generally crabby all the time due to my overwhelming pain. I suffer from chronic back pain. Since I have been taking kratom my mood is better my pain is less and sleep better than ever. I don't believe the talk that kratoms bad for u. I'm living proof it's not. Keep it legal.

CommentID: 225440

Commenter: Kathleen Skeggs

6/5/24 7:07 pm

Kratom

Kratom has saved my life!!! I am a recovering alcoholic and drug addict. I used anything and everything. I could not stop. A liter of vodka a day was how I was going to die. Kratom SAVED ME!!!! I never even thought of a drink. No cravings. Kratom also got me through withdrawals from many things I would have died from. Please keep Kratom safe. Peoe who make up lies about Kratom and its very sad. So many benefits from Kratom. My Dr says my numbers have never been better.I LOVE IT

CommentID: 225441

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 7:09 pm

NO KRATOM BAN

Nothing could be more harmful than banning Kratom.

CommentID: 225442

Commenter: Sherill L Liebschner

6/5/24 7:10 pm

Reputable kratom businesses are valuable to many

Many are helped by kratom—myself included—and reputable sellers who test their products for safety should without question be allowed to continue to do business in the United States.

CommentID: 225443

Commenter: Jaq

My Journey

My journey with kratom began after an accident at work. I was attacked while transferring a non-compliant dementia patient while trying to provide care. This incident caused me to herniate discs and this in turn caused nerve compression which in turn brought on fibromyalgia and chronic migraines. I've gone the pain mgmt route. Endless epidural steroid shots (which has caused my vertebrae to become more brittle)ja pain med and a muscle is how I get through. But a few years back they cut my meds in 1/2 and my private insurance won't approve the shots I need when I need them. (Why, the hell do I pay exorbitant premiums again??)Whats the point of private insurance??)I believe the shots accelerated my degenerative disc disease and osteoporosis. I need to work, and by the end of some work days I am in tears from the pain and walk hunched over. I then cannot get any housework done when I get home because of the pain. It's depressing and it is no way to live a life. This is where kratom comes in. I take a teaspoon when the pain starts. If I had taken a prescription med that day I wait between 6-7 hours before I dose with the kratom. The results are astounding. Not only can I get through the day, the pain is severely diminished and I am more productive. I can come home after work and do a few things that need to get done. This tree leaf does not need to be banned. It needs to be regulated and rigorously studied by scientists with a desired interest in this plant and its pharmacological makeup. I understand the pharmaceutical companies will not benefit from this but haven't they profited enough from all the other drugs they peddle? By banning this miracle leaf you will be taking away many people's daily mobility(most take it for graded, their cravings for alcohol, opioids, or harder drugs. And you will be stealing joy and ease of mind from depressive people. I am sure there are many other issues this plant can aid people with. The benefits outweigh the risks in my opinion, but no one's opinion counts because it needs to be researched and regulated. Thank you for allowing me this platform to speak, and thank you for your time.

CommentID: 225444

Commenter: MB

Kratom is safe and has been a miracle for me and millions.

These open comments always brings out the well funded anti-Kratom propagandists who lie about deaths and other health problems caused by Kratom. These false claims must be ignored for the greater good of the people. Kratom saves lives and has been used for hundreds of years without any deaths attributed to Kratom alone. Kratom has been used safely in the United States for decades. The deaths we see where they claim Kratom was the cause of death ALWAYS involves fentanyl or other deadly drugs. Or it involves someone with serious pre-existing health problems. The FDA has been unable to prove for over a decade that Kratom is dangerous. The DEA sees no valid reason to ban Kratom. Even the WHO with a lower threshold agreed there's no reason to ban Kratom.

Kratom helps 15-20 million Americans every day with pain, depression, anxiety, PTSD and a variety of health problems. It doesn't cause health problems. It treats and even cures them. For me personally, Kratom gave me my life back. I suffered a serious back injury and was bedridden for 4 months. I became addicted to prescription pain medicine and SSRIs that I was prescribed to deal with the depression that was a result of my injuries.

I have no doubt that Kratom saved my life. It helped me get off of the prescription pills. It gave me a positive outlook on life that allowed me to get through my therapy and recovery process. My depression was crippling because I was a father of 2 young boys and I was physically and mentally unable to participate in several of their early years. I could barely get out of bed. I considered taking my life because I felt like an absent terrible father. But Kratom changed all of that. Kratom gave my kids their father back. Kratom gave me my life back. I'm now about 90% recovered from my injuries. I take absolutely no prescription medicines now. I use a teaspoon of Kratom in a cup of tea or coffee about 2 to 3 times a day. It's truly been a miracle tea leaf and saved my life.

Please understand there is a sinister agenda to ban Kratom so big pharma can make Kratom based drugs. The reason big pharma and the fda wanted to ban Kratom is because it prevents them from creating synthetic versions of Kratom compounds and profit from them. The anti-Kratom efforts are all about money. The anti-Kratom lobbies are well funded. The efforts to ban Kratom have absolutely nothing to do with health or safety. Kratom is a threat to their profits. Pharma is already working on synthesizing Kratom compounds in hopes it gets banned some day. Once you understand this profit driven motive, you understand that Kratom really is a safe and effective plant medicine.

Please don't make the same mistake we've made with things like cannabis. Kratom has many medical uses and is safer than any pharmaceutical drug. A ban on Kratom will force many to seek dangerous drugs and even illicit street drugs to treat their problems. Those that have used Kratom to get off of drugs like fentanyl and heroin will have no choice but to start using these drugs again. Chronic pain patients are not being treated in America anymore. This has added to the opioid drug crisis. If Virginia bans Kratom, the state will see an enormous climb in drug overdoses and deaths. Please do not ban Kratom. It will prove to be a deadly miscalculation by legislators. People deserve to have access to this safe and effective natural remedy. Thank you for the opportunity to tell my story.

Respectfully,

An 11 year Kratom consumer

CommentID: 225445

Commenter: Anonymous

Do not ban!!

Do not ban!!

CommentID: 225446

Commenter: Anonymous

Keep it legal

It's a good supplement and people should have the right to take it.

CommentID: 225447

Commenter: Richard P

kratom benefits

6/5/24 7:21 pm

6/5/24 7:20 pm

6/5/24 7:19 pm

I have been using Kratom since 2018 after I detoxed from methadone. It is non-narcotic and very beneficial for well-being and as a means for pain management

CommentID: 225448

Commenter: John Doyle

Please listen to the kratom science

Please don't take away kratom. It has saved my life without it i would not be able to work 2 jobs. I have chronic pain and arthritis in my neck and back. Kratom has been a miracle for me, no it's not perfect and sometimes it doesn't work but most of the time it does. I also rely on Advil and Tylenol. I have to work 2 jobs to make ends meet, taking this plant away at this point in my life with everything else going on would be a disaster. Life is very hard right now because of this lousy economy we are in. I am currently a resident of Virginia, so your decision will affect me greatly. I have used kratom for 10 years. I buy lab tested clean and pure kratom plain leaf powder. If anything make kratom available to people 21 years of age and above only. Please hear the majority of us out here. Keep kratom legal. Thank you!

CommentID: 225449

6/5/24 7:24 pm

Commenter: Callie

Keep it legal!

This helps millions in the US. Please allow a good thing to keep being good for those who need.

CommentID: 225450

6/5/24 7:25 pm

Commenter: Cory

Kratom saved me from Heroin

I would be dead or in prison right now if it wasn't for Kratom. The only reason that I live a normal and fulfilling life away from heroin is because of Kratom. The only reason I have a great relationship with my family and a promising future is because of Kratom.

I have tried everything else for the last 10 years of my life and nothing else has worked.

A schedule 1 ban on kratom would only send tons of people back to the streets and there would be more death from heroin and fentanyl. The damage would be immense to people like me just trying to get by having struggled their whole life and finally found something that works.

PLEASE RECONSIDER THIS BAN.

CommentID: 225451

Commenter: Cory

34 Kratom saved me from Heroin

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PLEASE RECONSIDER THIS BAN.

CommentID: 225452

Commenter: Luke

An Immense Help

Throughout my young adulthood, I struggled with severe OCD and depression. As the years passed by, I became a more and more severe alcoholic, which inevitably led to a variety of health and legal problems. I wanted to stop, but nothing seemed to assuage the emotional and mental issues that reemerged every time I tried. I obtained a prescription for a common antidepressant, but that only seemed to make my symptoms worse! I began to believe it was my destiny to drink almost constantly, forever.

Over 10 years ago, I happened to read an article about kratom and bought some out of curiosity. I never imagined anything would come of it. Much to my happy surprise, this ground leaf powder turned out not only to serve as an incalculably healthier alternative to liquor, but also improved the underlying conditions that led me to drink in the first place! A few teaspoons over the course of a day improved my whole outlook. I wasn't so painfully uncomfortable around people anymore; my once overwhelming anxiety backed off enough that I could get a good night's rest; I had something to look forward to at the end of the day that wasn't relentlessly destroying my life.

To this day, I can attest that kratom has been the only thing (other than the company of my cats) that has improved my mental and emotional health to a degree that I am able to put the bottle down. I have been taking it almost a third of my life, off and on, and have never suffered any health problems to speak of. It has truly worked wonders for me.

I happen to live in Utah, the first state to adopt the reasonable and effective Kratom Consumer Protection Act. The handful of little kratom shops scattered around town have yet to cause our society to collapse. The shops are friendly, positive places, evidence of a commonsense law that understands both kratom's vast potential and the need for effective regulation to ensure safe, quality products. The American Kratom Association, the primary backer of the KCPA, is keenly aware of the danger illegalization would pose to the public (not to mention the grave injustice it would mean for all the people kratom helps). The only way this benign, beneficial plant could be made dangerous is to be forced onto the black market. The idea of criminalizing citizens over kratom is simultaneously absurd and disgraceful.

The AKA has made wonderful progress with the KCPA. The states that have passed the law have taken an intelligent, informed action to ensure safety and justice for their citizens. As someone whom kratom has genuinely helped, I urge Virginia not to take a giant step backward and illegalize this amazing plant, which shows so much potential to help so many people. Instead, please continue to follow the wise lead of Utah and the other KCPA states in ensuring a bright, fair future for kratom!

CommentID: 225453

6/5/24 7:33 pm

Commenter: Benjamin carter

6/5/24 7:33 pm

Legality

Making kratom illegal is not helping the community. It will only make big pharma more prevalent and we the citizens know that big pharma and their donors are the ones pushing for this corruption to make it illegal. Do the community and serve its citizens and not big donors.

CommentID: 225454

Commenter: Janet

6/5/24 7:33 pm

No scientific evidence to support a Kratom Ban

Good evening,
As a pharmacy board I explore you follow the science and keep Kratom as an over the counter herbal supplement.
there is no evidence Kratom or it's alkaloids cause any lethal effects. It does however have long standing evidence for its use for otc pain (like ibuprofen) and mood stabilizer (like CBD). With a safety profile similar to caffeine.
we are in a long standing opioid pandemic, millions die from fentanyl and other full agonists.
Myraginine is not an opioid nor a mu receptor agonist... we need all the tools we can use to help fight this epidemic and mytraginine one has a role!

CommentID: 225455

Commenter: Rachel

6/5/24 7:36 pm

Not in support

I don't support this ban. We have regulatory laws that have regulations. No ban, no support!

CommentID: 225456

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 7:36 pm

Kratom: a short essay why it should be unscheduled

Kratom should not be classified as a Schedule 1 substance in Virginia for several compelling reasons:

Medical Potential and Ongoing Research

1. Therapeutic Uses: Kratom contains active compounds like mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine, which have shown significant potential in pain management, opioid withdrawal relief, and anxiety reduction. Research published in the Journal of Medicinal Chemistry highlights its potential as a safer alternative to opioids, given its analgesic properties and lower risk of respiratory depression.

2. Reduced Harm Profile: Unlike Schedule 1 drugs, which are deemed to have a high potential for abuse and no accepted medical use, kratom has a well-documented lower risk profile. A study in

Addiction Biology notes that kratom's unique pharmacological properties, such as G-protein biased agonism at opioid receptors, reduce the risk of addiction and severe side effects compared to traditional opioids.

Economic and Social Impact

1. Economic Burden: Scheduling kratom as a Schedule 1 substance could have significant economic repercussions. Many individuals use kratom as a means to manage chronic pain and opioid dependency, reducing healthcare costs and improving quality of life. Banning kratom could force these individuals to turn to more dangerous and expensive pharmaceutical options or illicit drugs, increasing healthcare costs and the burden on social services.
2. Community Well-being: Kratom provides a legal and relatively safe option for individuals seeking alternatives to opioids and other prescription medications. Its use has been associated with lower rates of opioid abuse and overdose deaths in communities where it is available. Removing access to kratom could exacerbate the opioid crisis by eliminating a valuable tool in harm reduction and addiction treatment strategies.

Scientific and Legal Precedents

1. International and National Perspectives: Countries like Thailand have legalized kratom for medical use, acknowledging its benefits and regulating its use to ensure safety. In the United States, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have funded research into kratom's potential therapeutic uses, reflecting its recognized medical potential.
2. Regulatory Alternatives: Instead of a blanket Schedule 1 classification, more nuanced regulatory approaches such as quality control, age restrictions, and usage guidelines can ensure safe consumption while allowing ongoing research and medical use. This approach aligns with the principles of harm reduction and public health safety.

Conclusion

Classifying kratom as a Schedule 1 substance in Virginia ignores its significant medical potential, lower risk profile compared to opioids, and the economic and social benefits it provides. A more balanced regulatory approach would support public health and safety while fostering ongoing research and responsible use.

References

1. Kruegel, A.C., et al. "The Psychoactive Plant *Mitragyna speciosa* (Kratom) and Its Pseudoindoxyl Alkaloids." Journal of Medicinal Chemistry, 2016.
2. Hemby, S.E., et al. "Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics of Kratom: Clinical Implications." Addiction Biology, 2019.
3. "Kratom: User demographics, use patterns, and implications for the opioid crisis." Journal of Psychoactive Drugs.
4. "Potential medicinal benefits of kratom: A systematic review." Drug and Alcohol Dependence.
5. NIH and FDA research on kratom.
6. "Pharmacology and toxicology of kratom: from traditional herb to drug of abuse." International Journal of Legal Medicine. CommentID: 225457

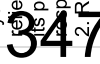
Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 7:37 pm

Kratom helps

Absolutely do NOT ban this plant! It is very helpful!

CommentID: 225458



Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 7:39 pm

Kratom: more as to why it's not dangerous

Kratom, particularly its alkaloids mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine, has been shown to be less addictive and far less dangerous than traditional opioids such as morphine and heroin. This is supported by several scientific studies and comparative analyses:

Mechanisms of Action

1. **G-Protein Bias**: Kratom alkaloids exhibit a bias toward G-protein signaling over beta-arrestin pathways at the mu-opioid receptor. Traditional opioids like morphine and heroin activate both pathways, with beta-arrestin signaling being associated with adverse effects, including tolerance, dependence, and respiratory depression.
- **Research Evidence**: Studies published in the *"Journal of Medicinal Chemistry"* demonstrate that this G-protein bias in kratom alkaloids leads to potent analgesic effects while minimizing the risk of addiction and side effects.
2. **Receptor Interaction**:
 - **Partial Agonism**: Mitragynine acts as a partial agonist at the mu-opioid receptor, meaning it activates the receptor to a lesser degree compared to full agonists like morphine and heroin. This results in reduced euphoria and lower potential for addiction.
 - **Study Results**: Research in *"Addiction Biology"* highlights that the partial agonist properties of kratom's alkaloids contribute to a lower abuse potential compared to traditional opioids.

Comparative Studies and Animal Models

1. **Self-Administration Studies**:
 - **Rodent Models**: In studies where rodents were given the option to self-administer drugs, those given kratom displayed less frequent self-administration compared to those given morphine or heroin. This suggests lower reinforcing effects and addiction potential.
 - **Source**: Findings published in the *"Journal of Psychoactive Drugs"* indicate that while kratom has reinforcing properties, they are significantly weaker than those of morphine and heroin.
2. **Withdrawal Symptoms**:
 - **Severity of Withdrawal**: Withdrawal from kratom is generally milder compared to withdrawal from morphine or heroin. Symptoms are less severe and of shorter duration, indicating a lower level of physical dependence.
 - **Evidence**: A systematic review in *"Drug and Alcohol Dependence"* summarizes multiple studies showing that kratom withdrawal symptoms are more comparable to those from caffeine withdrawal rather than severe opioid withdrawal.

Clinical and Epidemiological Evidence

1. **User Reports and Surveys**:
 - **Lower Abuse Rates**: Surveys and user reports consistently show that individuals using kratom for pain relief or opioid withdrawal management report lower levels of dependence and fewer withdrawal symptoms compared to those using traditional opioids.
 - **NIH Data**: Data from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) indicate that kratom users are less likely to report compulsive use and severe dependence compared to users of prescription opioids or heroin.

2. Therapeutic Potential

- **Harm Reduction**: Kratom has been used as a harm reduction tool to help individuals reduce or stop the use of more dangerous opioids. Its use has been associated with decreased opioid-related deaths and a safer profile for managing chronic pain and withdrawal symptoms.

- **Clinical Observations**: Observations published in the *"International Journal of Legal Medicine"* support the potential of kratom as a safer alternative for managing pain and opioid dependence

[oi_citation:1,Examining impairment and kinetic patterns associated with recent use of hemp-derived Δ8-tetrahydrocannabinol: case studies | Journal of Cannabis Research | Full Text| (https://jccannabisresearch.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s42238-022-00146-9).

Safety Profile and Toxicity

1. **Respiratory Depression**:
 - **Lower Risk**: One of the most significant dangers of opioids like morphine and heroin is respiratory depression, which can be fatal. Kratom, due to its unique receptor interactions and G-protein biased signaling, has a much lower risk of causing respiratory depression.
 - **Research Evidence**: Studies in the *"Journal of Medicinal Chemistry"* and *"ACS Central Science"* have shown that kratom's alkaloids, particularly mitragynine pseudoindoxyl, result in less respiratory depression compared to morphine [Pharmacology and effects of cannabis: A brief review | The British Journal of Psychiatry | Cambridge Core] (https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/the-british-journal-of-psychiatry/article/pharmacology-and-effects-of-cannabis-a-brief-review/82B02735F420CB287DCC80843FC34AE1).
2. **Overdose Risk**:
 - **Comparative Safety**: The risk of fatal overdose with kratom is significantly lower than with morphine or heroin. While high doses of kratom can lead to unpleasant side effects, they are less likely to result in death compared to traditional opioids.
 - **NIH and FDA Reports**: Official reports and studies indicate that while kratom can cause adverse effects, the risk of fatal overdose is much lower than that of opioids like morphine and heroin.

Conclusion

Kratom's unique pharmacological properties, including its G-protein biased signaling, partial agonist activity at opioid receptors, and lower reinforcing effects, contribute to its reduced addiction potential and significantly lower danger compared to morphine and heroin. These findings are supported by preclinical studies, user reports, and clinical observations, suggesting that kratom should not be classified as a Schedule 1 substance due to its significant differences in addiction potential and safety profile.

References

1. **Kruegel, A. C., et al.** "The Psychoactive Plant *Mitragyna speciosa* (Kratom) and Its Pseudoindoxyl Alkaloids." *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*, 2016.
2. **Váradi, A., et al.** "Mitragynine/Corynantheidine Pseudoindoxyls as Potent Opioid Analgesics with Reduced Side-Effect Profile." *ACS Central Science*, 2016.
3. **Hemby, S. E., et al.** "Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics of Kratom: Clinical Implications." *Addiction Biology*, 2019.
4. **Kratom**: User demographics, use patterns, and implications for the opioid crisis." *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*.
5. **NIH and FDA research on kratom**.
6. **Pharmacology and toxicology of kratom: from traditional herb to drug of abuse.** *International Journal of Legal Medicine*.
7. **The safety profile of kratom and its potential for lessening opioid dependence.** *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*.
CommentID: 225459

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 7:41 pm

Kratom cured my alcoholism

I used to drink and drive everyday. Kratom makes me not even want to drink anymore. If there was a ban I guarantee I would go back to my old ways. There are so many people who quit drinking because of kratom. Keep Virginia safe on the streets. Thank you

CommentID: 225460

6/5/24 7:42 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Kratom mortality: Traditional opioids vs Kratom risk

Kratom, particularly its alkaloids mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine, has been shown to be less addictive and far less dangerous than traditional opioids such as morphine and heroin. This is supported by several scientific studies and comparative analyses:

Mechanisms of Action

- ****G-Protein Bias****: Kratom alkaloids exhibit a bias toward G-protein signaling over beta-arrestin pathways at the mu-opioid receptor. Traditional opioids like morphine and heroin activate both pathways, with beta-arrestin signaling being associated with adverse effects, including tolerance, dependence, and respiratory depression.
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- ****Study Results****: Research in **Addiction Biology** highlights that the partial agonist properties of kratom's alkaloids contribute to a lower abuse potential compared to traditional opioids.

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- ****Source****: Findings published in the **Journal of Psychoactive Drugs** indicate that while kratom has reinforcing properties, they are significantly weaker than those of morphine and heroin.

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- ****Severity of Withdrawal****: Withdrawal from kratom is generally milder compared to withdrawal from morphine or heroin. Symptoms are less severe and of shorter duration, indicating a lower level of physical dependence.
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- ****Clinical Observations****: Observations published in the **International Journal of Legal Medicine** support the potential of kratom as a safer alternative for managing pain and opioid dependence [Examining impairment and kinetic patterns associated with recent use of hemp-derived Δ8-tetrahydrocannabinol: case studies | *Journal of Cannabis Research* | Full Text] (<https://j cannabisresearch.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s42238-022-00146-9>).

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- ****Research Evidence****: Studies in the **Journal of Medicinal Chemistry** and **ACS Central Science** have shown that kratom's alkaloids, particularly mitragynine pseudoindoxyl, result in less respiratory depression compared to morphine [Pharmacology and effects of cannabis: A brief review | *The British Journal of Psychiatry* | Cambridge Core] (<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/the-british-journal-of-psychiatry/article/pharmacology-and-effects-of-cannabis-a-brief-review/82B02735F420CB287DCC80843FC34AE1>).

2. **Overdose Risk**:

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Conclusion

Kratom's unique pharmacological properties, including its G-protein biased signaling, partial agonist activity at opioid receptors, and lower reinforcing effects, contribute to its reduced addiction potential and significantly lower danger compared to morphine and heroin. These findings are supported by preclinical studies, user reports, and clinical observations, suggesting that kratom should not be classified as a Schedule 1 substance due to its significant differences in addiction potential and safety profile.

References

- 1. ****Kruegel, A.C., et al. "The Psychoactive Plant Mitragyna speciosa (Kratom) and Its Pseudoindoxyl Alkaloids." *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*, 2016****.
 - 2. ****Váradi, A., et al. "Mitragynine/Corynantheidine Pseudoindoxyls as Potent Opioid Analgesics with Reduced Side-Effect Profile." *ACS Central Science*, 2016****.
 - 3. ****Hemby, S.E., et al. "Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics of Kratom: Clinical Implications." *Addiction Biology*, 2019****.
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 - 5. ****NIH and FDA research on kratom****.
 - 6. ****"Pharmacology and toxicology of kratom: from traditional herb to drug of abuse." *International Journal of Legal Medicine*****.
 - 7. ****"The safety profile of kratom and its potential for lessening opioid dependence." *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*****.
- CommentID: 225461

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 7:45 pm

Kratom safety and mortality vs traditional opioids (revised)

Comparing Overdose Deaths: Traditional Opioids vs. Kratom

Traditional Opioids (Including Fentanyl) Overdose Deaths
The opioid crisis has caused a dramatic increase in overdose deaths in the United States over the past decade. Key statistics highlight the severity of this crisis:

1. **Overall Opioid Overdose Deaths**:
- More than 760,000 people have died from drug overdoses since 1999, with opioids being the primary cause of these deaths. In 2020 alone, nearly 75% of the 93,000 drug overdose deaths involved opioids [oaI_citation:1,Opioid Facts and Statistics | HHS.gov] (<https://www.hhs.gov/opioids/statistics/index.html>) [Understanding the Opioid Overdose Epidemic | Overdose Prevention | CDC](<https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/about/understanding-the-opioid-overdose-epidemic.html>).
2. **Fentanyl and Synthetic Opioids**:
- Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, has significantly contributed to the surge in overdose deaths. In 2022, there were approximately 73,654 deaths involving fentanyl, more than double the number from three years earlier in 2019 [www.cdc.gov] (<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db491.pdf#:~:text=URL%3A%20https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fnhchs%2Fdata%2Fdatabriefs%2Fdb491.pdf%0AVisible%3A%200%25%20>) [oaI_citation:4,Opioid Facts and Statistics | HHS.gov] (<https://www.hhs.gov/opioids/statistics/index.html>).
- Synthetic opioids other than methadone, primarily fentanyl, were involved in 48,006 overdose deaths in a 12-month period ending June 2020 [Understanding the Opioid Overdose Epidemic | Overdose Prevention | CDC](<https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/about/understanding-the-opioid-overdose-epidemic.html>).
3. **Historical Trends**:
- The death rate from opioid overdoses has increased dramatically over the past decade. From 2010 to 2020, deaths involving synthetic opioids like fentanyl increased by over 30 times [oaI_citation:6,Opioid Facts and Statistics | HHS.gov] (<https://www.hhs.gov/opioids/statistics/index.html>) [Understanding the Opioid Overdose Epidemic | Overdose Prevention | CDC](<https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/about/understanding-the-opioid-overdose-epidemic.html>).

Kratom-Related Deaths

In contrast, the number of confirmed kratom-related deaths is significantly lower:

1. **FDA and CDC Reports**:
- According to reports from the FDA and CDC, there have been fewer than 50 confirmed deaths involving kratom between 2011 and 2017. Many of these cases involved polydrug use, where kratom was one of several substances found in the deceased's system [Opioid Facts and Statistics | HHS.gov](<https://www.hhs.gov/opioids/statistics/index.html>).
2. **Kratom's Safety Profile**:
- Kratom is considered to have a lower risk profile compared to traditional opioids. The relative rarity of kratom-related deaths, especially when compared to opioids like fentanyl, underscores its significantly lower lethality. In the rare cases of kratom-associated deaths, other substances, including potent opioids and benzodiazepines, were often involved, complicating the determination of kratom as the sole cause of death [oaI_citation:9,Opioid Facts and Statistics | HHS.gov] (<https://www.hhs.gov/opioids/statistics/index.html>) [Understanding the Opioid Overdose Epidemic | Overdose Prevention | CDC](<https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/about/understanding-the-opioid-overdose-epidemic.html>).

Conclusion

While both traditional opioids and kratom interact with opioid receptors, the public health data clearly show a stark difference in their associated risks. Traditional opioids, especially synthetic ones like fentanyl, are linked to tens of thousands of deaths annually. In contrast, kratom, even with its widespread use, is linked to a fraction of the deaths and typically in cases involving multiple substances.

350

The significantly lower number of kratom-related deaths, combined with its potential therapeutic benefits and reduced risk of severe side effects, strongly suggests that kratom should not be classified as a Schedule 1 substance. A more nuanced regulatory approach that acknowledges its lower risk profile and potential for harm reduction in the context of the opioid crisis would be more appropriate.

CommentID: 225462

Commenter: Geoffrey M Roach

6/5/24 7:49 pm

Oppose Petition

I strongly oppose this petition to basically ban the sale and use of Kratom. Kratom has helped many people with a variety of issues. I have used it regularly for well over 2 years now, with absolutely zero negative affects.

CommentID: 225463

Commenter: Ed Arthur

6/5/24 7:50 pm

Been extremely helpful

I've been using Kratom for at least 10 years now.

And I haven't had to use any pain medications since I started it. I have chronic disc degeneration as well as two torn rotator cuff and this helps daily with pain. Please don't schedule this or take it out of the hands of consumers like us.

CommentID: 225464

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 7:52 pm

Keep Kratom legal

Having lyme disease and degenerative disc disease, I find Kratom allows me to work and live a much better life.

CommentID: 225465

Commenter: Henry

6/5/24 7:52 pm

Kratom saved my life!

Like the title says, Kratom saved my life. There are no harms that I am even aware of.

please don't schedule.

CommentID: 225466

Commenter: Sue Hess

6/5/24 7:53 pm

Kratom

I don't want you to criminalize Kratom it's my pain management because I don't want to be on OxyContin or any other pain meds that are addictive

CommentID: 225467

Commenter: Carrie Crawford

Keep Kratom Legal & regulate it

I use kratom for my plantar fasciitis so I can walk on really bad days. I don't use it every day. It's not addictive. I only take 1tsp or less of pure unadulterated kratom. It feels like taking an advil but safer for your stomach & liver. It gives me energy & puts me in a good mood. No more anxiety. Doesn't impair judgment. I can still drive a car & get so many activities done that I normally couldn't from being in pain. I only buy my kratom from approved vendors who 3rd party tests their kratom. You can find that list on AKA.com.

Kratom is not a drug. It's a plant & is part of the coffee family. It is naturally made from God to help us. It helps millions survive daily pain. Kids would not use kratom because it tastes nasty & does not get you high at all. Kratom should be a choice by all Americans. Just like Alcohol is regulated. So should kratom. Do not make criminals out of us who are in pain & kratom is the only thing that can help us. Without kratom you will kill millions because they will resort back to real drugs & opioids. You should be more worried about fentanyl & our CDC & FDA. Medical malpractice kills over \$250k year. Pure unadulterated kratom does not kill. Please regulate the gas stations extracts & other false things claiming to be kratom. Leave our kratom alone. Join Texas & keep kratom legal. Thank you

CommentID: 225468

Commenter: Sandie

Kratom has allowed me to function normally again

I have back issues for over 15 years resulting in 2 major operations. In 2010 it was much easier to be prescribed the correct medications to manage my pain before and after my 2 surgeries. Now the same medications are highly regulated and impossible to be prescribed from doctors. I was overweight, depressed, physically impaired, could not drive long distances; practically home bound. My life was unfulfilling and every activity was difficult. Sleep was continually interrupted and the level of stress due to chronic pain took its toll on me mentally, emotionally and threatened my employment. Close relationships were also affected. Pain ruled my life. I found kratom. I am able to live life very close to the way I did before my pain started over 20 years ago. I have been able to exercise again. I am losing weight. I am more successful at my work. I sleep better, feel better and I have also been able to avoid all the side effects that come from long term NSAID use or the danger of addiction with some of the needed medications. I used to drink too much alcohol in attempts to relieve my constant pain... Kratom actually enabled me to quit drinking completely. I've been told kratom can be used to kick addiction; it definitely did with my drinking. Please don't take away the only substance that works so completely for me; I never want to go back to that miserable existence PLEASE!!!

CommentID: 225469

Commenter: Susanne Bobrick

Please keep Kratom Legal

Hello, my name is Susan Bobrick and I am from West Dundee, Illinois. I have two artificial hips and one artificial shoulder, and I need the other shoulder replaced as well. This herb has helped me more than any of the pain pills the doctor has given me and it does not have any side effects. Please do not ban Kratom. I was able to get off all of the opioids the doctors were prescribing me and I am able to manage my pain because of Kratom. Kratom is a wonderful pain-killing Herb and I do not experience all the bad side effects that I do with opioids. I truly hope you do not ban this.
Thank you, Susanne Bobrick

CommentID: 225470

Commenter: Dinesh Raghavan

Keep Kratom Legal and available in Virginia

Hello

i I am a resident of VA and requesting the VA govt to keep Kratom legal in VA.

i suffer from severe upper and lower back pain including pain in my hips. Kratom allows me to keep the pain at bay. Kratom is a derivative of the coffee plant and harmless. It is a great pain reliever and far better than any dangerous medicines. as a resident and taxpayer in Virginia I am distressed that the uneducated politicians are trying to ban Kratom. You are violating my rights as a citizen and I am requesting you to reconsider and educate yourselves. I am available to present my case if you have a hearing for citizens. Kratom is a coffee plant derivative and is the best medicine for severe body pain. I have it with Tea daily and allows me to control my pain. Please invest funds on researching this medicine that is a life saver. My worry is that our uneducated politicians are getting bribed by the Pharmaceutical Industry and hence trying to ban kratom and thereby introduce chemical medicines that harm the human body.

thank you for considering what I wrote and please don't disfranchise residents of Virginia. I feel strongly about this matter as a taxpayer and want the corrupt politicians investigated who are trying to ban Kratom here in VA

CommentID: 225471

Commenter: Anonymous

Do not ban

Kratom should not be banned it saves people.

CommentID: 225472

Commenter: John Barnett

Kratom

Good day Major and members of the board,

My name is John Barnett and I live in Arlington Heights. I just wanted to share my experience with Kratom. I have been using Kratom for around 10 years and it has helped me immensely with my PTSD.

I have used it safely and have never had any adverse reactions to it. It is an herb that the American Kratom Society and many physicians have looked at and found this Herb to be very beneficial to

people. I hope you do not ban this product because this is helping millions of people across the United States just like me. This Herb, even when taking in large quantities have never caused any kind of overdose or medical issues. This is not a drug, but a very mild anti-anxiety like pain reducing Herb. Please consider this when you make a decision.

Thanks, John B

CommentID: 225473

Commenter: Michael B

6/5/24 8:03 pm

Saved my life

Good evening,
My name is Mike. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the meeting tomorrow, so I decided to express my voice in this email. I am a 49-year-old male, with 4 daughters and reside in Algonquin Illinois.
I never knew what Kratom was until a year ago. You see, I was a heavy drinker. The only escape from a hard day's work was a nice cold beer and a shot to chase it down. In my employment, my position is a demanding one. I oversee 21 employees and my position is very stressful.
Last year I went to recertify my medical examination card, which is required in my field. The news I got from the doctor was unheard of. He explained to me that my blood pressure was sky high, and he could not re certify my examination until I went to see the doctor
So now I am sitting in the Doctor's office for a visit I thought I would never need to schedule. High blood pressure. What are the odds
After several tests including blood, my doctor sat down with me and introduced me to blood pressure medicine. She told me to take pills until next visit.
The next visit was a month later. Doctor was not impressed with the results and prescribed me a higher dose of medicine.
Thats when I was introduced to Kratom.
I explained to my friend what was going on, and he insisted for me not to take the new medication. He explained to me that my problem was the alcohol.
I guess a beer and a shot was an underestimated statement. In fact, I was consuming 10 beers a night followed by 10 shots of hard liquor.
As he explained to me about the dosage and how to take it, I went ahead and tried Kratom for the 1st time.
As the next day came and I arrived at home I consumed a glass of kratom tea. A good half hour went buy and my friend had called and asked if I had taken the Kratom. I explained to him yes. His next question he asked is Have I consumed any alcohol. I told him no.
You see. After that day I no longer craved alcohol. The dosage of kratom tea subsided my temptation for alcohol.
It has been a little over a year. No alcohol. No hard liquor. Can you believe it?
No blood pressure medicine. Just the tea.
Went to the doctor and everything that was in dangerous levels have dropped dramatically to normal levels. Went from a daily 176 over 117 daily to yesterday's reading of 128 over 83. Been like that since I was introduced to Kratom. Got my examination card with flying colors. No medication whatsoever
It saved my life. I still have no urge to drink a beer after a hard day's work. My stressful job is still stressful, but I have a clearer mind approaching situations and have an easy feeling about it all now.

I can't explain what it does for everyone. I can only explain to you what it has done for me. For my family. For my employment. It saved me from a point in my life that could have ended in death.
Thank you. Hope this is many of testimonies of what people can say about how Kratom has saved them like it has saved me.

Sincerely, Mike

CommentID: 225474

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 8:04 pm

Do not ban

Kratom has been nothing but positive for me, will be incredibly disappointed if you choose to make it a schedule 1 with things like cocaine and heroin.

CommentID: 225475

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 8:05 pm

Seen several deaths

In medical legal death investigation, seen several overdoses. If there was value outside of getting high, the pharmaceutical companies would have already been involved. Just another street drug

CommentID: 225476

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 8:06 pm

Do not ban Kratom !

Kratom is one of the only safe treatments to take for helping with my anxiety, ADHD, mood, Arthritis, and back problems. I have so much relief with it please do not take away the one thing that helps me live my life with less pain.

CommentID: 225477

Commenter: Conner b

6/5/24 8:13 pm

no ban on kratom in Virginia un-American

I have been taking kratom for 5 years for my scoliosis. I cannot sleep at night without it. Kratom has improved my quality of life 10 fold, I suspect yall are on big pharma's payroll. There are currently millions of people in the world who take this plant for all kinds of ailments and use it safely, and to take that away would be disgusting and un-American, also I got to the doctor regularly and I'm still in perfect health, the stories you hear about people overdosing, these people normally have multiple drugs in there system on top of kratom or some kind of underlying health issue which could've caused there deaths anyways. Do not ban this plant. I haven't seen a valid reason anywhere for doing so.

CommentID: 225478

Commenter: Andrea

6/5/24 8:15 pm

Kratom saved my life

I don't know what I would have done if I hadn't discovered Kratom. My doctors gave up on me and had no idea how to help me with my pain. To this day they still can't truly explain why I have it. They chalk it up to fibromyalgia which is not a true diagnosis which means no access to pain management. They have restricted pain meds so much there is nothing else I can take to control the pain. They just want to push medical marijuana. I can't run my business and take care of my kids on that. I need my brain. Kratom doesn't mess with my cognitive abilities. I was in bed for weeks at a time just in tears due to pain. I tried every natural remedy you can imagine even personal training which I still do. Kratom gave me my life back. You can't over dose on it because if you take to much your body will naturally throw it up. Once you've done that once (trying to figure out my dose) you never want to do it again. I never want to be back in a position of wondering if life is worth discovered feeling helpless and a burden to my family because no one or anything can help me.

CommentID: 225479

Commenter: Chris F.

6/5/24 8:18 pm

Keep kratom free and legal

I am a chronic pain patient on Medicare. I can not take any opioids due to alcoholism. However, I can safely use kratom to treat my pain without fear of relapse. Prior to kratom I was a junky addicted to street narcotics. Kratom got me clean from a lifelong addiction. Now I am able to use kratom intermittently, as-needed. Something I was never capable of achieving on poppy-based natural or synthetic opioids. Please do not schedule this herb. If you must control it, restrict it to persons 21+.

CommentID: 225480

Commenter: Bud the real swamp water guy.

6/5/24 8:20 pm

There are people pretending to be me, Mac haddow, misteas.

Kratom saved my life. There are people who are pretending to be me on this government page. They are saying lies about me and kratom in general. They lie non stop about kratom. Please get your information about kratom from national institute of drug abuse, John hopkins school of medicine, and university of Florida. These are the places actually studying kratom. They have been allowed around 150 million dollars in funding to study kratom. There are over 300 published studies about kratom. Please find the real science and don't listen to the same 6 people that have made all these negative lying comments.

CommentID: 225481

Commenter: Cheri R.

6/5/24 8:24 pm

Kratom

Kratom is an important and helpful natural supplement that serves to help people. I have Stage 4 Pancreatic Cancer....I use Kratom to help with severe pain, mood, and anxiety, while I fight this deadly disease. Don't take that away. Kratom is important and safe.

CommentID: 225482

353

Commenter: Sheila

6/5/24 8:29 pm

Keep kratom Legal

Kratom has given me a little bit of Heaven, not the firey chronic pain from Hell.
YEA! KRATOM!!!
NAY! PETITION
CommentID: 225483

Commenter: Ralph Samuelson

6/5/24 8:33 pm

No to the petition

I do not support this nonsense. No to the ban

CommentID: 225484

Commenter: Jason ratliff

6/5/24 8:34 pm

Ban kratom opiodskill

Its a drug plain and simple

CommentID: 225485

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 8:35 pm

End this before deception gets out of hand

After failing to meet requirements for federal scheduling, it is interesting that 8 years later you too are somehow unsure about it? After W.H.O. didn't even proceed with another hearing. That FDA wouldn't appear when subpoenaed by a court recently to confirm kratom is dangerous saying - they don't yet know that it is Dangerous - that was within this past Year! After all the slander, fear mongering, outright lies,... I mean comon guys. I guess they know everyone is too busy to know what is going on.

Now go confirm what I just told you please if you do not already know what is going on.

I use kratom for a handful of hardships. To do this with Rx drugs would be rejected by my body at this point. It is the right thing that came at the right time. And it requires / respects my ability to be resourceful and solve my problems, yielding a renewed perception of possibility. That is Life. I will not invest in drugs. They are not what they promise. I do not approve of conventional medicine anymore except for urgent care. That's my choice. Nobody will take that away from me. It was the promise- freedom. Bought with human sacrifice I was told. So what do you do with a federal agency that presses down on everyone, has gone rogue, playing legal games, crafting a separate reality than life as it is and pushing propaganda relentlessly? Are they bored? No they are greedy and the legal arm of Drugs R U.S. They behave just like the cut throat pharma industry: great paying jobs that people leave. This menace is due for take down. Gutted entirely.

It's not just about kratom. I think you know that. But as for kratom, which is only one - ideally suitable tool with incredible versatility which allows me to continue. This... after over 30 years running behind my doctors to give myself what I expected from medical treatments which is nothing exotic. I wanted solutions when possible. I got that from my own efforts after poor service from controlled professionals. I can do it better than they can- even without the in depth knowledge. Knowledge can be blinding. Then a thing about purpose lost and ethics.

Leave the resource pool alone. All of you. Under the USFDA - you are being used. Drugs- You have grown big enough. Created dependencies and stuck it to the victim. Congratulations.

I do with kratom what I've done with everything else. I made it what I need it to be without trampling on others. I did the same with every part of my system. My right. My choice. Not yours. Interference in some cases equate, if indirectly - with murder of people that just need to use their capacity to solve problems and be resourceful. True success is shared, not forced like a scared bully. Let "loosers" find success with tools that don't hijack autonomy if for the first time.

Don't be a political demon. Don't interfere with well being or survival. It all needs to stop. I won't just beg and cry about it. Tolerance has an end.

CommentID: 225486

Commenter: Bernard B Zargo

6/5/24 8:36 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

My wife and I (in our mid 60's) have been using Kratom responsibly for nearly 9 years it's aided us with mental clarity minor pain relief and a little extra energy our bloodwork numbers always in positive ranges. Keep it legal !!

CommentID: 225487

Commenter: Michael Glaser

6/5/24 8:37 pm

Do NOT support!

I do NOT support this. Kratom has been used for hundreds of years and there have been no studies confirming that it's dangerous, in fact, it's quite the opposite! This is just Big Pharma trying to keep people addicted to Opioids!

CommentID: 225488

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 8:41 pm

support its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance.

Kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*) is a tropical tree native to Southeast Asia, whose leaves contain psychoactive compounds mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine. These compounds interact with opioid receptors in the brain, producing effects similar to opioids. Despite its increasing popularity in the United States, kratom has raised significant public health concerns due to its potential for abuse, dependence, and adverse health effects. This analysis evaluates kratom under the eight factors of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) to support its classification as a Schedule I controlled substance.

CommentID: 225494

Commenter: James Pumphrey

6/5/24 8:41 pm

Keep Kratom Legal!

Kratom should be kept legal it has helped countless individuals with pain. It is safe and much more safe than alternatives. Restrictions to herbal medications pushes people to Big Pharma. The corruption of writing regulations to prevent the use of natural remedies is harmful and overstep by the state. Leave people alone!

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

689/750

CommentID: 225496

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 8:42 pm

"drug of concern"

Factor 1: Actual or Relative Potential for Abuse
Kratom has a high potential for abuse, similar to other opioids. It is often used for its psychoactive effects, including euphoria, sedation, and pain relief. Reports indicate that kratom can lead to compulsive use and dependence, with withdrawal symptoms akin to those of opioids[1][6][16]. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has identified kratom as a "drug of concern" due to its abuse potential

CommentID: 225497

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 8:42 pm

potential for abuse and dependence

Factor 2: Scientific Evidence of its Pharmacological Effects
Kratom's primary active compounds, mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine, act on the mu-opioid receptors, producing effects similar to those of opioids such as morphine and heroin. These effects include analgesia, euphoria, and sedation at higher doses, and stimulant effects at lower doses[20]. The pharmacological profile of kratom supports its potential for abuse and dependence.

CommentID: 225499

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 8:43 pm

Factor 3: Current Scientific Knowledge Regarding the Drug

Current scientific knowledge about kratom is limited but growing. Studies have documented its pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics, showing that it has significant psychoactive properties and potential for dependence. However, the variability in the concentration of active compounds in kratom products complicates the assessment of its safety and efficacy

CommentID: 225500

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 8:43 pm

pattern of abuse includes both recreational use and self-treatment

Kratom has a long history of use in Southeast Asia for its stimulant and opioid-like effects. In the United States, its use has increased, particularly among individuals seeking alternatives to prescription opioids or self-medicating for pain and opioid withdrawal

CommentID: 225502

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 8:44 pm

laced with other harmful substances

Reports of kratom being laced with other harmful substances are increasing. Including it in Schedule I would help ensure safer, regulated consumption practices

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

700/750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

CommentID: 225503

Commenter: Anonymous

Schedule I classification would help

Kratom's potential to exacerbate or mask underlying mental health conditions is concerning. Schedule I classification would prevent such adverse effects

CommentID: 225504

6/5/24 8:45 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

dangerous contaminant

The unregulated market for kratom includes many products with dangerous contaminants. Including it in Schedule I would enforce stricter quality control measures

CommentID: 225505

6/5/24 8:45 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

linked to severe health conditions

Kratom use has been linked to severe health conditions, including liver damage and seizures. Classifying it as a Schedule I substance would help protect public health.

CommentID: 225506

6/5/24 8:45 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Schedule I classification would help

The ease of access to kratom through various online and physical stores poses a significant risk. Schedule I classification would help control its distribution and limit abuse

CommentID: 225507

6/5/24 8:46 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

psychoactive properties of kratom

The psychoactive properties of kratom can lead to impaired decision-making and increased risk-taking behavior. Including it in Schedule I would help prevent such dangerous outcomes.

CommentID: 225508

6/5/24 8:46 pm

Commenter: Brandon Lanier

Please keep kratom legal and safe

My name is Brandon Lanier and this is my kratom story. In 2001 while serving in the United States Army Special Operations Command at Ft. Bragg in North Carolina, I was injured during a

355

https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409

701750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

CommentID: 225509

deployment to Egypt while performing a night time Airborne Operation. I had the wind taken out of my parachute by a Cherry or new paratrooper and it didn't reinflate until I was a few feet off the ground. I injured my knees and back and was eventually medically discharged a year and a half later. In that year and a half I was prescribed Tramadol, Vicodin and Percocet often at the same time. When I got out I stayed mentally and physically in pain and was very addicted to pain killers. Losing my dream of becoming a Special Forces Operator was crushing me. I was a functioning addict for a very long time but my mental state declined pretty bad over the years and the doctors had me on about 60 pills a day. Tramadol, Vicodin, Ritalin, Clonopins, Wellbutrin, Prozac, Prazosin, and Rexulti as well as a trial injection once a month. All these meds caused me to go into a severe psychosis. At the time I was in and out of the mental ward. My last trip in I had 9 rounds of electro convulsive therapy which erased at least a decade of my memory. When I got out my cousin, who was also a paratrooper in 82nd Airborne Division and is also an ER Nurse, had destroyed his knees and back as well while serving and he had found something that saved his life so he wanted to share it with me. He sent me a small bag of kratom tea. I took it first thing in the morning when I woke up the next morning. Within 15 minutes I knew I was never going to need to take another pill ever again. I stopped all of them that day five years ago and have never looked back. I was 100% on my way out before this life saving tea was introduced to me. This tea is a true miracle. Our community is a miracle. Through it I have learned so many other natural ways to heal. It is a true blessing.

CommentID: 225509

Commenter: Anonymous

The potential for kratom to cause both physical and psychological dependence is well-documented

The potential for kratom to cause both physical and psychological dependence is well-documented. Schedule I classification would help reduce the risk of addiction.

CommentID: 225510

6/5/24 8:47 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Current Perspective on Kratom

This NIH article summarizes Kratom literature as of 2019. While it isn't risk-free. It's relatively benign and helps a lot of people. Please review: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6612999/>

CommentID: 225511

6/5/24 8:47 pm

Commenter: Anonymous

Poison Control Center Data

Data from poison control centers show a significant increase in calls related to kratom exposure. According to the National Poison Data System (NPDS), there were over 2,300 kratom-related calls between 2011 and 2017, with the number of calls increasing each year. The symptoms reported include tachycardia, agitation, drowsiness, nausea, and hypertension. Out of these calls, a substantial portion resulted in moderate to major medical outcomes, indicating serious health risks. Approximately 32% of these cases resulted in hospitalization or emergency medical treatment.

CommentID: 225512

6/5/24 8:47 pm

https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409

702750

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 8:48 pm

Fatal Outcomes

The National Center for Health Statistics reported that kratom was a cause of death in nearly 91 cases from July 2016 to December 2017. In most cases, kratom was combined with other substances, but it was identified as the primary cause of death in multiple instances.

CommentID: 225513

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 8:49 pm

Several countries have recognized the risks

Several countries have recognized the risks associated with kratom and have regulated or banned its use. For instance, Malaysia, Australia, and several European countries have controlled kratom under their respective drug laws due to its potential for abuse and health risks.

CommentID: 225514

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 8:49 pm

harm statistics

The harm statistics related to kratom use, including toxicity, addiction potential, adverse health effects, increasing emergency room visits, and rising poison control center calls, strongly support the classification of kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance. These factors indicate a high potential for abuse, a lack of accepted medical use, and significant safety concerns. Therefore, it is recommended that regulatory measures be taken to control kratom to prevent further public health risks.

CommentID: 225515

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 8:49 pm

Adverse Health Effects

Reports indicate that kratom can cause serious toxicity and overdose. The FDA has linked several deaths to kratom use, often in combination with other substances. The CDC reported that between 2011 and 2017, there were 152 kratom-involved deaths, with 91 of those deaths involving kratom as the only substance detected.

CommentID: 225516

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 8:50 pm

Support this petition - opioid-like properties

Kratom exhibits opioid-like properties, leading to dependency and withdrawal symptoms similar to opioids. Studies indicate that regular kratom users experience withdrawal symptoms including muscle aches, insomnia, irritability, and aggression. A survey highlighted that 9% of kratom users experienced severe withdrawal symptoms.

CommentID: 225517

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 8:51 pm

Keep kratom legal

Kratom has been a live saver to me and many others. Please read the real science behind this amazing plant and realize this scheduling is for the benefit of the pharmaceutical industry and not the common man you are suppose to represent.

CommentID: 225518

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 8:51 pm

Support. Serious health complications

The potential for kratom to cause serious health complications, including respiratory depression and cardiac issues, is concerning. Schedule I classification would help mitigate these risks and protect public health

CommentID: 225519

Commenter: Kyle P.

6/5/24 8:52 pm

Kratom saved my life

I was addicted to narcotic pain medication for 2 years after a back injury. I decided to quit cold Turkey and just use Advil but I had withdrawal symptoms (cold sweats, lack of sleep, restlessness, etc.)

I turned to Kratom to ease my withdrawal symptoms. This plant saved my life. I was able to not only curb my withdrawal symptoms, but I've been able to dose down consistently over the last year to where I only need a small dose of Kratom at night to sleep. I no longer think about pain medication. When used correctly, this plant is a godsend and should be available to those who need it. Banning it is short sighted, impulsive and an attack on individual liberty.

CommentID: 225520

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 8:52 pm

Evidence suggests that kratom can lead to addiction and serious health issues

Evidence suggests that kratom can lead to addiction and serious health issues. The lack of regulation makes it easily accessible, which is a public concern. Scheduling it as a Schedule I substance is a necessary preventive measure.

CommentID: 225521

Commenter: J F

6/5/24 8:52 pm

Kratom herb

Hi, I do not believe there should be any kind of law against kratom. If you did this it would be the same as making willow bark and other herbs in the same class. There has to be a line where gov stops. Herbs have been used fir many years and are the basis of much of todays medicines.

They were put here by God and no man has the right to tell another they can or cant use them. What should be done is to study them and learn to use them correctly. Then educate others on this use, just like marajuana , once thought yo be evil now has its place in the medical field. Must we always try to control things instead of embracing what it can do to help man kind. This herb has clearly been shown to have medical properties. Do not look at it in fear, look at its possibilities to help. Study it and learn. Then share. Don't make the same mistake we fid with pot. Lets do better for man kind. Do not regulate it. Thx

CommentID: 225522

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 8:52 pm

In support. potential for kratom abuse and dependency

The potential for kratom abuse and dependency is comparable to that of opioids. Given its health risks, it should be regulated as a Schedule I substance. Public safety should come first.

CommentID: 225523

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 8:53 pm

adverse effects of kratom,

The adverse effects of kratom, including potential for addiction and overdose, make it a public health threat. Strict regulation under Schedule I is essential to curbing these risks.

CommentID: 225524

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 8:53 pm

Schedule I is essential

The potential for kratom abuse and dependence is high, given its psychoactive effects. Regulating it as a Schedule I substance will help reduce these risks and protect the public.

CommentID: 225525

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 8:53 pm

unregulated

The unregulated nature of kratom makes it easily accessible and increases the risk of abuse. The adverse health effects necessitate its regulation under Schedule I.

CommentID: 225526

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 8:54 pm

CI status needed . Evidence shows that kratom can lead to addiction

Evidence shows that kratom can lead to addiction and severe health issues. Regulating it under Schedule I is essential to prevent its misuse and protect the public.

CommentID: 225527

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 8:54 pm

addictive potential

Kratom's addictive potential and the associated health risks make it a public concern. Scheduling it as a Schedule I substance is necessary to restrict its access and ensure safety.

CommentID: 225528

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 8:55 pm

Where is the FDA dose study?

all I could find was the import alert
https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/cms_ia/importalert_1137.html

CommentID: 225529

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 8:56 pm

FDA to Kratom..." And stay out!"

Import Alert 54-15

CommentID: 225530

Commenter: Chelsea W

6/5/24 8:57 pm

Kratom is SAFE and changed my life

Dear Members of the Virginia Board of Pharmacy,

I am writing to advocate for the recognition of Kratom as a safer alternative to opioids.

My opioid dependency began with prescribed pain medication. As my tolerance increased, doctors prescribed higher doses, eventually reaching unsafe levels. The side effects and overdose risks were overwhelming, and quitting resulted in severe withdrawal symptoms. Discovering Kratom changed everything. This natural herb managed my pain and alleviated withdrawal symptoms without the severe side effects of opioids. It saved my life. And Kratom continues to ease my chronic pain-leaving me opioid free since 2016

With proper research, Kratom can be a vital tool in harm reduction and recovery, offering a safer alternative to opioids.

CommentID: 225531

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 8:57 pm

FDA did not say this was safe

"Furthermore, based on FDA's review of the publicly available information regarding kratom, there does not appear to be a history of use or other evidence of safety establishing that kratom will reasonably be expected to be safe as a dietary ingredient "

https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/cms_ia/importalert_1137.html

CommentID: 225532

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 8:58 pm

FDA has raised serious concerns

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/public-health-focus/fda-and-kratom>

CommentID: 225533

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 8:59 pm

No evidence that kratom is safe or effective for IBS treatment

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8389947/>

Multiorgan Dysfunction Related to Kratom Ingestion

CommentID: 225534

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:00 pm

"Controversial Kratom Appeared to Cause Severe Ulcerative Colitis Flare"

Controversial Kratom Appeared to Cause Severe Ulcerative Colitis Flare

— Researchers strongly discourage its use in IBD patients
<https://www.medpagetoday.com/meetingcoverage/acg/106973>

CommentID: 225535

Commenter: J F

6/5/24 9:01 pm

Against making it illegal

It should not be against the law. It should be studied and understood how it helps people, like all herbs. We should be studying it, not making laws against it like pot. Pot is now a medically used substance. Stop fearing everything and understand it, learn about it and how it can help. We need to do better and stop being so afraid of everything that God created.

CommentID: 225536

3358

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:02 pm

Overdose Deaths Involving Kratom per CDC

Notes from the Field: Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths with Kratom Detected — 27 States, July 2016–December 2017

Olsen EO, O'Donnell J, Mattson CL, Schier JG, Wilson N. Notes from the Field: Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths with Kratom Detected — 27 States, July 2016–December 2017. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2019;68:326–327. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6814a2>

CommentID: 225538

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:03 pm

Possibly more dangerous when mixed with other substances

"In approximately 80% of kratom-positive and kratom-involved deaths in this analysis, the decedents had a history of substance misuse, and approximately 90% had no evidence that they were currently receiving medically supervised treatment for pain. Postmortem toxicology testing detected multiple substances for almost all decedents. Fentanyl and fentanyl analogs were the most frequently identified co-occurring substances; any fentanyl was listed as a cause of death for 65.1% of kratom-positive decedents and 56.0% of kratom-involved decedents. Heroin was the second most frequent substance listed as a cause of death (32.9% of kratom-positive decedents), followed by benzodiazepines (22.4%), prescription opioids (19.7%),** and cocaine (18.4%)."

Olsen EO, O'Donnell J, Mattson CL, Schier JG, Wilson N. Notes from the Field: Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths with Kratom Detected — 27 States, July 2016–December 2017. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2019;68:326–327. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6814a2>

CommentID: 225539

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:04 pm

Studies indicate that kratom can cause harmful health effects

Studies indicate that kratom can cause harmful health effects, including addiction and mental health issues. The lack of regulation exacerbates these problems. Scheduling it as a Schedule I substance is a necessary public health measure.

CommentID: 225540

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:05 pm

Support regulation under Schedule I

The unregulated nature of kratom makes it easily accessible and increases the risk of abuse. The adverse health effects necessitate its regulation under Schedule I.

CommentID: 225541

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:05 pm

Schedule I classification needed

Studies have shown that kratom can interact negatively with prescription medications, leading to harmful effects. These interactions can complicate medical treatments and endanger patients. Schedule I classification will help manage these risks and ensure safer medical practices.

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

CommentID: 225542

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:06 pm

misleading claims about its safety and efficacy

Kratom has been marketed with misleading claims about its safety and efficacy, creating false perceptions among consumers. These claims can lead to misuse and associated health risks. Schedule I classification will help correct these misconceptions and protect consumers from unfounded claims. Ensuring public safety requires evidence-based regulation.

CommentID: 225543

Commenter: Cliff Murdock

6/5/24 9:07 pm

Utilized properly, kratom is no more addictive than coffee

The best way I can describe responsible kratom use is that it has an analgesic effect on pain. I have used a reasonable amount for seven years and it is quite helpful with chronic pain issues. As with everything, if abused it can lead to some withdrawal symptoms. Coffee also has withdrawal symptoms. Some folks are always going to take substances to an extreme, searching for some type of high. My use of kratom has never caused intoxication. If nothing else it suppresses pain and makes me more alert. Please don't ban this substance. Due to the lack of effective, non-narcotic alternatives, kratom fills a role helping people with chronic conditions feel better and remain productive members of society. Banning is an over-reaction that is going to hurt thousands of responsible users who need non-intoxicating pain relief.

CommentID: 225544

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:07 pm

CDC 2022 data - 53 deaths in Virginia

<https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/data-research/facts-stats/sudors-dashboard-fatal-overdose-data.html>

CommentID: 225545

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:09 pm

warnings to companies selling illegal, unapproved kratom

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-issues-warnings-companies-selling-illegal-unapproved-kratom-drug-products-marketed-opioid>

CommentID: 225546

Commenter: Patty

6/5/24 9:09 pm

The "Anonymous" Fearmongering Posts From One Person

Why hide your identity? These posts come from overzealous NeoMarxists hell bent on taking away one freedom after the next. They are sick, self-centered individuals with no credible input who regurgitate the same

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

7/9/750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

mantra. Keeping once free people down is all part of the agenda. Misinformed, ignorant or just plain evil corporate shills all using the same "Chicken Little the Sky is Falling" rhetoric. CommentID: 225547

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:10 pm

misleading claims about its safety and efficacy

Kratom has been marketed with misleading claims about its safety and efficacy, creating false perceptions among consumers. These claims can lead to misuse and associated health risks. Schedule I classification will help correct these misconceptions and protect consumers from unfounded claims. Ensuring public safety requires evidence-based regulation

CommentID: 225548

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:10 pm

kratom misuse in self-medicating

There is a high potential for kratom misuse in self-medicating for pain or anxiety, leading to significant health risks. Unregulated use can exacerbate these issues and lead to severe health complications. Schedule I classification will help prevent such misuse and protect public health. Effective regulation is essential for ensuring safety.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/public-health-focus/fda-and-kratom>

CommentID: 225549

Commenter: Loren

6/5/24 9:11 pm

Kratom is natural remedy!

I suffer from a cute lower back and hip pain due to some previous injuries. Some days can be truly in eeee me with pain. The doctors always want to keep me on opioids and other drugs. A friend told me about Kratom a few years ago and it has truly changed my life. I drink a glass of kratom powder with water in the morning before work, and another in the evening after work.

It allows me to do my job efficiently, without experiencing a fraction of the pain I would normally have. I can even golf again! And i'm not relying on those addictive, destructive medications. Kratom is a natural substance that we as humans should continue to use for our benefits.

Please don't take kratom away!

CommentID: 225550

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:12 pm

Keep Kratom Legal and Pursue Making it Safer

Kom has saved me from long-standing alcoholism and Adderall use. It has the ability to treat numerous conditions, including ADHD, depression, and anxiety. It has made me a better Moore present. Father allowed me to completely cease all alcohol use, and enabled me to reduce my

<https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409>

7/10/750

Adderall usage down to only the times I truly need it. We need to do everything we can to better regulate the quality and increase clean availability. At current, the only high-quality sources are extremely expensive. Thus most folks find themselves having to use subpar and potentially tainted products. If is illegal, it will cause these folks have to turn to even more dubious sources and for someone like me like means of return to alcohol and increased Adderall usage. We need to support this miracle plant, not demonize it. There are pharmaceutical industry lobbyist, who want to shut it down because it is not patented. Ask yourself if you think someone is better off using Xanax, booze, anti-depressants and Legalized speed, or using a miracle plant provided by nature. Ask yourself what The pharmaceutical industries, vested interests really are here. Do the right thing and explore making it safer rather than attacking individual liberty and disrupting the equilibrium so many people have found.
 CommentID: 225551

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:12 pm

Factor 7: Psychic or Physiological Dependence Liability

Kratom has a high liability for both psychic and physiological dependence. Users report withdrawal symptoms similar to those of opioids, including irritability, anxiety, muscle aches, and insomnia. The potential for dependence is a significant concern, particularly given the lack of regulation and quality control in kratom products.

<https://americanaddictioncenters.org/kratom/dangers>

<https://www.bannerhealth.com/healthcareblog/teach-me/kratom-is-legal-but-is-it-really-safe>

CommentID: 225552

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:13 pm

Rising Emergency Room Visits

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) reported that emergency room visits related to kratom increased tenfold from 2010 to 2015. Many of these visits involved serious adverse effects such as seizures and respiratory depression, conditions commonly associated with opioid overdose

CommentID: 225553

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:14 pm

Polydrug Use Complications. Support Schedule I

Kratom is often used in conjunction with other substances, compounding its harmful effects. This polydrug use complicates treatment in emergency settings and increases the risk of fatal outcomes

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/wr/mm6814a2.htm>

CommentID: 225554

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:15 pm

360 Kratom can cause serious toxicity

Reports indicate that kratom can cause serious toxicity and overdose. The FDA has linked several deaths to kratom use, often in combination with other substances. The CDC reported that between 2011 and 2017, there were 152 kratom-involved deaths, with 91 of those deaths involving kratom as the only substance detected.

CommentID: 225555

Commenter: Dave

6/5/24 9:16 pm

Don't reschedule Kratom

When the opioid crisis arrived General Practitioners could not or would not prescribe drugs like Tramadol anymore. As a result I had to go to the Virginia Spine and Pain Institute in Charlottesville. There the doctors tried to upsell me on procedures to deal with my pain. After the sales pitch and after paying a considerable amount I was able to get Tramadol. Subsequently, a friend recommended I try kratom as a herbal alternative. It worked! I have been using it in moderation for several years now. It's affordable and if it was sourced properly it would be safer I suppose. If you want to do something make sure the process of preparing it is safe.

CommentID: 225556

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:16 pm

Addiction and Withdrawal

Kratom exhibits opioid-like properties, leading to dependency and withdrawal symptoms similar to opioids. Studies indicate that regular kratom users experience withdrawal symptoms including muscle aches, insomnia, irritability, and aggression.

Settle AG, Yang C. A Case of Severe Kratom Addiction Contributing to a Suicide Attempt. Cureus. 2022 Sep 28;14(9):e29698. doi: 10.7759/cureus.29698. PMID: 36321032; PMCID: PMC9616552.

CommentID: 225557

Commenter: Chris

6/5/24 9:17 pm

No kratom ban please

Please don't ban kratom it's does help me a lot for pain and has no side effects at all

CommentID: 225558

Commenter: Sean Rennen

6/5/24 9:17 pm

Keep Kratom legal

Kratom has helped me tremendously after I was honorably discharged in 2010. I tried many other solutions but Kratom was the one thing that truly helped me after I struggled with PTSD after my deployment to Iraq. Ensure this plant remains legal since I know there are many others like me that have found so many positive benefits from this plant.

CommentID: 225559

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:18 pm

Support this petition and read the article the AKA tried to get the Tampa Bay Times to retract

<https://project.tampabay.com/investigations/deadly-dose/kratom-overdose-deaths-florida-mitragynine-testing/>

CommentID: 225560

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:19 pm

Mortality Data Supports This Measure

The National Center for Health Statistics reported that kratom was a cause of death in nearly 91 cases from July 2016 to December 2017. In most cases, kratom was combined with other substances, but it was identified as the primary cause of death in multiple instances.

CommentID: 225561

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:19 pm

Kratom-related poisoning

Kratom-related poisonings have increased, highlighting its danger to public health. Classifying it as a Schedule I substance would help curb this growing problem.

CommentID: 225562

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:20 pm

Kratom has been linked to serious side effects

Kratom has been linked to serious side effects, including hallucinations, aggression, and trouble breathing. Scheduling it as a Schedule I drug would help prevent these dangerous outcomes

CommentID: 225563

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:21 pm

Scheduling kratom as a Schedule I substance would help

The lack of consistent regulation for kratom products means that their safety and efficacy cannot be guaranteed. Scheduling kratom as a Schedule I substance is needed

CommentID: 225564

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:21 pm

**30301
Kratom cause severe withdrawal symptoms**

Kratom's compounds can cause severe withdrawal symptoms, similar to those of opioids. This indicates a high potential for abuse and health risks. Scheduling it as a controlled substance is

essential for public health protection.

<https://americanaddictioncenters.org/kratom/withdrawal>
CommentID: 225565

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:22 pm

FDA will not regulate. Make schedule I

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/public-health-focus/fda-and-kratom>
CommentID: 225566

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:24 pm

15 million people do not use this

"An estimated 1.7 million Americans aged 12 and older used kratom in 2021, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health."

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/public-health-focus/fda-and-kratom>
CommentID: 225567

Commenter: Thomas Hill

6/5/24 9:25 pm

Kratom Rescheduling Proposal

To whom it may concern,

This email is to opposed the petition to reschedule Kratom to a schedule one narcotic. Users who take Kratom as a dietary substance for various health benefits should NOT be treated as criminals! Kratom is less addictive than coffee so the notion it is dangerous is simply a lie.

People should have their constitutional freedom to use what they want when it comes to dietary supplements without a nanny State dictating what they can or can't put in their own bodies.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Hill

CommentID: 225568

Commenter: Eijiah Farley

6/5/24 9:26 pm

Do the proper research to make the right decision

It is very clear that some groups have taken advantage of the online forum and are posting tons of anonymous comments and negative comments under the names of people who are vocal supporters of kratom. Don't listen to these people who are leaving the hateful, uninformed comments. Seek out the scientific studies we have available and do the proper research on kratom. I've been taking it for about 4 years now, and my life has never been better. I just graduated with my masters degree in social work, and I'm starting a job as a therapist soon. Kratom gave me relief from my back pain, as well as a boost in motivation and energy, which

greatly helped my depression and ADHD. Before kratom, I nearly lost my job and I could hardly get anything done. My life was really falling apart. With kratom, I have been able to accomplish things I couldn't before.

I have done my own research on kratom, prior to taking it, and there is way too much misinformation spreading around. Not a single person has died from a kratom overdose. The amount you'd have to take to overdose is ridiculous, and anyone would throw up before getting to that point. Any deaths claimed to be caused by kratom have been investigated, and the individuals all had illegal substances in their toxicology reports - i.e. fentanyl, heroin, etc. Fentanyl kills people; kratom does not. You can look into these cases yourself and see what really caused the deaths.

Don't take away something that has helped so many people get their lives back. A ban will absolutely result in more opioid overdoses, and it will make a lot of citizens' lives harder than they are before. Kratom is a safe and effective supplement for many ailments, and it has helped many people get away from opioids.

I'm very willing to talk to representatives if they choose to contact me by email, and I can tell you my story and what I know about kratom. I'm also enrolled in an upcoming study with Johns Hopkins hospital to help dispel some of the misinformation and provide new research to inform our representatives and citizens. I'm very passionate about this topic, and I hope you make the right decision. Thanks!
CommentID: 225569

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:26 pm

Rhode Island only reported 2 deaths due to kratom in 2022, Virginia reported 53

<https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/data-research/facts-stats/sudors-dashboard-fatal-overdose-data-accessible.html>

CommentID: 225570

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:26 pm

Kratom poses a threat to public safety

Kratom poses a threat to public safety due to its potential for abuse and lack of medical benefits. Regulating it as a Schedule I substance can help prevent misuse and related health complications.

CommentID: 225571

Commenter: Sarah Gabbay

6/5/24 9:27 pm

I do not agree

I do not agree with making kratom a protected substance. This will make it more difficult to obtain (and possibly even more expensive). Many people depend on kratom for, among other things, pain regulation and RLS control.

CommentID: 225572

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:27 pm

Schedule I substance support

The addictive potential of kratom is evident in the withdrawal symptoms experienced by many users. Classifying it as a Schedule I substance would help reduce dependency rates.

CommentID: 225573

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:30 pm

Kratom

Keep Kratom legal & keep ALL governmental agencies and the government itself out of it!

CommentID: 225574

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:31 pm

Kratom use has been linked to impaired cognitive function

Kratom use has been linked to impaired cognitive function and motor skills, increasing the risk of accidents. Including it in Schedule I would help reduce these hazards.

Mohammad Yusoff, Nurul Suhaimi, Farah & Vadivelu, Raja & Hassan, Zurina & Rümmler, Anne & Rotter, Andrea & Amato, Davide & Dringenberg, Hans & Mansor, Sharif & Navaratnam, Visweswaran & Müller, Christian. (2014). Abuse potential and adverse cognitive effects of mitragynine (kratom). *Addiction Biology*. 21. 10.1111/adb.12185.

CommentID: 225575

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:31 pm

Alcohol is legal

How many teens die from alcohol daily? How many adults? How many innocent people driving down the road are killed by a drunk driver? Until you start looking at scheduling alcohol as class 1 you should probably leave a plant that it's 99.99999% safer, alone. This plant keeps myself as well as 10,000s of others off of harder drugs and alcohol. Banning it would lead to MORE deaths, not less.

CommentID: 225576

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:32 pm

We need Schedule I classification

The unregulated sale of kratom in various forms, including pills and powders, poses significant health risks. Schedule I classification would help standardize and control its distribution.

CommentID: 225577

Commenter: Eijah Farley

6/5/24 9:32 pm

Anonymous comments

I wanted to add...please look at the comments and you'll notice the negative comments are almost all anonymous. There is someone posting several comments pretending to be Mistea, Bud, and a few others who are vocal advocates of Kratom. You'll notice most of the comments supporting kratom have a name listed. Just be aware that some people are spamming comments to this page, pretending to be different people. Don't let their comments sway your decision.

CommentID: 225578

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:32 pm

addictive nature of kratom is well-documented,

The addictive nature of kratom is well-documented, with many users developing dependency. Schedule I classification would help reduce the availability of this potentially harmful substance.

CommentID: 225579

Commenter: Tom

6/5/24 9:32 pm

Jennifer Nicole Brandt- Tell us The Real Reason You Want Kratom Banned- \$\$\$

Since when does a Pharmacy Board speak for common folk? That's right, they don't. They speak for themselves. Everyone praise the all-benevolent pharmacy representatives! What a joke! There's perhaps less than 10 people writing hundreds of fake interpretations on behalf of the industry. They are NOT on our side.

CommentID: 225580

Commenter: John Beach

6/5/24 9:33 pm

Please consider not banning

This plant causes very little societal problems. I have used it safely for years without negative results. Banning it will just cause more problems. At a time where weed use is becoming so ridiculously common, it makes no sense to legislate against another plant with fewer side effects. I am all for regulating for safety, but banning it completely will cause more harm than good.

CommentID: 225581

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:33 pm

Place kratom in Schedule I

Unregulated kratom products can vary widely in potency, leading to accidental overdoses. Placing kratom in Schedule I is needed

CommentID: 225582

363

Commenter: William Brown

6/5/24 9:34 pm

Kratom saved my life and many others

Please don't ban kratom or saved my life from alcoholism and made me a better person who can function properly.

CommentID: 225583

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:34 pm

serious health complications

Kratom can interact dangerously with other substances, leading to unpredictable and harmful effects. These interactions can result in serious health complications, including respiratory depression and seizures.

<https://www.fda.gov/media/169066/download>

CommentID: 225584

Commenter: Jen D

6/5/24 9:35 pm

I don't agree

There are so many people who can't get out of bed without this plant. It helps their pain and they can live their lives. They can take care of their kids. I truly believe the suicide rate will go up if this is banned.

CommentID: 225585

Commenter: Grant East

6/5/24 9:35 pm

Kratom is a wonderful thing

Kratom is a natural plant and can have plenty of natural benefits, just do the research! It's much safer than alcohol and even marijuana, both of which are legal. Kratom is good unless used with other drugs, all of which illegal. Like anything, it needs to be used in moderation, but even then it's actually impossible to overdose. Be adults and put your emotions aside. Understand the usefulness of this plant rather than listening to what opinionated people have to say about it. I'm not even a kratom user, but did in fact use it a few times after having the surgery to remove my wisdom teeth. It made me feel way better than the pain meds given by the doctor, and was much more effective. I didn't go through withdrawals or anything. Not only that, but it can be used to help get people off of opioids, which is a huge problem in communities throughout Virginia.

CommentID: 225586

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:36 pm

psychoactive effects makes this drug dangeroushttps://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/Kratom-2020_0_.pdf

Kratom's psychoactive effects can lead to impaired judgment and cognitive function, increasing the likelihood of hazardous behaviors and accidents. These impairments pose significant risks to both users and the public. The inconsistent legality and lack of standardized dosing further exacerbate these dangers. Schedule I classification will help mitigate these risks.
CommentID: 225587

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:36 pm

Kratom has demonstrated significant opioid-like effect

Kratom has demonstrated significant opioid-like effects, posing high risks of addiction and dependency. The absence of FDA approval for any medical use highlights the lack of validated safety and efficacy. Numerous reports of kratom-related fatalities and severe health complications underscore the urgent need for stringent regulation.

https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/Kratom-2020_0.pdf

CommentID: 225588

Commenter: Emily

6/5/24 9:37 pm

Kratom has SO many benefits and little health risks!

Someone in my life has struggled for YEARS with certain health disorders and has spent most of their life in pain. Any medication that the doctors prescribed either wouldn't work or the side effects would be so strong it wasn't worth taking the medication. Kratom is the ONLY thing that's helped them. Kratom doesn't have any negative side effects and is a natural pain relief. It will not impair you or affect you like cannabis, regardless of the rumors. It's got so many health benefits if used correctly!

CommentID: 225589

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:38 pm

Concerned about use particularly among teens and young adults

The rapid increase in kratom use, particularly among teens and young adults, is a concerning trend. Without proper regulation, these young individuals are at significant risk. Classifying kratom as a Schedule I substance will help protect this vulnerable population.

CommentID: 225590

Commenter: Erik

6/5/24 9:38 pm

No to the ban

I do not support this proposed ban there is consumer laws that are fine.

CommentID: 225591

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:39 pm

Many states have already recognized the dangers of kratom

The high potential for abuse and lack of medical validation support the need for Schedule I classification. This move will enhance public health protection.

CommentID: 225592

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:39 pm

Follow the Science

I am a 54 year-old attorney, recovering alcoholic, and chronic pain patient. God-willing, on August 20, 2024, I will celebrate 13 years of sobriety. In 1986 I was in a car accident which resulted in a diagnosis of "severe osteoarthritis." In 2010, I walked with a limp and my pain reached the point that I needed the assistance of a pain management practitioner. I am happy to say that I no longer need the assistance of a pain management physician as the amount of opioid medication I need has significantly decreased. For that, I can thank the occurrence of three events: 1) I quit drinking, 2) I lost 40 pounds, and 3) I found kratom.

There is a suggestion that kratom has "recreational use" and abuse potential. In over 25 years of practicing law—prosecution and defense—I have never had a case where kratom use has been a factor or even discussed. However, I am aware of kratom being used by those seeking to decrease or stop the use of both unprescribed and prescribed opioid medication and finding similar physical relief from pain symptoms. Those seeking an opioid inducing high—that one associates with either illicit opioid medication abuse or street drugs such as heroin—will surely be disappointed with the effect of kratom.

My dad is a member of the silent generation. He refuses to take any pain medication—even after a hip replacement. He suffers from degenerative disc disease. Although he won't take opioid medication, he will take kratom. He has found a natural way to control his pain without the negative effects that some people experience with opiates. Although effective, NSAIDS cannot be used by everyone--my Dad included.

Surely, this Board cannot have the goal of both 1) increasing overdose deaths and 2) preventing Virginians from accessing natural pain relief. Don't take it from me though—review the history of the "CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain" fiasco. As I understand it, in 2016 the CDC released prescribing guidelines which resulted in a drastic decrease in the number of opioid prescriptions being written. Meanwhile, the number of overdose deaths attributable to synthetic narcotics tripled if not quadrupled. While illicit users thought they were purchasing pain medication they were, in fact, buying illicit Fentanyl-laced narcotics. Although the CDC walked back their guideline by amending it 2022, the damage was done. Please don't make the same mistake with kratom.

People who use kratom, it is my belief—fall into two groups: 1) those, like me, who seek a safe, natural, pain relief product, and 2) those who are seeking to reduce or discontinue the use of opiate medication or illicit opiate drugs. It is easy for those in government positions to justify "writing off" a segment of a population as expendable. Keeping kratom legal for consumers age 21 and over is not going to encourage illicit use of drugs. Even the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) has taken the stance that kratom is a plant that needs to be studied not scheduled. ("NIDA supports and conducts research to evaluate potential medicinal uses for kratom and related chemical compounds." "NIDA also supports research towards better understanding the health and safety effects of kratom use. Rare but serious effects have been reported in people who use kratom, including psychiatric, cardiovascular, gastrointestinal and respiratory problems. Compared to deaths from other drugs, a very small [number of deaths](https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/kratom) have been linked to kratom products and nearly all cases involved other drugs or contaminants.") <https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/kratom>

While I don't predict the number of overdose deaths in Virginia will triple, or even quadruple, if kratom is removed from the marketplace, there will be an increase in deaths. Whether someone is seeking to reduce or quit the use of opiates, they should not have to risk the chance of taking a Fentanyl-laced narcotic they can buy off of Snapchat when they can buy a legal plant-based product with a history of safety. The death of someone's child, brother, sister, or grandchild is not a legacy this Board wants to be known for.
 CommentID: 225593

Commenter: Anonymous
6/5/24 9:39 pm
Anecdotal reports of kratom's benefits are not supported by rigorous scientific research
 Anecdotal reports of kratom's benefits are not supported by rigorous scientific research, making its use potentially dangerous. Misleading claims about its safety and efficacy can lead to misuse and serious health consequences.
 CommentID: 225594

Commenter: Anonymous
6/5/24 9:39 pm
don't
 don't ban it it had so many health benefits
 CommentID: 225595

Commenter: Anonymous
6/5/24 9:40 pm
This plant needs to be regulated, not banned
 I know so many people whose lives have been changed by this plant. I've seen it with my own two eyes. Banning it would only compound the opiate crisis. I'm almost 6 years clean and sober thanks to Kratom and I use it very sparingly and responsibly. The answer is EDUCATION and regulations for safe production and use.
 CommentID: 225596

Commenter: Anonymous
6/5/24 9:41 pm
Kratom
 Kratom has health benefits
 CommentID: 225597

Commenter: Anonymous
6/5/24 9:41 pm
Schedule I classification will help protect consumers
 Kratom has been marketed with misleading claims about its safety and efficacy, creating false perceptions among consumers. These claims can lead to misuse and associated health risks.
 CommentID: 225598

Commenter: Penny
6/5/24 9:41 pm
Kratom Broke My 15 Year Dependence on Opioids
 My spine was completely fused to a metal rod when I was 11, and now that I'm 59, it looks like a stalactite. I have a ten lb. weight limit on lifting objects. My last back doctor told me I would always need something to manage pain, especially since I also have arthritis in my back, hands, and feet. My poor feet also have fallen arches, and bunions so bad that it's too late for surgery.
 But when I take kratom, it is the only time I can stand straight and walk without limping. I don't experience any "high" or anything like that. I just feel NORMAL, which hasn't happened in the 15 years that I took opioids 3-5x a day.
 Please. Kratom has probably saved my life by making it bearable. I still can't carry grandkids on my hip, but I can sit on the floor when we put together the train set, or climb the monkey bars at the park with them. Kratom has been a true blessing.
 CommentID: 225599

Commenter: Anonymous
6/5/24 9:43 pm
Cannot find where FDA states Kratom is safe
<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/public-health-focus/fda-and-kratom>
 All FDA statements I have found have the word "not" before "safe"
 CommentID: 225600

Commenter: David Fields
6/5/24 9:44 pm
Kratom saved me!
 Kratom saved me from a 7 year pain med addiction from a broke leg and arm. I now live an addiction free life and would like to continue living that way. Please don't ban this wonderful plant.
 CommentID: 225601

Commenter: Anonymous
6/5/24 9:45 pm
Kratom overdoses treated with Narcan because it is an opioid. Please ban
 Overbeek DL, Abraham J, Munzer BW, Kratom (Mitragynine) Ingestion Requiring Naloxone Reversal. Clin Pract Cases Emerg Med. 2019 Jan 4;3(1):24-26. doi: 10.5811/cpcem.2018.11.40588. PMID: 30775658; PMCID: PMC6366391.
 CommentID: 225602

Commenter: Emily
6/5/24 9:45 pm
Comparatively better than most substances!!



Alcohol is legal in all fifty states yet is one of the leading causes of death either due to driving while drunk or overdosing/alcohol poisoning... not to mention the amount of abuse created due to it as well. Yet you all want to ban Kratom? Kratom has SO many health benefits, is non addictive, and you can't over dose on it either! You'd have to be completely uneducated to want to ban something like this. So many people with chronic illness can and DO benefit from it daily, more than any prescription medication can do for them. Don't ban Kratom because of you do, you're holding an unequal and opinion based stance on the topic which is unamerican.

CommentID: 225603

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:47 pm

"Multiorgan failure in a 38-year-old man with recent consumption of kratom". Please ban

Anees Bahji, M. Eugenia Socías, Paxton Bach, Cases: Multiorgan failure in a 38-year-old man with recent consumption of kratom, an atypical opioid, *Psychiatry Research Case Reports*, Volume 2, Issue 1, 2023, 100088, ISSN 2773-0212, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psycr.2022.100088>.

CommentID: 225604

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:52 pm

Don't ban kratom

Do not ban kratom, kratom has many health benefits and is used for people with chronic pain. It's crazy how our state wants to legalize weed which has been shown as a societal danger, when an actual drug that can help people is being considered to be banned.

CommentID: 225605

Commenter: Ty

6/5/24 9:53 pm

Don't ban

Keep Kratom legal it has given me my life back!!!

CommentID: 225606

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:53 pm

If you or a loved one is sufferings from Kratom addiction, there is help

<https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline>

1-800-662-HELP (4357)

CommentID: 225607

Commenter: B. Johnson
366
Schedule I? ABSURD.

6/5/24 9:56 pm

The misinformation dominating the public conversation about this plant is a travesty. Kratom has been a **godsend** for multitudes struggling with the horrors of opioid addiction- this is unquestionable for anyone who seriously considers the available information and testimonials. Overdose is almost impossible, and the handful of purported incidents are nearly **always** attributable to other drugs. From a harm-reduction standpoint alone, Kratom deserves **ADVOCACY** rather than criminalization. Listing the active alkaloids as Schedule I narcotics is not only absurd, it will create an enormous additional burden for the already-overstressed Law Enforcement community and Court system. It will also criminalize many thousands- perhaps millions- of ordinary, hard-working and productive Americans. Do not pursue this; it is folly.

CommentID: 225608

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:57 pm

adverse effects of kratom withdrawal can be severe

The adverse effects of kratom withdrawal can be severe, including agitation, insomnia, and other health problems. These withdrawal symptoms highlight its addictive nature and the need for stringent regulation. Schedule I classification will reduce withdrawal-related harms. Protecting public health requires effective regulation.

CommentID: 225609

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 9:58 pm

Evidence below - potential for kratom to exacerbate existing mental health conditions

Bachu AK, Singal P, Griffin B, Harbaugh L, Prasad S, Jain L, Mohiuddin S, Papudesi BN, Nagi T, Yousef NA, Chopra A, Ahmed S. Kratom use and mental health: A systematic literature review and case example. *J Addict Dis.* 2023 Nov 9;1-12. doi: 10.1080/10550887.2023.2273192. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37942896.

CommentID: 225610

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:01 pm

Add Kratom to § 54.1-3446. Schedule I

Kratom has demonstrated significant opioid-like effects, posing high risks of addiction and dependency. The absence of FDA approval for any medical use highlights the lack of validated safety and efficacy. Numerous reports of kratom-related fatalities and severe health complications underscore the urgent need for stringent regulation. Classifying kratom as Schedule I will help mitigate these public health risks

CommentID: 225611

Commenter: Raymond Pest

6/5/24 10:02 pm

Another way liberals want to keep the Whites Down.

Don't ban Kratom, it can be useful for those with chronic pain if they use in moderation.

CommentID: 225612

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:04 pm

numerous cases of toxicity associated with Kratom use

Kratom use has been linked to numerous cases of toxicity and adverse health effects reported by poison control centers. These cases often involve severe symptoms that require emergency medical intervention. The high potential for abuse and lack of accepted medical use make kratom a prime candidate for Schedule I classification. This move will help safeguard public health by restricting access and ensuring stricter regulatory oversight.

<https://www.fda.gov/science-research/fda-science-forum/kratom-related-adverse-event-reports-fda-cfsan-adverse-event-reporting-system-caers>

CommentID: 225613

Commenter: Kyle

6/5/24 10:05 pm

Please don't ban

Kratom is the only thing that helps with my chronic migraines and anxiety. If this ban goes through, I truly don't know how I'll cope with everyday life. It has been a Godsend. Please do more research from unbiased sources.

CommentID: 225614

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:06 pm

Kratom has improved my wife's quality of life

I write in support of keeping Kratom legal in Virginia. It helps chronic pain sufferers, like my wife. She has suffered covid-induced autoimmune diseases after Long-covid. As such, her rheumatoid arthritis has crippled her hands and shoulders. As she uses her hands for her living, she needs pain relief that she uses appropriately in the care of her homeopathic practitioner. With her pain-management doctor, physical therapist, and rheumatologist, they monitor her labs and check liver/kidney function. She was so miserable from chronic and acute pain- the fatigue has been crippling. Now, she is able to exercise by swimming (which helps with the pain and RA). While aware of the risks, my wife has a medical background, she weighed the risks- just as those who weigh the risks of purchasing alcohol, nicotine products, and other addictive products.

The pharmaceutical company create an Opioid crisis and state regulators and medic practitioners treat patients who suffer from chronic pain as drug-seekers. What options does my wife have left?

CommentID: 225615

Commenter: Rachel Justice

6/5/24 10:07 pm

Don't Ban. !!

This is really helpful to some of my family members. It's helped them beat addictions. I'm voting don't ban!!!

CommentID: 225616

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:08 pm

Parrots - sick people. What responsible users do

People with time on their hands to parrot FDA fraud all day. What does that say about some peoples children? We should show them first hand what "kratom alternatives" will do to suffering people without options. Stitch their eye lids open so they can't look away.

As kratom is not desired by those seeking illicit drugs, beside a very few who find enough motivation face dramatic Change in their life for the better, it will not be available on the market you do not control. But what's there is always there. You'll never control it. You never have.

Some kratom users with few or no options anymore... who have been legitimately problem solving smartly. Took suffering out of their way to fulfill responsibilities and contribute their best with the best intentions, far better than what's presented here today, suddenly betrayed by an authoritative complex that still does not understand what it's trying to dominate. You should just sit back and observe. Think and learn like natural human beings. (that's standing on your own two feet, not a protocol) These too- You do not control.

Pain and suffering are ultimate motivators. People find relief one way or another. Freedom from indignity as well. Extreme cases will end in death by the only options left and intentionally! And otherwise. Family and friends will be who you answer to. And yourself when you can no longer make it make sense. Regret is the worst suffering of all. But by all means - destroy what is right.

CommentID: 225617

Commenter: Teddy

6/5/24 10:08 pm

Kratom helps my family

I have three family members with chronic pain. All three are prescribed all the standard pharmaceuticals (Vicodin, Oxy, Norco, etc), yet they all have seemed to have banded together in preference of Kratom. It is believed to be a healthier option - one that is natural and one where the dose is better controlled.

I myself have tried it a handful of times from my curiosity and worry of my loved ones. It is not for me, but I must say it is not a dangerous substance. This is why I write today.

Kratom is simply a medicinal plant. There is no reason that Americans should be restricted from medicinal plants, especially when the use-case is for pain management and NOT recreation. It makes me ashamed as a proud American that these pain solutions would be regulated to a point of criminality.

Please don't limit our freedom of choice, especially when it comes to healthcare. Let my family be free to make their own decisions.

Thank you,

Teddy

CommentID: 225618

Commenter: Julie Rauch

6/5/24 10:10 pm

Follow the Science Against Scheduling Kratom

The CSA sets specific and intentionally restrictive standards for scheduling of substances in Schedule I, including conclusive scientific and legally defensible proof that the substance has (1) a high abuse potential; and (2) there is a lack of accepted safety for use of the drug or other substance under medical supervision. Kratom is not an opioid, it is a natural supplement made from the leaves of a tropical tree native to Southeast Asia and a relative of the coffee plant. In the U.S., kratom has been used as an herbal supplement by consumers for managing their personal health and well-being. Numerous scientific studies, including studies funded by the NIH, have shown the addiction potential for kratom is substantially lower than that of "narcotic-like opioids" and it does not produce the deadly respiratory depressant effects that is the primary cause of opioid overdose deaths. Kratom does not fit the criteria for a schedule I substance. The FDA is wrong on the science, and wrong on the policy. Other federal and international agencies have carefully evaluated the FDA's claims and they find they lack sufficient evidence to support the FDA claims.

On December 1, 2021, the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence at the World Health Organization and the U.S. Commission of Narcotic Drugs, comprised of 12 international experts on substance safety and addiction, unanimously concluded that there was insufficient evidence to recommend a critical international scheduling review of kratom.

On March 16, 2022, a letter from HHS Secretary Becerra acknowledged "knowledge gaps" on kratom and that "kratom-involved overdose deaths have occurred after use of adulterated kratom products or taking kratom with other substances."

As of today, 9 states have passed similar versions of the Kratom Consumer Protection Act (KCPA): Utah, Georgia, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, Colorado, Oklahoma, West Virginia, and Virginia. The Texas Senate passed the KCPA on a vote of 28-2 on March 16 and is now being considered by the Texas House. Additional states currently deliberating on KCPAs are Kansas, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Tennessee, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Florida, North Carolina, Arkansas, Louisiana, South Carolina, Vermont, Wisconsin, and Rhode Island.

Banning kratom would have a significant impact on my quality of life. I was born with hypermobile Ehlers Danlos Syndrome, hEDS (a connective tissue disorder), tethered spinal cord, and syringomyelia, a painful, progressive untreatable spinal cord condition. I've undergone four neck surgeries, two spinal cord surgeries, and one brain surgery. Since stopping my opioid pain medications in 2017 and using kratom, I have become a board-certified patient advocate and manage a support group of over 530 people who also have the conditions I do. I have created presentations and given lengthy talks to the support groups and non-profit organizations. I speak with people across the country who are newly diagnosed to help them start their long journey living with these conditions. Narcotic pain medication kept me in a fog, something that has resolved since stopping opioids. I have become the person I wanted to be again- a mom, wife, volunteer, and use my nursing skills to advocate for the thousands of people with rare diseases and chronic illnesses.

As our country continues to deal with the damage and pain the opioid crisis is causing our communities, it is important to consider all scientific research that has been conducted on the use and safety of kratom. Banning kratom will block the research that will help us better understand kratom's risk and benefit profile. However, I do believe, should the DEA schedule kratom through the CSA, it will greatly reduce the public's ability to conduct this important research. I am concerned that any scheduling of kratom would likely create a substantial illicit market where consumers would be put at significant safety risks, or drive consumers to the dangerously addictive and potentially deadly use of opioids.

Again, I only ask that you do your due diligence and review **all** data and make an unbiased decision. I have long trusted that the United States government represented its citizens and that

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the members of all three branches and government agencies make decisions based on what is best for the people. It is with a heavy heart that I feel decisions such as banning kratom are not made to protect me. They are made to protect large corporations and powerful people with special interests. It is your obligation to consider all of the scientific research and data available on kratom before deciding to schedule kratom.

Some of the information from this comment is available through the American Kratom Association and published, scientific studies. I am happy to provide those documents if needed.
CommentID: 225629

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:11 pm

Poison Control 2022 Annual Report shows 1278 cases involving Kratom.

<https://piper.filecamp.com/uniq/P2nQIZD7062jaPpg.pdf>

CommentID: 225620

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:13 pm

Regulate same as you do your precious beer and alcohol

Alcoholism kills. Alcoholism withdrawal is deadly. I lost my loved one to an alcohol withdrawal. I have not lost anyone that I know to Kratom. It saved them from the poison sold on every corner in every gas station, restaurant and grocery store. Alcohol and tobacco are a fat bigger threat to anyone's health than Kratom. Educate yourself follow the American Kratom Association. They spread truth in this corrupt nation of lies.

CommentID: 225621

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:14 pm

Kratom's psychoactive effects can lead to impaired judgment

Kratom's psychoactive effects can lead to impaired judgment and cognitive function, increasing the likelihood of hazardous behaviors and accidents. These impairments pose significant risks to both users and the public. The inconsistent legality and lack of standardized dosing further exacerbate these dangers. Schedule I classification will help mitigate these risks.

CommentID: 225622

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:15 pm

Place in Schedule I - known interaction with opioid receptors

The active compounds in kratom, such as mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine, interact with opioid receptors in the brain, leading to similar risks as opioids. These include severe withdrawal symptoms, dependency, and potential for overdose. The unregulated nature of kratom products further increases these risks due to inconsistent potency and possible contamination. Schedule I classification is essential to control these dangers effectively

CommentID: 225623

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:16 pm

Where is the FDA factor analysis? NONE EXISTS DO NOT BAN

If the FDA cannot produce their analysis proving what they spew then there is no risks that they claim

Big pharma wants us all to have to stay hooked on their medications and slaves to their expensive medication. I prefer nature. Nature heals and God created this plant for reasons! Look at God! Let God lead the way as his holiness has brought this miracle. It is helping my father with cancer to deal with pain and that is better than anything he has been given.

CommentID: 225624

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:16 pm

Keep Kratom legal!

Kratom should absolutely remain legal! It is a far safer alternative to all prescribed opioids out there, and it is also far safer than alcohol or tobacco. It has helped many people quit alcohol and helped just as many with chronic pain, depression, anxiety, and all sorts of other conditions. Kratom is not a dangerous substance. I know many people who have taken it for years and never developed any serious health condition. This is morally reprehensible. We the people should have the right to choose what we consume. This is nothing but an angry money-grab by big pharmaceutical companies with the FDA doing the dirty work. The same people who are using Kratom now for their conditions may instead turn to Fentanyl or Heroin if Kratom is made illegal, and then they will likely overdose and die. Kratom is impossible to overdose on. Keep it legal!

CommentID: 225625

Commenter: Michael Fasano

6/5/24 10:18 pm

Please don't ban kratom. Consider regulation

My name is Michael Fasano, I'm 38 years old, work as an Implementation Specialist, and an Illinois resident. I would like to share my experience of being a kratom consumer for 15 years. Kratom tea, in addition to chamomile, has helped me relax and promote sleep as I struggle with my chronic insomnia issues on a nightly basis. Kratom has also helped provide relief in easing my joint and muscle pain tremendously, without impairing or harming me. I'm a physically and mentally healthy young man, law abiding citizen to my community, hold a productive job, and very active in dance as well as Teakwondo. I feel blessed that it's been this helpful for so long.

Please do not ban kratom. Please consider a regulatory bill route. Numerous states have passed the Kratom Consumer Protection Act bill and others have it currently in legislation making it's way through the process. It's a strong well rounded bill that guarantees top quality standards, ensuring natural kratom is not adulterated or contaminated. It also includes age restrictions which I also strongly support. Please do not ban kratom and criminalize the many citizens who are benefiting from kratom as a natural remedy.

Thank You,

Michael

CommentID: 225626

369**Commenter:** Anonymous

6/5/24 10:19 pm

Kratom has been used for CENTURIES

Kratom isn't new. It has been used for CENTURIES. Ban this and then you are banning the choice of the people. Millions of us use this everyday with no problems. If Kratom kills I would have died 12 years ago. It is a LIE. So many fentanyl analogues and migraines how would any toxicologist be able to say without a doubt that unknown novel analogues are not responsible for the claimed "Kratom deaths"? Focus on tianeptine, fentanyl, Nitazine, xylazine not this leaf that SAVES LIVES

Watch the documentary Leaf of Faith. It says it all there.

Without Kratom I'd die. I would be another statistic. I would be dead.

CommentID: 225627

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:20 pm

Support Schedule I Classification

The unregulated market for kratom allows for contamination with harmful substances, posing significant health risks. Users cannot be sure of what they are consuming, increasing the potential for adverse effects. Schedule I classification is essential for Virginia. Protecting consumers from these risks is paramount.

CommentID: 225628

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:22 pm

Support Alternatives to Addictive Opiates

Kratom is an effective and safer alternative to addictive opiate based painkillers which are destroying families and communities across the country. It should be considered in that context as a much lesser evil. Where is the data on kratom overdoses or addictions? We already have that with opiates. Based on the facts, there are no grounds on which banning Kratom makes logical sense.

CommentID: 225629

Commenter: Ashley B.

6/5/24 10:22 pm

From a Patrick County, VA Native Deeply Concerned About the Dangerous Misinformation Found Here

The comments on "Kratom deaths/overdoses" and other such misconstrued info is dangerously misleading.

Kratom has been used for centuries. Kratom isn't directly linked as a contributing factor in overdoses that I see mentioned here. These "Kratom-positive" overdoses? The overdose and death is not due to Kratom. We have to assume the deceased was also "caffeine positive" and maybe "nicotine positive" and perhaps "ibuprofen/acetaminophen positive" as well. These individuals overdosed due to the Fentanyl, heroin, or prescription opioids they had taken. And only 900ish of these are Kratom positive? Out of the MILLIONS of overdoses in this country? This means it should be banned? Please.

They likely had Kratom in their system because they were making an attempt to start getting better, bless their souls. THIS is what Kratom does relating to the opioid crisis- it helps people who are committed to getting better by giving them a natural, inexpensive option to try- and if they're lucky, it helps. If the individuals were "Kratom positive" at the time of their death because they were looking for some sort of high from it - beyond a short-term minor caffeine like energy boost - they were most certainly gravely disappointed with Kratom.

It should go without saying that someone could be injured due to tainted Kratom - this is a different situation. In this case, what they've used is not truly Kratom. Anything tainted can be very bad - which is why people have been asking for safe regulation.

The science simply doesn't support any bans, and I have to wonder who these people are who are pushing these dangerous narratives versus being willing to support regulation. Who are you? Drug companies looking to make all the bucks you can? Drug dealers who hate to see a customer become a recovering, former customer? Someone who doesn't understand the nature of chronic pain and/or addiction disease, and needs a dangerous hobby? I simply don't understand. I don't want to see my beautiful home state be whisked down the wrong path on this.

We are in so much trouble in our country due to the opioid crisis. If this plant can help even one person to stay clean, get clean, or to make better choices - why would anyone dare to want to take that away?

CommentID: 225630

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:22 pm

Do not schedule this it is a plant not a drug

Mitragyna Speciosa is a plant that is native to Southeast Asia. It has been helping to treat pain and other ailments while we encounter the war of fentanyl ravaging our fellow Americans. You can't say this is deadly with the amount of deaths fentanyl and alcohol have caused. How can you see this as a threat and open borders with Chinese fentanyl analogues sent over to Mexico and them making fentanyl and sending it into our borders? This is a savior.

Schedule Kratom and more people will die. More than the "deaths" that are falsely said to be because of Kratom hogwash!!!!!!!!!!!!

CommentID: 225631

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:23 pm

Kratom has been marketed with misleading claims. Follow Rhode Island's Example

Kratom has been marketed with misleading claims about its safety and efficacy, creating false perceptions among consumers. These claims can lead to misuse and associated health risks. Schedule I classification will protect consumers from unfounded claims. Ensuring public safety requires evidence-based regulation.

CommentID: 225632

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:25 pm

support kratom as Schedule I for mental health

Myxsa Baez Nunez, Annika Dhingra, Myra Dhingra, Rachael Kossack, Monica Dhingra, Kratom's rising role in the potential exacerbation of mental health disorders: A case report and review of the literature. *Psychiatry Research Case Reports*, Volume 1, Issue 2, 2022.

100069, ISSN 2773-0212, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psycr.2022.100069>.
(<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2773021222000621>)

The potential for kratom to exacerbate existing mental health conditions is significant, posing risks to vulnerable individuals. Its psychoactive effects can worsen these conditions and lead to severe health complications. Classifying kratom as Schedule I will help protect these individuals. Effective regulation is crucial for public health
CommentID: 225633

Commenter: Anon

6/5/24 10:26 pm

Health risks? NO. Just scare tactics.

Kratom should be as legal as a box of cereal. Kratom has saved so many lives from destruction or death. Including mine. It is simply unconscionable to ban or heavily regulate this item.

CommentID: 225634

Commenter: Psychiatric Assistant

6/5/24 10:28 pm

Mental Health Professional

I have seen success with sobriety via the use of Kratom, pure plain leaf and unadulterated. I cannot begin to emphasize how many who are sober have told me that this single plant is what has kept them from using illicit drugs. I see many on a daily basis in detox and rehab. The problem is never Kratom, it is everything else. I see life coming back into the eyes of patients and their family having hope they once swore was long gone. Our young Americans are dying left and right and I try to help as many as I can.

When we can't help, others find solutions. Kratom is one I have had come up again and again as being what has helped. More outpatient patients are surviving addiction and being healed from it because of Kratom. Inpatient detox tends to have the same individual come back after their next relapse. This is highly correlated as Kratom helping with a hellacious addiction!

I as a medical professional applaud this plant and all of the activists and advocates who do their due diligence about it.

Kratom is a savior!

CommentID: 225635

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:32 pm

Poison Control - Out of the 1278 kratom exposures in 2022, 67 were in children less than 5y/o

Yet it is still sold as candy and in zip lock bags in Virginia

CommentID: 225636

Commenter: Recovered heroin addict

6/5/24 10:33 pm

Kratom saved my life

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

I first heard of Kratom from a friend. In desperation I tried some when in full withdrawal from fentanyl heroin. I couldn't believe that it took it all away and left me a sober and sound person. I have been revived! The good Lord gave me another chance and his creation, Kratom, is the reason I live. Subs didn't work, methadone made me a functioning addict and abstinence helped to almost kill me when I relapsed. I have overdosed too many times to keep track of from fentanyl heroin. I have not overdosed or had any bad experiences for 3 yrs now.

I am sober and clean because of Kratom. I would not be alive without it. Please keep Kratom unscheduled and legal! It saved my life!!!!!!

CommentID: 225637

Commenter: Aaron Z

6/5/24 10:34 pm

Support legality of Kratom and protect the rights of Virginia citizens to access this low-risk plant

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed ban on Kratom in Virginia. Specifically, I do not support the petition requesting that the Board amend 18VAC110-20-322 to classify Kratom as a Schedule I criminal substance. A ban would negatively impact me and scores of law-abiding, responsible citizens.

Kratom is a valuable supplement for many individuals, providing relief from chronic pain, improving mood and general well-being without the risks associated with other, more dangerous substances. Banning Kratom would unjustly criminalize its use and deny many people a natural alternative that has significantly improved their quality of life.

Kratom is also a promising alternative to addictive prescription or illicit substances and has a lot of potential for use by those recovering from addictive substances, and banning it would deny people the right to use it as well as stop valuable research from being done on its benefits.

I urge the Board to carefully consider the evidence and the testimonies of those who have benefited from Kratom. Implementing a ban would be a detrimental step that overlooks the positive impacts this substance has had on countless Virginians and criminalizes a safe and natural supplement which is not mentally impairing and supports general well-being.

Do not add the natural herbal supplement Kratom to a category of illegal Schedule 1 substances. There is no conclusive evidence indicating that Kratom is harmful, and numerous reports highlight its benefits in improving the quality of life for many individuals.

According to addiction expert Jack Henningfield, Ph.D., of Pinney Associates, the addiction risk profile of Kratom is similar to that of coffee. Additionally, a group of scientists has sent a letter to the federal government opposing the ban on Kratom, and have continued to testify to federal, state, and local government officials to demonstrate that there is early empirical and testimonial evidence underscoring its safety and benefits and no conclusive evidence that Kratom is harmful or unsafe.

As a concerned citizen, I strongly oppose the proposed ban on Kratom in Virginia. Personally, it has been extremely helpful and useful to me in managing chronic pain from a car accident and a cervical radiculopathy (pinched nerve in the neck) as well as for alleviating migraine headaches. I have not experienced any adverse side effects or problems with this supplement. Banning Kratom would hinder research and potentially push individuals towards more dangerous opioids.

Kratom is not a threat to public health. Our citizens should have the right to use this supplement as they choose. I do believe Kratom should be regulated for quality to prohibit contaminants and potential adulteration as in the Kratom Consumer Protection Act that Virginia has adopted.

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https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409

733/750

6/6/24, 4:22 PM

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall View Comments

All Kratom vendors I have purchased Kratom from use good manufacturing practices as are the standard of safety and quality in the supplement industry, as well as publish test results for all batches of Kratom leaf products they sell for contamination by microorganisms, mold, heavy metals, etc. The vendors also destroy any contaminated or nonconformant batches rather than sell them to the public. I urge you to support the continued legality of Kratom and to protect the rights of Virginia residents to access this beneficial herbal supplement.

Thank you for your consideration.

- Aaron

CommentID: 225638

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:34 pm

Compared to "Legal Morphine"

"Companies sell kratom without dosing instructions, a list of ingredients or, sometimes, any label at all — leaving customers to determine product safety on their own. Vendors often brag about the strength of their kratom, marketing powders and liquid shots as "powerful," "most potent" and "long-lasting." Yet the majority of products tested by the Times failed to disclose their intensity on labels. One packet of pills was so enhanced a scientist compared it to "legal morphine.""

Tampa Bay Times "PART 1: Hundreds died using kratom in Florida. It was touted as safe."

https://project.tampabay.com/investigations/deadly-dose/kratom-overdose-deaths-florida-mitragynine-testing/

CommentID: 225639

Commenter: Jaime Pearson

6/5/24 10:35 pm

Keep kratom legal

Please keep kratom legal I was in a horrific home invasion I was injured I was then prescribed Vicodin and got addicted from there I went on the street stealing and committing crimes I eventually went to the methadone clinic after losing all our money to pain pills and lost both cars from repo because once again all our money went to pain pills Vicodin and OxyContin so that I would not be sick even on methadone I still got into trouble with the law and my dose just went up up for 3 years then I quit methadone cold turkey and I was sick for months someone told me about kratom and I tried it I didn't get high I simply just wasn't sick with withdrawal anymore I could sleep I could eat I have never been in trouble with the law while using kratom in 13 years of using kratom I have my life back like it was before pain pills or methadone I have great relationships with my kids and my husband I'm part of choir volunteering in the nursery at church and I have had the same job for 9 years I am a model citizen and proud to say that I'm all natural using kratom please keep kratom legal thank you

CommentID: 225640

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:36 pm

"Pinney Associates earned at least \$152,000 in 2017-18 to produce pro-kratom science."

https://www.courthousenews.com/the-law-and-the-profits-inside-kratoms-political-underbelly/

CommentID: 225641

https://townhall.virginia.gov/LVViewComments.cfm?petitionid=409

734/750

Commenter: Mason

6/5/24 10:37 pm

Scheduling Kratom will harm our communities

If kratom is listed as a schedule 1 drug it will only harm our communities. This is not an opinion, this is a fact supported by overwhelming evidence. All research into the efficacy of our drug scheduling system points to one conclusion: it fails miserably at reducing the harm caused by these drugs, and instead ruins lives. Moreover, kratom is used responsibly by hundreds of thousands of Americans. It is very safe, and even a critical treatment for people fighting opioid addiction. Scheduling Kratom would be a horribly misguided decision.

CommentID: 225642

Commenter: A concerned mother

6/5/24 10:41 pm

I DO NOT SUPPORT

My kids are alive and thriving. They are working, taking care of their children, well kempt and have their heads on their shoulders. This wasn't always our story. I found each of my children after they overdosed from heroin. Over the years, my one child has had brain injuries although she survived. Have you ever seen your child on a ventilator fighting for their lives? Take Kratom away and that may end up being your life.

If you schedule Kratom, you are sentencing my children back to square one. Please do not schedule Kratom. It has givee my kids back. It has given my grandchildren their parents back. It has given all of our lives back. I stand with Kratom!

CommentID: 225643

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:42 pm

Per DEA - can lead to psychotic symptoms, and psychological and physiological dependence

A requirement for Schedule I placement

https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/Kratom-2020_0.pdf

CommentID: 225644

Commenter: One of millions of consumers

6/5/24 10:45 pm

KDA and FDA want it away but it MUST stay!

If Kratom is deadly and causes all of these problems, why am I alive? 16 year user since before anyone had issue with it. There are no issues. Where are the statistics of this plant being factually dangerous? The FDA did not bring forth proof when they are supposed to be. Where is that proof? Oh, it doesn't exist. You can't patent a plant and you can't charge people the astronomical cost of prescription meds. This is a big pharma situation and we all saw where they lead us with oxycontin. I don't trust the government to do anything right. Please prove me wrong by not scheduling Kratom.

CommentID: 225645

Commenter: Shannon P.

6/5/24 10:46 pm

Helped me so much in getting away from dangerous drugs from big pharma

This leaf is the only thing that has helped me get off of big pharma pain meds. It is safe and effective at controlling my daily pain, and has kept me from going to the street to score from a drug dealer. The harder you guys crack down on a natural remedy the more people you are sending to their graves through elicit drug usage. You should be focusing on drug dealers and not a tea!

CommentID: 225646

Commenter: Kelly

6/5/24 10:48 pm

Please don't ban!!!!!!

Chronic pain patient here. I was completely taken off my opioid pain medications and put on the most addictive medication of all. Buprenorphine. Kratom is helping my pain and reducing my need for Buprenorphine. Please give these people who are suffering a chance to get Kratom. Please do not ban what works for people suffering!

CommentID: 225647

Commenter: KRATOM SAVES LIVES

6/5/24 10:48 pm

KRATOM SAVES LIVES

KRATOM SAVES LIVES! 7 YRS SOBER THANKS TO KRATOM! I DO NOT SUPPORT! REGULATE IT DONT SCHEDULE! REGULATION MAKES SENSE.

CommentID: 225648

Commenter: Melissa

6/5/24 10:50 pm

Kratom helped me to get back to work!!!

Kratom is a great alternative for those suffering from pain and other health ailments!!

Majority of users are looking for natural ways to get back to work, become more active and productive!! Please do not take away that opportunity and criminalize innocent people!!

CommentID: 225649

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:51 pm

Beware of Addiction - Child Mind Institute

<https://childmind.org/article/kratom-a-legal-drug-thats-dangerously-addictive/>

CommentID: 225650

Commenter: Lynn Hiker

6/5/24 10:54 pm

We the people come before anonymous commented lies

The majority of anonymous comments are all negative. This could be one person posting the same rhetoric. Kratom saved my life. I used to sell everything I had for fentanyl and meth. Yes, my own body also. I have been clean 5 yrs thanks to Kratom. I couldn't believe it would help because I didn't feel much other than withdrawal lessened. Over time, I found myself to gain days upon days of being clean. I work hard, I'm about to get my doctorates in Mental Health to be a LCP. I want to help others who were like me. Without Kratom you are leaving many in the dark. Kratom is a light in the dark world of fentanyl poisoning. It is the light at the end of the tunnel. Listen to us who are real people and consumers. Listen to our first hand accounts. I want to stay sober and continue my life. Please don't rip that away from me!

CommentID: 225651

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 10:56 pm

Kratom is a Cousin of the Coffee Plant

Kratom is a cousin of the coffee plant. I do not support scheduling a tree.

CommentID: 225652

Commenter: Jack Smith

6/5/24 10:58 pm

8.5 years clean thanks to kratom

After I got to clean about three and a half years ago, a buddy of mine from Indonesia called me and said, "Jack you have to try this. I know how depressed you are." Smith described. "So he sent it to me, and I literally cried the first time I tried it. It was the first time I felt like the Jack I knew years ago before I started the pills. If you ask me, it's going to affect so much of pharmaceutical sales. That's just my heart, when you affect somebody's income... Suboxone, the pain pills, opiates... whatever it is. I get it but to come in and say, "we're making this a schedule one drug. Do not schedule it, do not ban it, you will regret it."

CommentID: 225653

Commenter: MRB

6/5/24 10:59 pm

Keep Kratom Legal

Do not make the terrible decision to outlaw it.

CommentID: 225654

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 11:02 pm

373
Kratom

Keep Kratom freely available to people who need it. Do not make it a schedule drug.

CommentID: 225655

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 11:02 pm

If you, a friend or loved one is using Kratom, please visit Virginia's Naloxone site

Narcan saves lives!

<https://dbhds.virginia.gov/behavioral-health/substance-abuse-services/revive/>

CommentID: 225656

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 11:04 pm

No Ban on Kratom!

NO BAN on Kratom! People's lives depend on this!

CommentID: 225657

Commenter: Ed

6/5/24 11:06 pm

Scheduling Means More Harm

Designating kratom leaf powder Schedule I will not save lives nor prevent addiction. It would deprive persons with chronic illnesses a safe means to manage pain and fatigue. Continued scientific study of the compounds found in Mitragyna Speciosa is needed. The leaves of this tree have been used by humans in Southeast Asia for centuries, and the social fabric has not frayed. Kratom gives farm laborers the stamina to work long days. Its anti-spasmodic effects have been harnessed. It's used to treat diarrhea as folk medicine in rural areas afflicted by dysentery. And kratom has been used historically to attenuate the misery of opium withdrawal. In short, it's a marvelous herbal, offering relief to persons everywhere, especially those outside of mainstream medicine.

Scheduling kratom would take these benefits away for our citizens. Many rely upon it to relieve chronic pain, and others, as a means to cease the use of deadly narcotics like Fentanyl. Why would we want to wall off kratom behind a Schedule I wall while the Fentanyl crisis rages on? I am aware of many cases where harm reduction was achieved by the use of kratom.

Many of us seek to create a sensible regulatory scheme. The placement of this herbal into Schedule I defies the purpose of this category. In fact, kratom doesn't meet the criteria for Schedule I. For one thing, the FDA has not yet settled the matter of kratom's potential dangers. An escalatory dosing regimen on 40 study participants did not show serious adverse events. For another, Schedule I is limited to those compounds thought to have no legitimate medical use. It's totally premature to declare that the compounds in Mitragyna Speciosa have no value to mainstream medicine. The path to amazing new drugs may run through kratom. There's so much research yet to be done. Placing kratom in Schedule I forecloses opportunities for scientific gain.

Please deny the petition as written. Instead, work with the kratom community to develop sensible and nuanced regulations. For example, protocols to assure purity and standardized dosing are much needed. Kindly consider the Federal Kratom Consumer Protection Act (KPCA), introduced by Sen. Mike Lee in 2023 (S.3039).

CommentID: 225658

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 11:06 pm

Kratom Linked to Seizures

"In the deaths reviewed by the Times, 10 people who overdosed solely on kratom had previously suffered at least one seizure. Four had an apparent seizure when they died."

<https://project.tampabay.com/investigations/deadly-dose/kratom-overdose-deaths-florida-mitragynine-testing/>

CommentID: 225659

Commenter: Dylan

6/5/24 11:08 pm

Kratom saved my life and continues to

it requires personal responsibility and kratom isn't perfect by any means but for those who need it it's life changing, myself included. If the argument is that it's potentially habit forming and people have died from taking it then we need all alcoholic beverages, cigarettes and candy out of every store. The safety profile of kratom next to alcohol - it's not even close and we aren't sitting here talking about a potential ban on alcohol.

We all know this is about profit. Profit over people's lives. Please do the right thing and regulate kratom requiring it to be lab tested etc. do not take this medicine away from the veterans, those in chronic pain and the mentally ill. That's who uses it.

CommentID: 225660

Commenter: Samuel Preston

6/5/24 11:10 pm

5 years clean after 20 year addiction

5 years clean after 20 doctor induced addiction to opioids suboxone methadone the cures were worse than oxycodone but let's remember big pharma doesn't get any money if we get clean Kratom saved me and my wife's life god bless Kratom

CommentID: 225661

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 11:10 pm

Plant

Let's pump the brakes on the whole 'authoritarian attempts to dominate nature' perspective, as well as treating grown adults like children please. Thank you.

CommentID: 225662

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 11:16 pm

374 Kratom for Pain

People in chronic severe pain or intractable pain have limited options for pain relief and Kratom helps some. Please stop taking away peoples' options for pain relief and see:

<https://paintreatmentforall.com> (for info on the people who have died because of a lack of pain relief or medical care)

CommentID: 225663

Commenter: Spencer

6/5/24 11:19 pm

8 million people a year die from tobacco use but not a peep about that. It's all about FDAs money

Kratom absolutely saved my life after multiple spinal operations that left me with debilitating nerve pain and a need for strong narcotic medications. Those strong narcotic medications almost killed me on three separate occasions. Ever since I discovered Kratom at the end of 2018 my life has been so much better, my quality of life has been so much better, my health has been so much better. After 6 months of using Kratom I no longer had stage one hypertension. I get blood work done every 6 months and it's always been perfect since I started using kratom. Kratom has been used for thousands of years in Southeast Asia. 8 million people a year die from tobacco use, 1.3 million of those people have never used a tobacco product yet were still killed by other people's tobacco usage, not a single peep from the FDA... last year there was less than 1,300 reports to poison control regarding kratom. The hypocrisy of the FDA is truly sickening.

CommentID: 225664

Commenter: EM

6/5/24 11:19 pm

Leave Kratom alone

Keep Kratom accessible for those who need it. This leaf is useful for so many people. God put many plants on this earth for us to use and no one has the right to restrict anyone from self medicating. Virginia-put a stop to the pharmaceutical community from trying to control our herbal resources! Say NO to making Kratom a scheduled substance.

CommentID: 225665

Commenter: AJ

6/5/24 11:25 pm

Do Not Schedule Kratom

Scheduling kratom may save a few people from harm rarely caused by its use, but so many more will be harmed or killed if kratom is not legal and available. Please do not ban it!

(Note that I have posted one other comment. I'm assuming that posting more than once is allowed, given that an anonymous pro-scheduling person has posted many times.)

CommentID: 225666

Commenter: Jeff Jones

6/5/24 11:28 pm

Alcohol kills, kratom saves

The number of deaths RELATED to kratom pale in comparison to deaths CAUSED by alcohol. If alcohol can be legal and regulated so can kratom

CommentID: 225667

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 11:29 pm

Schedule I classification support - Causes neonatal withdrawal syndrome

Kratom use during pregnancy poses significant risks to both the mother and the developing fetus. These risks include potential birth defects and other severe health complications. Schedule I classification will help mitigate these dangers and protect maternal and fetal health. Ensuring public safety through effective regulation is crucial.

NELLHAUS, E., ANDREWS, L., HAAS, J., MISKELL, D., KUREK, K., HANSEN, Z., DAVIES, T. Neonatal Withdrawal Following in Utero Exposure to Kratom. **International Journal of Clinical Pediatrics**, North America, 7, dec. 2018. Available at: <<https://www.theijcp.org/index.php/ijcp/article/view/317>>. Date accessed: 06 Jun. 2024.

CommentID: 225668

Commenter: Bruce

6/5/24 11:29 pm

It's pretty obvious that anti-kratom actors are now spamming this petition board

The only thing that banning Kratom will do is cause a lot of deaths and create a lot of criminals. No government organization is going to tell me what I can or cannot consume that grows naturally out of the ground and is unadulterated in any way.

CommentID: 225669

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 11:31 pm

Place in Schedule I - FDA warnings

The FDA's warnings about kratom's toxicity and potential for addiction highlight the need for stricter regulation. Its unregulated status allows for dangerous contaminants to be present in products. Classifying it as a Schedule I substance will ensure better oversight and consumer safety

CommentID: 225670

Commenter: Kenny

6/5/24 11:34 pm

Why are the anti-kratom commenters so afraid to put their name next to their comment?

So many misguided commenters saying if there's any value in Kratom then the FDA would be trying to market their version.... Well what do you think they're trying to do right this very moment?? They want us all hooked on Suboxone... 10 years ago they flooded our streets with oxycotin and oxycodone (giving us the problem) and now every third add on Facebook tells me all I have to do is click the link and pay \$200 and I can get a monthly prescription of Suboxone (selling us the cure)

CommentID: 225671

375

Commenter: Jeffery M

6/5/24 11:43 pm

Please read

Making kratom illegal is irresponsible and ignorant. Those who support this ban fit into 1 of 2 groups.

Group 1) They are grieving the loss of a loved one, and need something to blame, or a purpose to stand behind in the lost loved one's honor. No one dies from kratom. They usually have a prior (potentially) undiagnosed medical conditions, and happen to have taken kratom. Or a toxicology report finds kratom in there system WITH various other medications and substances. Or perhaps an allergy. Kratom alone will NOT cause seizure disorders or death.

Group 2) They belong to an organization, or group, that would financially benefit from making this illegal, and creating criminals of innocent hard working Virginians.

So many "anonymous" comments left in this petition are from the same person. My heart breaks for your loss, but please look at actual research (done by experts) on kratom before you continue to make dangerous claims on a subject you know absolutely nothing about. Kratom isn't the villain I know you are looking for right now.

CommentID: 225672

Commenter: Anthony Flannery

6/5/24 11:43 pm

Do the right thing.

I am writing to you in regards to my experience and perspective regarding Kratom. I have been taking Kratom for somewhere around 10 years.

I am an older man, and my energy levels are not what they used to be. I work 64+ hours per week at my job, as well as maintain an online business that I am building, and I always have multiple projects that keep me busy at home with what little spare time I can find. All I do is work, and my life requires me to be very active in order to maintain my responsibilities.

Kratom helps me tremendously to stay focused and have an extra boost of energy, similar to caffeine, except it does not cause the irritability that comes with caffeine. There are no intoxicating effects whatsoever to this plant, and I experience no "side effects" from it.

Since 2016 I have witnessed the attempts by the FDA and multiple states to ban Kratom. Their attempts have been based on lies and manipulations. Dr. Jack Henningfield has completed studies which prove, scientifically, that Kratom is safe. If you have not read these studies thoroughly, then you have an obligation and a responsibility to do so before you go violating the rights of every citizen of Virginia by banning this plant based on lies.

If anyone reading this has not spoken to or heard Mac Haddow with the American Kratom Association speak on this subject, then I implore you to please listen to him. His knowledge on this subject is tremendous, and he can verbalize the facts about this plant better than perhaps anyone out there. I also implore you to review the scientific studies conducted by Dr. Jack Henningfield, and speak to him if you have the opportunity. He is an expert in his field and his studies prove this plant to be safe.

I am beyond tired of seeing the rights of citizens in this country being taken away or restricted based on lies. Those who have been seeking to have Kratom banned have an agenda. Who would benefit if Kratom were to ever be banned? Or should I say, which pharmaceutical company would benefit if Kratom were to ever be banned?

The bill that you are considering for Virginia residents is nothing short of tyrannical.

I'll close with this. I just checked openvaers.com. I see that the total US reported deaths in the VAERS database from the Covid-19 vaccine is 37,544, and the reported Adverse Reactions from the Covid-19 vaccine is 1,637,441. These numbers are estimated to be less than 1% of what is actually happening. Less... than...one...percent. Where is the outrage from the FDA and legislators to ban these injections? Yet Kratom is being targeted.

Do you all have a bill that you are reviewing in order to ban the experimental Covid injections which have been PROVEN to kill countless people and cause permanent disability to countless people? When are you going to ban those experimental injections? Oh that's right, there's nothing to see there. That's probably not on your sites, because you've got something important to focus on, which is Kratom, because some guy died back in 2014 and had Kratom in his system. Nevermind that he had been shot and died from gunshot wounds. Let's ban Kratom because he had it in his system.

If I sound angry about this, it is because I am. I am praying that each of you who may see this will conduct yourselves with honor and dignity, and do the right thing to protect access to this plant for the citizens of Virginia.

CommentID: 225673

Commenter: William Bart Melton

Banning kratom is a major mistake

I would strongly suggest that you watch the documentary "Leaf of Faith" (maybe available on Netflix) to learn about kratom.

Kratom is a plant that has been used in SE Asia for thousands of years for pain management. In all that time, not one person has ever died from it. Not one.

I have been taking kratom daily for 6-8 years without a problem. Currently, I take 15 size 0 pills, 3x a day. I have taken as many as 60 size 0 pills in a single sitting with no ill effects.

Kratom has mitigated my chronic pain from degenerative disc disorder, allowing me to function. Prior to taking it, most days I could barely walk. Opioids didn't work for me, not that you can get them anymore. In addition, as a person who has suffered from lifelong depression, I can no longer get depressed.

It is the best, and often only, tool for chronic pain management left for people. You can correlate the rise in the popularity of Kratom to the crackdown on opioid prescriptions, leaving people with chronic pain no other options. If you make it schedule 1, you will leave those people with no options at all, other than to break the law so that they can function.

Let's look at all of the big scare tactics used by those pressing for the ban:

1) It works on the opioid receptors!!!! Yes, but the difference is that with opioids, those receptors are wide open, letting in an unlimited amount. With kratom, they only allow in a certain amount, making it impossible to overdose. But that is one of the biggest benefits from it. People use kratom to break their opioid addiction. When I first started taking kratom, I was looking for an energy boost due to long working hours, only after did I discover the pain relief. The store I purchased it from said that everybody else who bought it were opioid addicts using it to break their addiction. In this regards alone, we shouldn't be banning kratom, the state should be promoting it. We have an over the counter herb that allows people to quickly and easily break their opioid addiction, which addicts know about and are doing, and this petition wants to make it illegal in all 50 states.

2) People are getting high off of it. Impaired judgement. Etc. No. I have taken 60 size 0 pills in one sitting and I can tell you that you can get a much larger "buzz" or sense of euphoria from taking too many caffeine pills. I stupidly got a sheet (or 2) of Vivarin once when I was younger and I was WAY more messed up than when I took 60 pills of kratom. On kratom, my hair/scalp got a little tingly. That was it. No mental or physical impairments at all.

Name ANY OTC drug that you can take 60 of, in a single sitting, with no ill effects. Any single one of them. Sixty aspirin will kill you. So kratom is safer than aspirin, and 10000% more effective. I'm guessing that if 60 Nyquil pills don't kill you, you will be able to taste colors.

3) It causes suicide. Not true at all. It is an amazing anti-depressant that most likely kept me from becoming suicidal as I was on the verge of a negative spiral when I started taking it and haven't been depressed since then. The actual stories behind those claims tend to go like "my son suffered from severe depression, in and out of hospitals for 10 years, then he started taking kratom and a year later he killed himself. It was kratom's fault". I understand a parent's need to blame something, so they blame kratom with absolutely zero evidence to support it. The rise in popularity of kratom means that more people, with existing mental health problems, are trying kratom. Statistically, some of them will eventually commit suicide. Correlation, not causation.

4) There are XXXX poisoning cases. Ok, 60 size 0 pills has no ill effects, so are people taking 2 or 3 measuring cups of it? Are they boiling it down into a tea and drinking a gallon of it? What is the effect of eating 2-3 cups of table salt or dissolving it into water and drinking it? Poisoning? "But people know better than to drink 2 cups of table salt". And only idiots try to take an unlimited amount of any drug. In enough quantity, literally everything become poisonous. What is the effect of taking an entire bottle of magnesium supplements? Probably a trip to the emergency room.

You can't completely police stupidity. How many emergency room cases per year are there of people who ate or tried to smoke too much nutmeg trying to chase a high? And 50 other items that you can buy in any grocery store in America that will, or is rumored to, give a person a "high" if they take enough of it. Glue, paint, turpentine, whip-its, nutmeg, are those are going to be schedule 1 also?

5) It's addictive. Yes, it is. However, it is very easy to quit. When I want to reduce how much I am taking, I simply cut back by 1 pill per day. (15/15/15, 15/15/14, 15/14/14, etc). No ill effects, no withdrawal symptoms. I've been trying to quit smoking for over 6 months, including using drugs and the patch. Still not there. I cut my kratom intake in 1/2, by cutting back 1 pill per day.

At one point, I had to "crash" off of it. I was cutting back by 6 pills per day. What does that withdrawal do? It makes your major muscles (biceps, thighs, calves) feel like they need to be stretched. It basically made me do a lot of pushups and leg stretches. Over a period of about 10 days, I had to stop reducing my intake for a day to "stabilize", and by day 2 I was fine to continue reducing my intake. "Crashing" off of it was uncomfortable, but beyond needing to stretch and do push-ups, I had no other effects.

In large doses, taking 30/30/20, aside from needing to be very consistent in taking it, or having to do push-ups, the only side-effects I had was minor dehydration, like opioids minor constipation, and the feeling like there was something slightly sticky between my fingers from time to time.

Since I have cut back to 15/15/15, I have missed entire doses without needing to do push-ups and the sticky feeling between my fingers went away entirely.

I haven't done it, but I am guessing that going cold turkey from taking large doses is miserable, but also goes away in a day or 2 as quickly reducing the amount you take will stabilize after a single day. Considering I have missed entire doses while taking 15 pills, and not noticed, I doubt going cold turkey would be too traumatic. Easing off it by 1 pill a day is easy. I literally don't notice at all.

Salt, sugar, caffeine, and nicotine are all highly addictive. Even more so than kratom, yet available everywhere.

6) Why is this petition being put forth? Is it from people who have no idea, never tried it, and are just subject to fearmongering? Like the people who claim that pot makes users go crazy and become ultra violent?

Is it because the pharmaceutical industry can't patent a plant, so they want it banned until they can synthesize it and sell it and 10000% markup?

Are either of those a good reason to ban it?

In conclusion, don't ban kratom. It is growing in popularity because it works. People with chronic pain have been left with no other options and the likely outcome will end up being that thousands will be sent to prison for just trying to function. You will also be banning one of the best tools available to fight the opioid epidemic. One that people are actually using right now.

There is huge upside to keeping kratom legal and virtually no downside at all.

Don't fall for the fearmongering, because that is all that it is. Pure fearmongering. Plain and simple.

CommentID: 225674

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 11:49 pm

Kratom saved my life.

I've been alcohol and "hard drug" free for 8 years. I started a career shortly after getting cleaned up with the help of kratom. I have taken a small amount daily with my vitamins for years now. The same amount. It helps with anxiety and depression. Ya know kind of like the prescription medication that doctors try to shove down our throats? Which are way more harmful and dangerous... I've been down that road too. Kratom just needs to be regulated to make sure it's safe and only the kratom leaf in what is being sold. Nobody has ever died from just consuming kratom. It's always mixed with something else. Other hard drugs, alcohol etc. I'm sure consuming in extract form can have adverse effects as well. But just ground up kratom leaf, you'd throw up before you could consume enough to severely harm you. Also, ALCOHOL IS LEGAL. If you think kratom should be a schedule 1 then alcohol should be as well. Alcohol destroys lives every second of every day.

CommentID: 225675

Commenter: Anonymous

6/5/24 11:49 pm

increase in mitragynine being detected in fatalities

A year over year comparison of submitted mitragynine blood cases to the laboratory shows a 53% increase in 2018 (n=785) compared to 2017 (n=512).

377

Donna M Papsun, Ayako Chan-Hosokawa, Laura Friederich, Justin Brower, Kristopher Graf, Barry Logan, The Trouble With Kratom: Analytical and Interpretative Issues Involving Mitragynine, Journal of Analytical Toxicology, Volume 43, Issue 8, October 2019, Pages 615–629, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jat/bkz064>
 CommentID: 225676

Commenter: Ben

6/5/24 11:51 pm

Do not ban kratom

I am a virginia resident and I use kratom for chronic pain and increased attentiveness. It is completely safe and harmless. This would be horrible for all Virginians.

CommentID: 225677

Commenter: Woody Glisson

6/5/24 11:52 pm

Please don't make Kratom a Schedule 1 substance

I know many people that use kratom responsibly for many reasons and have heard even more second hand stories of people using it to stop them from using harmful substances. KRATOM IS NOT A HARMFUL SUBSTANCE. Leave kratom users alone!

CommentID: 225678

Commenter: Lawrence

6/5/24 11:52 pm

KRATOM IS SAFE

KRATOM is used responsible by millions of adults daily. Please stop the fearmongering.

CommentID: 225679

Commenter: John

6/5/24 11:54 pm

Kratom is safe!

Much safer than anything sold at sheetz or Wawa

CommentID: 225680

Commenter: Wes Wright

6/5/24 11:57 pm

Safe and effective

The safety profile of kratom is unlike many other pain relief alternatives out there today. Many have successfully gotten off hard drugs after trying and failing rehab over and over. There are many chronic pain patients who manage their pain with kratom who would otherwise no longer be with us because they committed suicide since physicians failed to provide adequate opioid pain relievers for fear that they would become addicted or divert their prescription.

In pretty much all of the deaths that have been associated with kratom, other substances have been found as well or there were pre-existing conditions, or the dose was extremely large. Let's

educate consumers instead so they know they can make informed decisions and avoid these tragedies that will continue to happen even if it becomes illegal.

It would be a dire mistake to ban kratom. Thailand made the same mistake in '43. Let's not repeat it.

CommentID: 225681

Commenter: Agnes W.

6/5/24 11:58 pm

Thoughts from lifelong resident of Henry County Virginia

To whom it may concern,

Hello, I see the comment period is almost to an end but I feel compelled to quickly share my thoughts, research results, and my first hand experience here.

I'm a lifelong resident of Henry County, one of the hardest hit communities in Virginia in terms of mismanaged chronic pain issues, opioid dependency, and drug abuse. I have seen what kratom can do for some people and it truly can help them save their own lives and return to their communities as full, productive citizens. The worst I have seen kratom do? Nothing. Simply nothing. No harm. For some it just wasn't the right help or the person wasn't fully ready to regain their life back.

And for those who have looked at it as a potential high? They're very disappointed. It's just not what it's about. It's not there.

Interested by what I've seen, I've done the research and beg you do the same. The science is limited due to funding but it's there. Do the research. Truly look at the community behind kratom support. Look at the requests for regulation. Do the right thing and do NOT support scheduling or ban.

Thanks for reading.

CommentID: 225682

Commenter: Zach

6/5/24 11:59 pm

Do not ban

Do not ban. Consider implementing age restrictions but do not ban

CommentID: 225683

Commenter: Anonymous

6/6/24 12:00 am

whatever the outcome - if using please carry Narcan. Visit the Revive! Opioid Overdose Page

<https://dbhds.virginia.gov/behavioral-health/substance-abuse-services/revive/>

CommentID: 225684

Late

Commenter: Anonymous

6/6/24 12:01 am

Research better. This is NOT an opioid, or even close.

I researched kratom thoroughly back in 2016. I have kept myself from being bedridden thanks to it. Knowing how hard FDA and DEA have tried to get this scheduled, even through WHO organization, and thankfully FACTS prevail. Why in the world do states &/or the USA keep trying to take away something that is a safe plant? Its safer than alcohol. Its safer than most RX pain meds. Any negative press has always hid the fact that the person who had an issue had other substances at the same time, and that indeed kratom was NOT the cause of negative issue. Historically, scientifically, factually, outlawing or scheduling this as anything more than a nature/herbal supplement is wrong. Things that absolutely should be prevented from human use/consumption per history, science and factually, is fine all too often. Many of the people that use this reputable sourced safe product do our research and do not take it irresponsibly. It even has helped people no longer be addicted to "legally" prescribed opioids. Not because it is an opioid, but because it can affect receptors the same way that chocolate, cheese and breast milk can. Stop the madness & war on this plant.

CommentID: 225685

Late

Commenter: Gary

6/6/24 12:03 am

Fentanyl flows freely over the border but kratom is the problem?

Every single day that I step out of my apartment I smell fentanyl smoke. Every single time I leave my apartment I have to Wade through all the bent over fentanyl zombies that have taken over the sidewalks. I have to walk past vending machines distributing crack pipes and meth pipes.. I have to wash my hands multiple times a day because there could be fentanyl on that Burger King counter, that could be fentanyl in the back of that bus seat, there could be fentanyl on the button that I have to push to walk across the street etc etc..... you're either a misguided person with a broken heart who lost a family member and is desperately looking for a boogie man to blame or you stand to gain financially with the scheduling of kratom.... Stop trying to force your authoritarian will on a population that has every right to decide what they do or do not put into their bodies

CommentID: 225686

Late

Commenter: Anonymous

6/6/24 12:13 am

whatever the outcome - if using please carry Narcan. Visit the Revive! Opioid Overdose Page

<https://dbhds.virginia.gov/behavioral-health/substance-abuse-services/revive/>

CommentID: 225687

Late

Commenter: Anonymous

6/6/24 12:15 am

SAMHSA - Help for Kratom Addiction Available

<https://dbhds.virginia.gov/behavioral-health/substance-abuse-services/revive/>

<https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline>

CommentID: 225688

Late

Commenter: Jen Brandt

6/6/24 12:21 am

Consider Naloxone Training if You or Somebody You Know is Taking Kratom

<https://dbhds.virginia.gov/behavioral-health/substance-abuse-services/revive/>

CommentID: 225689

Late

Commenter: Jennifer Gosnell

6/6/24 1:08 am

Does much more good than harm

Kratom has proven itself to be helpful in my life. I have found it beneficial for pain or mood problems that other medications or supplements either did not adequately address for me, or produced intolerable side effects. Kratom is not without side effects, however for me they were manageable by taking brief breaks from using it, which was easy to do. I do not notice any addictive effect with kratom. I can pause at any time, sometimes for weeks or months at a time, without symptoms of withdrawal.

Just as with any unregulated supplement or vitamin, and as with medications, one must treat kratom consumption responsibly. It is the same with the advice for prescription medications, OTC medicines, and vitamins or supplements, which can also be toxic or addictive when used at the wrong dosage or frequency. I do not see the reason to classify kratom as Schedule 1. If a formal study were done of the benefits of it vs harm, I expect that the beneficial effects would outweigh other considerations.

CommentID: 225690

Late

Commenter: Adam Stevens

6/6/24 2:03 pm

Jennifer Nicole Brandt's Petition to Ban Kratom

Hello,

I'm a lifelong Virginia resident. I have been taking Kratom since 2010. I've never had any health issues related to Kratom. I started taking Kratom to comfort me when I was dealing with a bulging disc in my back. I was diagnosed with degenerative disc disorder. I was prescribed opiates for pain, and Kratom has helped me to no longer rely on opiates. Kratom is a life saving natural botanical.

Kratom is the leaves of the tree **Mitragyna speciosa**. A tree native to Southeast Asia, particularly in countries like Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Papua New Guinea. This tropical evergreen tree belongs to the coffee family (Rubiaceae) and has been traditionally used for its stimulant and comforting effects. The leaves of the Mitragyna speciosa tree contain active compounds, primarily mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine. The DEA has tried and failed to ban Kratom. The FDA has tried and failed to ban Kratom. Several states (who have politicians receiving money from pharmaceutical companies) have tried and failed to ban Kratom. Please don't fail for this spurious attempt to ban Kratom from someone who is probably in the pharmaceutical industry. The WHO declined to ban Kratom in 2021.

https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND/CND_Sessions/CND_64Reconvened/ECN72021_CRP12_V2108992.pdf

As I have heard, and read many, many stories of folks addicted to hard-core opiates, get off of said opiates because they had Kratom as an option.

379

Banning Kratom will cause more deaths from opiate overdoses.

Please also consider the hundreds and thousands of Virginians that would be susceptible to legal trouble, and face jail time if you decide to ban Kratom. Many Virginians use Kratom, like others use coffee, for energy and mood elevation.

Banning Kratom will:

- 1) Potentially produce more hard core drug addicts
- 2) Take away an individual right to consume a natural botanical. The leaves of a tree.
- 3) Cause unnecessary legal problems, for otherwise law-abiding residents.
- 4) Prevent law-abiding Virginia residents from accessing a natural botanical that can help folks with alcoholism, and issues with opiate dependency.
- 5) Make myself become a criminal as soon as the ban takes place. If I become a criminal for consuming Kratom, I will probably lose my job, and my family.

<https://kratom.org/guides/american-kratom-association/>
CommentID: 225745

Late

From: [Juran, Caroline \(DHP\)](#)
To: [Barrett, Erin \(DHP\)](#)
Subject: Fw: I do not support that Kratom be classified as Schedule one substance.
Date: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 4:12:20 PM

From: j ward <searchandnearness@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 3:20 PM
To: Juran, Caroline (DHP) <caroline.juran@dhp.virginia.gov>
Subject: I do not support that Kratom be classified as Schedule one substance.

Kratom is safe. I have been using it for years. I do not use recreational drugs like marijuana and mushrooms. Kratom is idea for people trying to quit hard drugs.
Sent from my iPad

From: [Juran, Caroline \(DHP\)](#)
To: [Barrett, Erin \(DHP\)](#)
Subject: Fw: Keep it legal
Date: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 4:31:41 PM

From: Paula Thornburg <pjishappy73@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 4:13 PM
To: Juran, Caroline (DHP) <caroline.juran@dhp.virginia.gov>
Subject: Keep it legal

My husband and I both drank alcohol, and kratom helped us stop completely. His back pain is greatly reduced, and my depression is not as great.
Sincerely Paula Thornburg
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Juran, Caroline \(DHP\)](#)
To: [Barrett, Erin \(DHP\)](#)
Subject: Fw: Kratom Is Saving My Life
Date: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 10:24:51 AM

Erin - please include this comment in the meeting agenda.

From: Liam Reagan <liamjefreagan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 9:23 AM
To: Juran, Caroline (DHP) <caroline.juran@dhp.virginia.gov>
Subject: Kratom Is Saving My Life

Dear Executive Director Caroline Juran,

Please heed my email here. I am a Virginia resident and was shocked to hear that Kratom is to be outlawed.

With Kratom, I no longer see a psychiatrist nor take anti-depressants. My extreme back pain from re-injury and surgery in 2016 is controlled without painkillers.

Also, Kratom has been indispensable in stopping my dependence on alcohol. I haven't had a drink in four years, something I thought was impossible. I imagined that I would die a full-blown alcoholic.

I am closer to my Lord, wife and family, and had perfect attendance at work before being forcefully retired due to my back injury. Kratom is a gift, but it doesn't cure everything.

I take great joy in living again and no longer feel as if under a dark cloud.

Kratom has helped me immeasurably, and I would hate to lose this new life I have been given. There are many others with the same story.

Please don't make me a criminal by banning the resource that has saved my life.

Please visit the American Kratom Association website and get the truth about Kratom. Many departments of the federal government have outdated information, and push their mistakes to the top of internet searches. Please dig deeper to get recent news and test results.

Allow the Kratom Consumer Protection Act (KCPA) to do its job to regulate Kratom. It stops Kratom from being adulterated, keeps it out of the hands of children and rogue distributors and manufacturers from misleading labeling and effects.

Kratom in its natural form will ***never*** get a person "high."

Thank you for your time in this critical matter.

Sincerely,

William Jeffrey Reagan

Newport News, VA
757-759-5846

From: [Barrett, Erin \(DHP\)](#)
To: [Barrett, Erin \(DHP\)](#)
Subject: FW: Kratom Scheduling
Date: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 11:31:01 AM

From: Gregory Nance <gregoryd.nance@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 8:04 AM
To: Juran, Caroline (DHP) <caroline.juran@dhp.virginia.gov>
Subject: Kratom Scheduling

Hello, my name is Gregory Nance. I am a 20 year retired veteran with various issues such as chronic pain and chronic fatigue. I have continually consulted with my VA doctors who cannot advocate for kratom but for the last eight years I have been using it my blood pressure and blood sugar have come into compliance with VA guidelines where they had both been in the pre-x stages. This is likely due directly to kratom's two most notable alkaloids which provide energy while reducing pain allowing me the freedom to get up and walk my dog for a mile and a half most days. I am not a Virginian but Ga. is considering similar scheduling and I have written them as well. My Previous state's federal Senator

In Pa. took our logical stance to create the Kratom Consumer Protection Bill in lieu of scheduling. Please do not schedule this plant that is from the coffee family and has been used for thousands of years in the Malaysian regions. Additionally many peoples livelihoods will be affected by this scheduling. For instance before retiring I worked part time for Amazon ONLY because I was able to with kratom before retiring completely six years ago. Also many retailers currently market kratom. Please consider protection over scheduling.

Thank you,

Master Sergeant Nance Ret. USAF

GDN

From: [Board of Pharmacy](#)
To: [Barrett, Erin \(DHP\)](#)
Subject: Fw: Kratom
Date: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 3:15:19 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-nesh3p2i.png](#)

One more.

Best regards,
Sorayah Haden
Virginia Board of Pharmacy
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300
Henrico, VA 23233
p: 804-367-4456 f: 804-527-4472
www.dhp.virginia.gov/pharmacy



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From: Don Kunz <kdkunz@fourseasonsdistributors.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 10:48 AM
To: Board of Pharmacy <pharmbd@dhp.virginia.gov>
Subject: Kratom

I've used Kratom for several years with no problems. Please don't ban its use.
Don Kunz

From: [Board of Pharmacy](#)
To: [Barrett, Erin \(DHP\)](#)
Subject: Fw: Stop!!!!!!
Date: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 3:14:04 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-bhgr4zoa.png](#)

Good Afternoon Erin,

Per Caroline's request, I am forwarding the public comment below.

Best regards,
Sorayah Haden
Virginia Board of Pharmacy
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300
Henrico, VA 23233
p: 804-367-4456 f: 804-527-4472
www.dhp.virginia.gov/pharmacy



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From: Matt Williams <gggkov4@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 12:55 PM
To: Board of Pharmacy <pharmbd@dhp.virginia.gov>
Subject: Stop!!!!!!

I don't know if this will get to the right person But the board of pharmacy is making a huge mistake. They are going behind the backs of voters and making health decisions for people that rely in our help by a natural product. People want to make their own choices. And we want to take a natural product that will help us. And not some prescribed deadly medication that the board of pharmacy promotes leaveKtatom alone regulate kratom where it's safe don't ban it.It helps may people out including me. I almost dies because.of prescribed medicine but kratom got me away from prescriptions and I am way healthier now

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

From: [Juran, Caroline \(DHP\)](#)
To: [Barrett, Erin \(DHP\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Kratom
Date: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 9:46:01 AM

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From: Garrett Schull <schulls_wc@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 4:21:27 AM
To: Juran, Caroline (DHP) <caroline.juran@dhp.virginia.gov>
Subject: Kratom

Kratom is perfectly safe. All of these anti-kratom people quoting from the media, It is so obvious. don't buy into this crap. Kratom does not affect the respiratory system. Let me tell you what happens when someone dies with kratom in their system. Just to be clear it is not the kratom that has killed them. These deaths are related directly to opiate withdrawal. What happens when the body goes into withdrawal is that the brain no longer works correctly. So if you take something like Advil for a toothache, you would notice if you were in enough withdrawal from the opiate that the Advil did not work. This is because opiate withdrawal causes brain malfunction. in order for this malfunction to occur the brain has to be pretty severe withdrawal symptoms probably from something like heroin or methadone. to give another example of brain malfunction from opiate withdrawal would be caffeine. You could take enough caffeine to kill 15 horses and it would have no effect on you if you were in opiate withdrawal. Now that you have that understanding. Let's talk about the emotional psychology. When a person is in extreme withdrawal, they tend to want to fix the problem so they will try anything. They will take too much caffeine. If they have a toothache they will take too much Advil. they will take too much of everything . this is not rational. Most people should know not to do that, but some people do it. As soon as they take kratom they become healthy again. Their brain will stop malfunctioning and it will register all of that damn Advil they took it will register the 9000 mg of caffeine they took whatever the hell they took to try to make themselves better in copious amounts. It will all be working on their brain after they consume the kratom. This unfortunately can lead to death. However, Kratom is innocent here. There are warning labels on every package that says you cannot mix other substances with kratom. So if there is a death where someone is found with Kratom in their system it's because they were irrational and irresponsible. That is why you have to be an adult to buy kratom, just like You have to be an adult to buy alcohol or cigarettes. Anyways, this is the real deal. Please understand it and keep kratom safe and legal.
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Juran, Caroline \(DHP\)](#)
To: [Barrett, Erin \(DHP\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Kratom
Date: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 9:45:08 AM

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From: Garrett Schull <schulls_wc@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 6:01:23 AM
To: Juran, Caroline (DHP) <caroline.juran@dhp.virginia.gov>
Subject: Kratom

You know, a logical mind or a smart person, knows that this is just to satisfy the people. It's just a bunch of emotional responses which means that a lot of them are completely irrational. Decisions cannot be made with irrational responses. You need to follow the science . My guess is that you've already made your decision. Keep kratom safe and legal.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Juran, Caroline \(DHP\)](#)
To: [Barrett, Erin \(DHP\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Kratom Ban
Date: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 9:11:06 PM

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From: teresa brown <teresa_anne43080@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 7:54:56 PM
To: Juran, Caroline (DHP) <caroline.juran@dhp.virginia.gov>
Subject: Kratom Ban

I highly suggest that you look at all the studies before banning Kratom. Many people use Kratom to get off of heroin and other illicit drugs. With the DEA limiting the supply of opioid and arresting Doctors, many pain patients only option is Kratom. What VA needs to do is follow the AKA in regards to age and regulations. If not the U.S. will need to look at Canada's health with assistance in Suicide. If we have learned nothing in the last 100 years is that prohibition does not work. Prohibition just lines the cartel pockets with money. Alcohol prohibition did not work and many died with adulterated alcohol. People are dying on the street with adulterated illicit drugs. Let's not add Kratom to these statistics. Let's help people, not hurt them. I have used Kratom since 2015 for chronic pain. I have never had a bad side effect. I am 65 years old, college graduate with a great salary. I have never taken a dime from the government. Put myself through school with hard work. I was never stupid enough to use Student Loans. Until you have chronic pain, you will never understand the struggle that we go through to maintain a decent life.

Thank you for your time in reading this
[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

From: [Juran, Caroline \(DHP\)](#)
To: [Ericka Crouse](#)
Subject: Re: Support of Kratom as a Schedule I
Date: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 10:40:58 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-b2v5no01.png](#)

Dr. Crouse -

We will share your comment of support with the Board.

Caroline D. Juran, RPh
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Pharmacy
p: (804) 367-4578 | caroline.juran@dhp.virginia.gov



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From: Ericka Crouse <elcrouse@vcu.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 10:28 AM
To: Juran, Caroline (DHP) <caroline.juran@dhp.virginia.gov>
Subject: Support of Kratom as a Schedule I

Dr. Juran,

I am not sure who to email
But I am in support of Kratom become a Schedule I substance.
I currently work in a substance use disorder clinic, and have had a number of patients who have become addicted to Kratom while using it to "self-treat/get off of Heroin" and become just as addicted to/dependent on Kratom.

If there is a way I should formally add my support to the bill, please direct me how to do so.

Thank you!

Ericka L. Crouse, PharmD, BCPP, BCGP, FASHP, FASCP
She/Her/Hers
Associate Professor
Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Science
VCU School of Pharmacy
410 N 12th St.
PO BOX 980533
Richmond, VA 23298
Email: elcrouse@vcu.edu
Phone: 804-628-5071

From: [Juran, Caroline \(DHP\)](#)
To: [Barrett, Erin \(DHP\)](#)
Subject: Fw: Kratom bill
Date: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 2:08:55 PM

From: blake r <blake22511@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 1:58 PM
To: Juran, Caroline (DHP) <caroline.juran@dhp.virginia.gov>
Subject: Kratom bill

Good afternoon Ms.Juran,

I am reaching out to advocate for the responsible regulation of Kratom in Virginia, rather than its outright prohibition. While there are valid concerns regarding its safety and potential for abuse, I believe that making Kratom scheduled would do more harm than good.

Kratom has been used for centuries in Southeast Asia for its medicinal properties, particularly for pain relief and mood enhancement. Numerous studies have shown that when used responsibly and in moderation, Kratom can provide therapeutic benefits with minimal adverse effects. Additionally, Kratom has shown promise in helping individuals struggling with opioid addiction by alleviating withdrawal symptoms.

By implementing an amendment on the legislation including quality control measures and age restrictions, we can ensure the safe consumption of Kratom while minimizing any potential risks. Regulation would also allow for proper labeling and dosage information, empowering consumers to make informed decisions about its use.

Furthermore, if the concern surrounding Kratom is about public health, prohibition could drive Kratom consumption underground, leading to unregulated black market sales and potentially dangerous products. Instead of criminalizing its use, we should focus on education, harm reduction, and responsible regulation to protect public health and safety.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Blake Randolph

From: [Juran, Caroline \(DHP\)](#)
To: [Barrett, Erin \(DHP\)](#)
Subject: Fw: Kratom ban
Date: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 5:57:19 PM

From: Jesse <jesseburch8438@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 12:49 PM
To: Juran, Caroline (DHP) <caroline.juran@dhp.virginia.gov>
Subject: Kratom ban

Please do not ban this harmless plant that I have taken for 16 years. I get blood work done every year, and the tests come back good. This plant saved my life and gave me a new life. Before I found kratom, I could not hold a job or leave my house. Out of 10 different antidepressants, none of them worked. Anxiety medications are extremely addictive and can kill you from withdrawal. I turned to kratom because I wanted something safe that actually helped my anxiety and depression. There has not been a single death from kratom, and it has been safely used for a long time. The few reports stating kratom hurt people were not true because they had tramadol in their system. Please look at the science instead of just banning a plant that is saving millions of lives.

From: [Board of Pharmacy](#)
To: [Juran, Caroline \(DHP\)](#); [Barrett, Erin \(DHP\)](#)
Subject: Fw: Kratom
Date: Thursday, June 6, 2024 7:04:35 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-oumb1fwu.png](#)

Passing on comment received yesterday.

Beth

Virginia Board of Pharmacy
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300
Henrico, VA 23233
p: 804-367-4456 f: 804-527-4472
www.dhp.virginia.gov/pharmacy



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From: Kassy Adamson <kassy@theheadedwest.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 4:57 PM
To: Board of Pharmacy <pharmbd@dhp.virginia.gov>
Subject: Kratom

To whom it may concern,

My name is Kassy Adamson. I am a 30 year old from Colorado who heard about the proposed Kratom ban in Virginia. Kratom has personally been a God send for myself as well as my mother. My mother had a spinal fusion and chronic pain and I have 8 screws and a plate in my foot from an accident. Kratom has helped her and myself stay away from addictive pain killers and allows us to have a safe alternative. I do not believe this ban should be passed and no longer allow your citizens to have access to a natural harm reduction resource. I hope this message will help you consider your options. Have a great day!

Kassy Adamson