

To whomever it concerns,

My name is Kathy Magliaro. I am 56 yrs old, a wife of 36 years, and a mom to 2 adult children.

Back in 2005 I had a thriving life. I owned my own house cleaning and home organizing business. I loved what I was doing. I also had a full social life, spending recreational time with my friends and family. However everything changed in 2005. My life was turned upside down. I started having facial pain that was so severe it would drop me to my knees, when it happened. Later in 2007 I would be diagnosed with Trigeminal Neuralgia. If you Google that, Trigeminal Neuralgia, you will quickly find it is labeled as 1 of the worst pains known in all of medicine. It also carries the moniker of the suicide

disease. There is no cure for this, and many patients never find relief. I would later have to stop working, and I would stop participating in life. I basically laid in bed. Every single day multiple times a day, I battled against suicidal thoughts. I simply wanted the pain to end. Medicine wasn't helping, 2 brain surgeries done as an effort to manage the pain also didn't work. By 2018 I was losing all hope. And I was convinced the only way to end the pain would be to end my life. Because I had been told my Dr's no longer had anything they could try. Everything was tried. In 2019 I found out about this leaf Kratom. I started to take it, and I found for the first time since the 1st pain, I was feeling pain relief. Nothing helped my pain, except this leaf. I didn't want to get my hopes up, I was afraid. But I persisted in using it daily. Eventually I was able to stop all 12

prescriptions I was on for pain relief. And slowly over time I began getting my life back. This leaf definitely saved my life, and it gave back much of what I stopped, because I could function again with having parts of the day pain free. It had been an agonizing 13 yrs ,with not even 1 hour break. So I was absolutely grateful. It was as if all the praying I did mattered, and they were answered. I finally found something that helps my Trigeminal Neuralgia facial nerve disease.

Now my kids ,and my husband have me back. I am fully present in life again, and I am again living.

My story is not unique or uncommon. This country has thousands if not millions of people who suffer from chronic pain, and medicine is not helping.

Many chronic pain patients are having their prescriptions that were helping, just

cut off and stopped. Solely because of medical policy.

This leaf is saving thousands upon thousands, actually in the millions, because it's thought that close to 20 million consume this leaf. Please listen again to that number, twenty million people. Yet despite it saving those lives, States are trying to ban it, and make it inaccessible. Some are regulating it, and that is commendable. But banning, that is as cruel as the Dr's who are cutting off chronic pain patients medicine. It is equal to that. A ban forces more lives lost, because people will lose hope.

Are you aware that over 20,000 chronic pain patients commit suicide yearly. If you ban this leaf that is helping people's pain, and giving them back a life that is functioning and helping society...it is reasonable to assume that number of

suicides due to pain, will most definitely rise from 20,000 to who knows. Because as stated 20 million people consume this leaf.

I ask that you seriously consider what a ban will actually cost people. You will have thousands of families sitting before you accusing you of making a choice that led their lived one with no hope, and possibly led them to end their lives ,because it was the only way to end their pain.

I don't know if anything people consume that hasn't had a small amount of injuries happen. Even drinking water if abused has led people to dying. Energy drinks sold in every convenience store has been responsible for some deaths. But none of those are banned.

They are regulated.

If you care about people's lives , it makes sense to protect the majority, and that

majority is consuming this leaf, because it helps with pain, and it's helped them stop more harmful substances.

The possibility of addiction is not even a fair argument, because so many things are on the market being freely sold and consumed or used, that have caused thousands of deaths per year, definitely is addicting, but is only regulated never banned.

And let me ask, what makes something addicting and bad ? It's if that product causes harm to a person's life. I mentioned previously thousands upon thousands possibly millions are leading better more productive lives because of this leaf.

Please follow the science.

If you are not a scientific researcher, leave that to those who are, and trust they are also out to protect everyone from taking anything harmful. These researchers who

look at this leaf, they have zero skin in the game. Zero. They are not biased, they don't profit, they're solely researching and recording their findings. Florida just hosted a convention for scientists and Dr's to speak at about this leaf. And they all, feel it is not harmful, and it definitely is not what is actually causing deaths.

Why are you not listening to their expert testimonials?

Please follow the science. If you are actually interested in saving lives, remember how many lives will be negatively impacted by a ban, and how many will lose hope of living if a ban happens. And BTW that is not because they're addicted....thatnis because once you have experienced not living and 24/7 pain that is excruciating all around the clock, pain that makes you lose sleep, causing painsomnia, you can't work, you

can't even socialize. Having experienced that, and knowing that that is where you will go back to if you can't access this leaf and it's pain relieving properties...that hopelessness is what will be the driving factor.

This is a long testimony. But I thank you for reading it. And beg you, to please follow the science.

Sincerely,  
kathy Magliaro