

## Statement Regarding Natural Kratom, Public Safety, and Evidence-Based Regulation

My name is Christopher Deaney. I am one of the millions of Americans whose lives have been meaningfully improved by natural, plain-leaf kratom.

When I was eight years old, I was struck by a car. That moment permanently altered my life. The injuries followed me into adulthood, and for fifteen years, I followed the only treatment path presented to me: long-term prescription opioids.

Those medications allowed me to function, but they did not allow me to live. I lived in constant fog, disconnected from clarity, motivation, and full participation in daily life.

By 2015, I was physically and mentally exhausted and actively searching for a safer, more sustainable alternative. That year, I discovered natural kratom.

I prepared four grams of plain leaf as a traditional tea. Within approximately twenty minutes, I experienced improved clarity, stability, and functional capacity. There was no euphoria, no impairment, and no loss of control, only a measurable return of normal daily function.

I still live with chronic pain. That reality has not disappeared. What changed is how I live with it. A simple cup of kratom tea allows me to manage my day without being sedated or mentally dulled. It supports function rather than fog. It gives me balance, not escape.

My story is not unique. Millions of Americans share this same experience. Veterans, parents, working adults, and caregivers use natural kratom tea every day to remain functional, present, and engaged in their lives.

Recent controlled human research titled "Safety and Tolerability of Single and Multiple Daily Oral Doses of Dried Kratom Leaf Powder" found natural kratom leaf to be well tolerated when consumed as plain leaf powder in adults.

Study link:

[https://journals.lww.com/drug-monitoring/fulltext/9900/safety\\_and\\_tolerability\\_of\\_single\\_and\\_multiple.435.aspx](https://journals.lww.com/drug-monitoring/fulltext/9900/safety_and_tolerability_of_single_and_multiple.435.aspx)

In 2024, the American Herbal Products Association (AHPA) published a new entry for kratom in its Botanical Safety Handbook, recognizing kratom as a traditional botanical with a documented history of use.

AHPA announcement:

[https://www.ahpa.org/blog\\_home.asp?Display=279](https://www.ahpa.org/blog_home.asp?Display=279)

It is essential to distinguish natural kratom leaf from synthetic or semi-synthetic derivatives. Natural plain leaf contains dozens of naturally occurring alkaloids in a balanced botanical matrix. Synthetic compounds such as lab-manufactured 7-hydroxymitragynine, MGM-15, MGM-16, and SR-17018 bypass natural physiological safeguards and introduce pharmacologic intensity and safety concerns that do not reflect traditional use.

AHPA guidance on synthesized kratom alkaloids:

[https://www.ahpa.org/Files/Document%20Library/AHPAGuidancePolicies/25\\_0303\\_AHPA\\_Guidance\\_policy\\_synthesized\\_kratom\\_alkaloids.pdf](https://www.ahpa.org/Files/Document%20Library/AHPAGuidancePolicies/25_0303_AHPA_Guidance_policy_synthesized_kratom_alkaloids.pdf)

The Federal Kratom Consumer Protection Act (S.3039) establishes standards for identity, labeling, purity, manufacturing practices, and age-restricted sales while preserving adult access to natural kratom.

Bill text:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/3039/text>

Kratom did not erase my past, but it gave me a future.

I respectfully ask that policymakers protect access to the natural plant and focus enforcement efforts on synthetic products that present genuine risk.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Christopher Deaney

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