

As someone with a background in behavioral science and lived experience in recovery, I want to speak to the importance of policy that prioritizes harm reduction and consumer safety.

My position is not that kratom is risk-free — no substance is — but that natural kratom products and synthetic high-potency derivatives should not be treated as identical.

I urge the committee to consider regulation rather than prohibition. Natural kratom products should be regulated with clear labeling, potency standards, and consumer protections, while synthetic or concentrated derivatives should be restricted or prohibited.

This approach mirrors how other legal substances are managed through regulation and potency controls instead of outright bans. Thoughtful regulation would reduce risk, improve safety, and prevent unregulated markets from expanding.