

Members of the committee,

My name is Jeremy DeLuca.

I have been an entrepreneur and business Leader in the sports nutrition and health supplement industry for nearly 30 years. Over those decades, I have seen countless products come and go. Very few truly make a meaningful difference in people's lives. Kratom is one of the rare natural products that I have personally witnessed have a profound and positive impact on Ohioans.

I am not a daily kratom user. However, I do use it when dealing with pain or situations where I know it can help. What stands out to me most is what I have seen in others. I have met individuals who use kratom to manage ongoing pain so they can complete normal daily activities that many of us take for granted.. Others use it to improve focus, increase energy, manage PTSD, reduce anxiety, or support overall well being. The reasons vary, but the impact is real.

I understand that you also hear negative stories and I sympathize for these parents (I have lost a child as well and know how it feels).

In many cases, those concerns stem from adulterated or synthetic products, including highly concentrated compounds such as 7-OH products that are very different from natural kratom. Lumping those products together with natural kratom gives the plant a bad name and puts responsible consumers at risk.

We need reasonable regulations and safety standards that protect consumers while preserving legal access to natural kratom for responsible adults. I respectfully urge you to support this bill to ensure safe, regulated access for Ohioans.

Thank you for your time and consideration.