

## Chronic Pain and No Insurance: Kratom is Our Only Hope

My name is Jackie Menteer, and I'm here today to share how kratom has significantly improved my mother's quality of life. She suffers from chronic back pain, a condition that makes daily life and work incredibly challenging. Unfortunately, she earns just enough to disqualify her from Medicare, but not enough to afford private health insurance. This leaves her with very limited options for managing her pain.

Before discovering kratom, her days were filled with constant discomfort, making it difficult to perform even simple tasks, let alone hold down a job. Traditional pain medications were not a viable option due to their side effects and the risk of dependency. Kratom has provided her with a safe, natural, and effective way to manage her pain, allowing her to function throughout the day and maintain her job. It has enabled her to lead a more productive and fulfilling life.

It's perplexing to me that alcohol, a substance known for its potential for addiction, liver damage, and contribution to various health issues, is legal and widely available, while kratom faces so much scrutiny. For my mother, kratom is not a recreational substance; it's a lifeline that allows her to cope with chronic pain and maintain her livelihood. I urge you to consider the positive impact kratom can have on individuals like my mother, who have limited options for managing their health and well-being.