

Dear Honorable Ohio House of Representatives,

Thank you for hearing us today on this important matter. I'm writing to ask for your support in passing OH HB 587, a crucial piece of legislation that will ensure the safety and well-being of kratom consumers in our state. As a kratom consumer, I'd like to share my personal story about why this bill is so important to me.

I was a heroin addict for many years, failing as a mother, and almost losing my life several times. I finally found the Lord and obtained my sobriety. About 6 years into that sobriety, I was a mom of 3, working full time and going to college full time. I was running on empty most of the time, just as a large portion of Americans do. I needed something to help my regular pain and something to help with my mood, focus, and energy. I didn't want poisonous energy drinks or pots of coffee, narcotics or any other pharmaceutical- I'd been down that route, and it only leads to death. I found natural, pure leaf kratom. I take it to manage pain and to help me focus and give me a boost of energy in the middle of the day. I'm a wife a mother, another, and a successful woman with a blossoming career. My grandmother and mother also take kratom to manage their chronic pain, depression, fibromyalgia, etc. Ohio Board of Pharmacy wants to make us criminals, and rip away our natural, God-given remedy. We need protection for kratom consumers in Ohio. We've been asking for legislation for years, and here we are at a crossroads where greed has led to synthetic and adulterated products harming people. I voted for those of you in my districts because I trust that you believe in freedom and the will of the people good intentioned, hardworking people of Ohio. Please pass HB 587 to protect consumers and protect natural, pure leaf kratom.

Thank you for your time on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Starleena Sykes