

Chairman and Members of the Ohio House Agriculture Committee

Date: March 2, 2026

Re: Proponent Testimony for HB 587 / SB 299 – The Kratom Consumer Protection Act

Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony in support of HB 587 / SB 299, the Kratom Consumer Protection Act. I grew up in Ohio and still have family in Ohio. I write today, to share how kratom has significantly improved the life of a close friend of mine in Ohio and to express my strong support for regulation—not criminalization.

Following a routine knee surgery in 2012, my friend developed chronic pain and was starting to become dependent on prescribed opioid pain medication. Despite physical therapy and ongoing treatment, the pain persisted. Over time, both their physical and mental health declined. They withdrew socially, struggled with depression, and faced the constant urge and fear that they would have to rely on stronger medication.

In 2017, after careful consideration, including identifying reputable vendors through the American Kratom Association, they began using powdered kratom (natural crushed leaf, not extracts). Within weeks, their pain became manageable, sleep improved, and their motivation and engagement with family returned. The change was significant.

That was nine years ago. Since then, kratom has remained a positive part of their life. They have not developed dependency, experienced illness from its use, nor turned to any other illicit substances. They never became a statistic in the ongoing war with opiate abuse.

I support this legislation because increased demand for kratom has brought inconsistent and potentially adulterated products into the marketplace. Sensible regulation—such as product testing, labeling standards, and age restrictions—protects consumers while preserving access for responsible adults who have benefited from kratom for many, many years.

HB 587 / SB 299 strikes that balance. It safeguards the public without removing access for individuals who benefit from kratom. Banning or scheduling it as a Schedule I substance would eliminate a valuable option for many Ohioans striving to live productive, healthy lives.

I respectfully urge you to pass the Kratom Consumer Protection Act.

Thank you for your time and service to the people of Ohio.