

Dear members of this committee,

My name is Susan Cave.. I am also the mother of William Cave, who died at just 32 years old from consuming raw leaf kratom (RLK), not 7OH or synthetic derivatives.

William was a healthy young man who worked hard. He had no history of addiction or drug use or abuse. He was a loving father of one daughter and a devoted husband... On April 20 2024, my son did not come home. His toxicology confirmed mitragynine was his killer. My William died from a toxic mixture of his prescribed antidepressants and RLK.

In the beginning, Will and I were told that RLK was safe, natural, and a benign supplement to help with anxiety/ depression.

After consuming RLK for less than one year, Will realized he had become dependent when he tried to stop and could not because the withdrawals and cravings were so overpowering. Will took raw leaf for 4 years before it took his life. The last 3 yrs was spend trying to withdraw and stop kratom...each time failing.

Parents like me are left to bury our children while the American Kratom Association and the Kratom industry in general continue to deny responsibility., deny deaths, call medical examiners incompetent, and call grieving parents liars.

If RLK bans had existed earlier, my son might still be here today.

7-OH and synthetics originate from raw leaf kratom...it makes no common sense to ban one and not the other.

How can a person be a resp kratom consumer, when so little is known about how to consume kratom safely. There are no studies that determine how raw leaf kratom interacts with prescription medications And please don't forget polysubstance deaths (like my son) include medications prescribed by a physician....not just street drugs

The Single Ascending Dose (SAD) clinical study, often cited by industry advocates, was an early-phase pharmacology experiment, not a safety study. The study was not intended to determine long-term safety or evaluate real-world use patterns.

After William's death I joined a national non-profit organization called Kratom Danger Awareness founded by Wendy Chamberlain. Now I advocate not only for my son but for other families who have been devastated by kratom.

In 2025, the Drug Enforcement Administration formally accepted our citizen petition requesting the scheduling of mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine. That acceptance means there is enough scientific and medical concern to warrant a full review under the Controlled Substances Act.

Please listen to the families. Please support Bills that ban or schedule RLK.

Sincerely, Susan Cave, Mother of William Cave