

I am writing to express my strong support for the Kratom Consumer Protection Act (KCPA) and to urge that Ohio adopt this regulatory framework rather than imposing an outright ban on kratom. My position is based on both scientific evidence and ethical considerations.

Kratom is a naturally occurring botanical used responsibly by many Ohioans for wellness, pain management, and harm reduction. While federal agencies and public health experts have raised concerns regarding contaminants, adulteration, and synthetic compounds in some kratom products, these risks are largely due to unregulated markets, not the plant itself. Outright prohibition would not eliminate these dangers — instead, it would push kratom use underground, where there are no safety standards or oversight, increasing the likelihood of harm.

The KCPA offers a proven alternative. By requiring:

- *Third-party lab testing to verify purity and potency,

- *Accurate labeling of ingredients and alkaloid content,

- *Age restrictions to prevent youth access, and

- *Restrictions on dangerous additives,

Ohio can protect consumers while preserving access for responsible adults. Scientific studies indicate that regulation of kratom reduces the risk of contamination-related harm, and keeps use transparent for both consumers and healthcare providers.

Beyond safety, there are strong ethical reasons to support regulation over a ban. Prohibiting kratom criminalizes responsible adults who rely on it for legitimate health reasons, disproportionately affects marginalized communities, and impedes important scientific research on its potential benefits and risks. Regulation strikes a balance between public health, individual freedom, and evidence-based policy — a balance that outright bans cannot achieve.

Other states, including Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, and Utah, have successfully implemented KCPA-style legislation, demonstrating that a regulated market can work responsibly while reducing the risks identified by public health authorities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support the passage of the Kratom Consumer Protection Act in Ohio. This law will ensure that all kratom products sold in our state are safe, properly labeled, and responsibly regulated, rather than forcing responsible adults into unsafe, unregulated markets.

Thank you for your attention and consideration. I am happy to provide further information or resources to support the enactment of this legislation.

Sincerely,
Katherine Collier