

## Lou Mansolillo

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**From:** Marcelle Morfin <msmarcellemartin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 4:26 PM  
**To:** House Corporations Committee  
**Subject:** Kratom

Please consider reversing the kratom ban and support the KCPA. We need these regulations in order to help keep people safe.

This is my story.

I am an Army veteran who injured my back while on active duty. I've since been diagnosed with spinal cord compression (cervical stenosis with myelopathy aka degenerative cervical myelopathy) along with nerve root compression (radiculopathy) and other painful health conditions too long to list. The spinal cord compression was not caught early enough and so it has caused some permanent damage and the nerve compression causes significant pain. I had surgery in March of 2018 in order to avoid becoming a quadriplegic and will require another surgery within the next five years for another problematic level of my cervical spinal cord. In the spring of 2017, I was on the edge looking down. I could not see living with the pain and significant limitations for much longer. The pain, along with depression and anxiety was causing me to start planning my suicide. Just when I was about to give up, over the course of two days, I kept seeing people mention Kratom in one of my support groups. They discussed how it had helped to ease their pain. I decided to give it a try because at this point I felt I had nothing to lose. Since then I am able to be a mother, fiance, sister, and friend again. No, I am not made perfect by Kratom, but I have some quality of life back and no longer want to end my life. It has also helped ease my depression and anxiety and I am in better moods as a result. Kratom has changed my life for the better and allowed me enough relief from pain, anxiety, and depression to want to continue living. It has allowed me to be able to play a more active role in my life, rather than watching my life completely pass me by. Kratom has made this possible. Regulation is what we need, not bans. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,  
Marcelle Morfin  
Disabled Veteran