



P.O. Box 173
Adamsville, RI 02801
401.835.5311

RI General Assembly
RI State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

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Members of the House Committee on Corporations

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved any prescription or over-the-counter drug products containing kratom or its two main chemical components, mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH-mitragynine). There are no FDA drug products containing kratom or its two main chemical components that are legally on the market in the United States. NONE.

Kratom is often used to self-treat conditions such as pain, coughing, anxiety and depression, opioid use disorder, and opioid withdrawal. An estimated 1.7 million Americans age 12 and older used kratom in 2021, according to SAMHSA's (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) National Survey on Drug Use and Health. ([FDA and Kratom | FDA](#))

Kratom is not approved for use as a dietary supplement. FDA has concluded from available information, including scientific data, that kratom is a new dietary ingredient for which there is inadequate information to provide reasonable assurance that such ingredient does not present a significant or unreasonable risk of illness or injury and, therefore, dietary supplements that are or contain kratom are adulterated under section 402(f)(1)(B) of the FD&C Act. Further, FDA has determined that kratom is an unsafe food additive within the meaning of section 409; food containing an unsafe food additive, such as kratom, is adulterated under section 402(a)(2)(C)(i). Based on these determinations by FDA, kratom is not lawfully marketed as a dietary supplement and cannot be lawfully added to conventional foods. ([FDA and Kratom | FDA](#))

People who use kratom recreationally report that because it is plant-based, it is natural and safe. However, the amount of active ingredient in kratom plants can vary greatly, making it difficult to gauge the effect of a given dose. Depending on what is in the plant and the health of the user, taking kratom may be very dangerous. Claims about the benefits of kratom can't be rated because reliable evidence is lacking. ([Kratom: Unsafe and ineffective - Mayo Clinic](#))

Although people who take kratom believe in its value, researchers who have studied kratom think its side effects and safety problems more than offset any potential benefits. Poison control centers in the United States received about 1,800 reports involving use of kratom from 2011 through 2017, including reports of death. ([Kratom: Unsafe and ineffective - Mayo Clinic](#))

At one time, some researchers believed that kratom might be a safe alternative to opioids and other prescription pain medications. However, studies on the effects of kratom have identified many safety concerns and no clear benefits. ([Kratom: Unsafe and ineffective - Mayo Clinic](#))

Kratom is not lawfully marketed in the U.S. as a drug product, a dietary supplement, or a food additive in conventional food. In short, anything routinely sold in gas stations might not be the most reliable healthcare product. After working in the prevention and addiction field for over twenty years, **I do not support** legalization of kratom.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Elwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent than the last.

Rebecca Elwell
Executive Director
Strategic Prevention Partnerships
elwell@riprevention.org

No portion of this letter was written during federally or state funded time.