

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: 19 years ago I was diagnosed with Transverse Myelitis. This came with not only many physical limitations but I became a life long chronic pain patient. For 13 years I utilized various pain management options including prescription medications to help me be able to function. Due to circumstances like the DEA cutbacks and changing regulations I was eventually unable to get my pain meds that I had relied upon for so long. In May 2019 I found whole leaf kratom and have been a responsible kratom consumer for the last 6 years. I can get out of bed, run errands, attend school functions, and even with my physical limitations, live a somewhat normal life because my pain is being managed. I know there are many others who have a similar story to mine. Whole leaf Kratom has been a lifeline for people like me who just want to live a better quality of life and we should have the freedom to choose kratom to do that. Whole-leaf kratom, when properly tested and labeled, has helped countless people like myself have a better quality of life. What puts consumers at risk are the unregulated or enhanced 7-OH products being marketed as kratom, which are entirely different from the natural plant. Even the FDA has acknowledged this difference during their July press conference stating their concern is with 7oh not with whole leaf kratom I'm asking you to support regulation such as age restrictions, mandatory lab testing, accurate labeling, and limits on 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH). This protects public health while preserving the freedom of choice for responsible adults.