

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 10/30/2025 09:32 AM

Council File No: 25-0002-S82

Comments for Public Posting: Public Comment Speaking Template – Agenda Item 25-0002-S82
To the Los Angeles City Council, My name is Sara and I'm a resident of San Diego and frequent LA. I am writing in reference to Agenda Item 25-0002-S82 and California Assembly Bill 1088 (Bains). There are many aspects of AB 1088 that are positive and necessary. I fully support age restrictions, accurate labeling, and limits on marketing to minors. These are reasonable consumer protections. However, this bill also functions as an effective ban on 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH). Hidden within the bill is language capping 7-OH content at two percent of total alkaloids—an arbitrary limit that would render nearly all existing 7-OH products illegal overnight. This product has immensely impacted my life in a massive way. I have restless leg syndrome and since 7 I've started being able to actually sleep. My quality of life is night and day difference. Now it may get taken away from me? Prohibition has never worked. History shows that bans only drive markets underground, where products become unsafe, untested, and unregulated, fueling crime and preventable deaths. A rational public health approach requires regulation, transparency, and scientific research, not another failed experiment in prohibition. Also - the 2% language didn't come from public health experts or community voices. It came from the large kratom industry lobby, which has an interest in eliminating 7-OH products that compete. We absolutely need more regulation and scientific research around 7-OH. need labeling standards, safety testing, and education. What we don't need is an outright ban disguised as regulation. Pushing 7-OH into the black market will only make it more dangerous and drive people back toward the very synthetic opioids this community is trying to move away from. I respectfully ask the Los Angeles City Council to oppose or amend its support for AB 1088 unless Representative Bains removes the 2 percent language and allows time for research and evidence-based policymaking. Let's protect consumers through transparency, not prohibition. Thank you for your time and for listening to those of us directly affected by this issue. Sincerely, Sara Insley

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 10/30/2025 09:42 AM

Council File No: 25-0002-S82

Comments for Public Posting: As someone who has struggled with opiate addiction for many years I credit 7oh with my recovery. I have tried all recovery related medications and services over my 15+ year battle and nothing has worked like 7oh. This ban is driven by corporate greed and shaming of addicts. This ban will create the death and damage is claiming to prevent.

Communication from Public

Name: Erin Lindsey

Date Submitted: 10/29/2025 07:47 PM

Council File No: 25-0002-S82

Comments for Public Posting: Natural kratom isn't the problem. People really need to learn to read research facts and stop taking lies as a truth. People saying kratom is the problem or kratom killed someone takes zero accountability for personal decisions or don't know how to read instructions. CA allows weed to be sold everywhere yet kratom is being attacked?! Weed actually gets you high. Kratom doesn't. Anyone trying to get high on kratom has personal problems and should go get help because they will take anything in hopes to feel something. Taking kratom in a normal amount doesn't even cause noticeable effects other than a general well being. Don't ban a plant because people can't control themselves. If that's the case you need to ban alcohol, Tylenol, water, food and everything because if you take too much of anything there are always consequences. Drink too much water and you can die. Eat too much food and you'll die from host of medical issues. Stop attempting to ban natural products that don't get you high but help people with a vast amount of different things. But definitely keep that weed money coming in, cause no one thing you get high or anything, and also make sure to allow alcohol an actual toxin to your body to be normalized. It makes no sense. Kratom isn't a drug. It's a plant. Go ahead and ban 7OH that is a drug (since it's synthetically made). Also, I implore you to look at autopsies that claim kratom was involved. Note key word, involved. Then find out what else was in their system and find out how many deaths are caused by those substances. Even if you hear there were no illicit drugs in their system, I bet they had some kind of pharmaceutical. Those kill people all the time yet they aren't banned. Pharmaceuticals are like Russian roulette with what could interact with them so maybe stop blaming a plant tons of people use responsibly and realize you can't stop dumb people from abusing anything because they need help and don't care about warnings or consequences. LA has a published list of issues involving kratom I've read and it's laughable how many drugs were in people's systems. Stop banning a plant because you hear fake stories about it and can't read that 7OH pills aren't kratom. The FDA came on TV and said natural kratom isn't the issue it's 7OH and since then news stations don't know how to report and say kratom when they are talking about two different things. Hope you all do real research and not just go off bad information that

gets churned around by people with agendas or that don't know how to read scientific data.

Communication from Public

Name: Jenifer Agustin

Date Submitted: 10/29/2025 10:00 PM

Council File No: 25-0002-S82

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to express my deep concern and disappointment regarding the proposed ban on 7OH. This decision would have devastating effects on countless Californians who rely on kratom as one of the few safe and accessible options for managing chronic pain, anxiety, and other debilitating conditions. Time and time again, policies like this have shown that the voices and struggles of those living with pain are not being heard. Instead of compassion and understanding, we are met with restrictions and punishment. Many of us have already been turned away from effective pain management options due to the opioid crisis, and now you want to take away one of the few remaining alternatives that actually helps us live functional, meaningful lives. Stop with the fake news, 7OH is not a street drug it's a natural compound that countless responsible adults use to manage pain and improve quality of life. Banning it will not protect the public- it will only push people back toward dangerous pharmaceuticals, dark web or leave them to suffer in silence. Please, do not take this away from the people who are simply trying to find relief and stability in their daily lives. We deserve compassion, not condemnation. California has always been a state known for progress and empathy, please let that spirit guide your decision.

Communication from Public

Name: Scott

Date Submitted: 10/30/2025 03:12 AM

Council File No: 25-0002-S82

Comments for Public Posting: Please ban 7oh. It does not belong on the market. It is not Kratom. 7oh is a semi-synthetic, unnatural product that is dangerous to consumers. High-potential for addiction and is basically marketed as a legal opioid. Dependence grows rapidly and it has created a lot of new addicts. It can't be classified as harm-reduction because many people who were not on opioids, started to use 7oh and people aren't using it to get off opioids. The withdrawal is also terrible. The RLS, insomnia, lack of appetite, mental anguish. Many people start because they didn't know what it was and was marketed as kratom (which it's not). The 7oh doesn't have any dosing standards, long-term testing and proof it's safe for consumption.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 10/30/2025 07:04 AM

Council File No: 25-0002-S82

Comments for Public Posting: Kratom and 7OH have literally saved my life. After years of struggling with a serious opioid addiction, multiple overdoses and many extended inpatient rehabs consuming tens of thousands of dollars (not to mention the severe consequences of putting my family through it all), I have had stability and a deeply fulfilling life for the past ten years, without once returning to the unpredictable and dangerous world of street opioids. I know many with the same story. I have had zero negative consequences from using Kratom and 7OH over the years. I fear for the future of those who have been saved by this miraculous and very safe alternative if it were to be banned. I would expect you would see illicit opioid use and the resulting overdoses skyrocketing if you take this unfortunate uninformed step. Please consider the citizens who benefit from Kratom and 7OH and do not enforce a ban.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 10/29/2025 03:06 PM

Council File No: 25-0002-S82

Comments for Public Posting: Kratom and its derivative 7OH regulate pain for disabled veterans, seniors, and citizens who are functional because they have this option to manage their pain. They are astoundingly safe, zero lethal overdoses resulted from kratom or 7OH alone [without coinciding toxicity from prescription or street opioids]. Please keep kratom and its derivatives accessible. Right now, they are tested in laboratories and then sold by regulated businesses. These practices keep the public much safer than a ban could.

Communication from Public

Name: Sandra Wilson

Date Submitted: 10/29/2025 05:10 PM

Council File No: 25-0002-S82

Comments for Public Posting: I'm writing as a grieving mother who lost her son Randy, to mitragynine toxicity— the primary alkaloid in Kratom. Randy did not die from mixing substances or abusing illegal drugs. He died because kratom products are sold as “safe “. When in reality they can be deadly. We cannot wait until more families suffer preventable losses. A complete ban is the only effective way to protect our children and loved ones. Anything short of a ban will leave the door wide open for more deaths, more addiction, more devastation. On behalf of my son Randy, and on behalf of the many families who have buried loved ones because of this unregulated and dangerous drug, we urge you to move forward with a ban on Kratom and all related alkaloid.

Communication from Public

Name: Susan A Cave

Date Submitted: 10/29/2025 05:31 PM

Council File No: 25-0002-S82

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Susan Cave. I am a strong advocate for kratom bans, whether at the local, state or federal level. I am also the mother of William Cave, who died at just 32 years old from mitragynine toxicity — the primary alkaloid in kratom. 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 Mitragynine. William had been prescribed antidepressants for anxiety and depression early in his life after the unexpected loss of his dad when he was 14 yrs old. One day, he spoke to a person at his work who told him all about kratom and how kratom would help. He looked into kratom, and what he read and heard said it was safe, all natural, and that it helps with anxiety/ depression....so he started using kratom. After he discovered kratom, he became a chronic user and became dependent on it.... He kept having to up his dose to get the same desired effect. He tried many times to stop taking kratom after he realized he had become dependent and felt even worse than before. He tried to taper; He tried to stop cold turkey....MANYMANYTIMES He tried to stop. It was a vicious cycle. One time he experienced sever withdrawal symptoms ...that I witnessed. On April 20 2024, my son did not come home. Witnesses say he simply fell forward and did not get up. By the time they got to him he was gone. WHY REGULATING KRATOM WONT WORK and why raw leaf is not different from synthetics like 7-OH::> 1 Kratom does not have a safety profile or standardized dosing. 2 Labels and age restrictions do not change Kratoms pharmacology. 3 States that have passed regulation laws — such as Nevada and Arizona — continue to see kratom-involved deaths. 4 Raw kratom alone causes deaths as proven by toxicology reports and medical examiner reports! 5 There are over 40 alkaloids in raw kratom and still not a complete understanding of the two main ones—mitragynine and 7 hydroxymitragynine (7-OH). 6 The kratom plant and products made from kratom are extremely variable in their make-up. Every leaf is different depending where it is grown overseas, the environmental growing conditions, how it is harvested, how long

it is cured, how long it is allowed to ferment and the manufacture's processing technique. 7 Mitragynine found in the kratom leaf is metabolized naturally inside the body into 7-hydroxymitragynine. Because of this fact, you cannot say 7-hydroxymitragynine is a completely different substance than raw ground-up kratom: they are one and the same. Most assuredly, a Consumer Protection Act and regulations will not stop this natural process that occurs in the body. 8. It is a known fact that kratom manufacturers, retailers, users and advocates say kratom is a do-it-yourself remedy for everything from pain, cough and depression to diarrhea, and addictions. Making medical claims about supplements is not even legal !!!! 9. There are Online forums, right now, full of stories of people who became addicted to something they thought was going to help them. There are websites like "Grow Kratom" that actually warns customers, "to NOT use their products if you're subject to any form of drug testing." 10 Regulations cannot keep pace with the 1.5 billion \$ kratom industry. 11 Bad actors will always look to enter a market, find a product they can exploit, re-create it and synthesize it to become a product more addictive and deadly than ever before. Right now, on social media you can easily find links and websites with people giving step-by-step instructions on how to make 7-OH from raw kratom. Any Regulation, no matter how strongly written, cannot stop the industry's manipulation of alkaloids, cannot stop overdoses, and cannot prevent more families from suffering the loss mine has endured. 12 The public has no idea what they are really ingesting. In reality, Kratom is a drug and a very deadly one at that. It is an addictive opioid-like drug and many thousands of families have experienced tremendous loss and heartbreak because of it. It is truly tragic to know something so readily available can create so much misery and heartbreak. 13. Any Kratom Consumer Protection Act (KCPA) is a laughable solution and gives a false sense of security to the consumer. Allowing the availability of kratom keeps the market-place door open for consumers to purchase future & novel synthetic derivatives. A ban is the only effective way to prevent these products from reaching the public. Susan Cave (mother of William Scott Cave)

Communication from Public

Name: Matt Wilson

Date Submitted: 10/29/2025 06:01 PM

Council File No: 25-0002-S82

Comments for Public Posting: Kratom has taken my son Randy Wilson life 31 years old . We need to get this product off the shelves of stores nationwide .Not just limit sales by age because the product is dangerous to all ages . I beg you to ban this product and save more parents from going through with what my family is. Thank you Matt Wilson

Communication from Public

Name: Michael

Date Submitted: 10/29/2025 09:34 AM

Council File No: 25-0002-S82

Comments for Public Posting: The considered ban is truly the opposite action you should be taking with Kratom, and 7OH products. Particularly in Los Angeles but also any other major metro area that has a pondering users- also Hans a population of those trying to get sober. Kratom has become an incredibly valuable harm reduction tool for these people, empowering them to lead purposeful lives again. That is in fact what Kratom is largely known for. The fact that a ban is being considered demonstrates that the information has come to the council in an influenced way. Please, take a pause and interact with the community of people such as myself who depend on Kratom and 7OH. I'm a retired Army special operations soldier. I use 7OH daily and it helps me manage my chronic hip and back pain. I have a 17 year old son, I manage a career and I'm also the chairman of a local nonprofit. If I didn't have help with my pain- I would be sharing a different story! Please- don't jump to conclusions, thank you. Respectfully Michael Kucik

Communication from Public

Name: Bart Waller

Date Submitted: 10/29/2025 10:11 AM

Council File No: 25-0002-S82

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not ban either Kratom or 7 OH. These products are the only effective means I have found for managing my chronic pain from small nerve damage. I'm a 63-year-old man, a California resident and I have never used illicit substances.

Communication from Public

Name: Evan

Date Submitted: 10/29/2025 11:06 AM

Council File No: 25-0002-S82

Comments for Public Posting: While 7-OH activates the mu-opioid receptors, it fails to activate the beta-arrestin 2 pathway. There is no known lethal dose (LD50) of 7-OH when orally administered, in contrast to opiates, other synthetic opioids, and legal medications. Tolerance, addiction, withdrawal, and dependence can be prevented through blocking the activation of adenylyl cyclase, which otherwise triggers the switch from inhibitory to excitatory G proteins. This can be accomplished through ultra-low-dose (nanograms or micrograms) of naltrexone twice daily. Therefore, there is no basis to remove 7-hydroxymitragynine from the market but rather a need for the local, State, and federal governments to educate on safe intake of the naturally occurring alkaloid. Opioid overdose deaths declined as the use of 7-hydroxymitragynine increased in the last year. Any proposed ban would reverse this positive trend and, in so doing, harm the public.

Communication from Public

Name: Hugh Jazz

Date Submitted: 10/29/2025 01:37 PM

Council File No: 25-0002-S82

Comments for Public Posting: To the city council and all relevant people's, it's important to take into account the benefits of 7oh and kratom products. Please take into account that 7oh, especially gets me sofa king high. That should be enough of a reason, Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Brittany Munson

Date Submitted: 10/29/2025 02:11 PM

Council File No: 25-0002-S82

Comments for Public Posting: This stuff is very dangerous and almost cost my husband his life .
I can't believe it's available on the shelves for any type of addict
to go get there fix .