



Please Remove Pure-Leaf Kratom from Ordinance 251028: Data-Driven Public Health Strategy & Personal Testimony Regarding Kratom Regulation

From Joseph Harrington <joeyharrington82@gmail.com>

Date Mon 12/8/2025 7:01 AM

To Curls, Darrell <Darrell.Curls@kcmo.org>; Willett, Nathan <Nathan.Willett@kcmo.org>; MayorQ <MayorQ@kcmo.org>; Public Testimony <Public.Testimony@kcmo.org>

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the kcmo.org organization. Use caution and examine the sender address before replying or clicking links.

Dear Honorable Kansas City Council Members and Sponsors of Ordinance 251028,

For over a decade, I lived in a "silent prison," confined to a bed by myalgic encephalomyelitis (M.E.), unable to speak to my wife or hold a fork. Today, I am completing my degree, working full-time, and thriving—a recovery made possible only by safe access to pure-leaf kratom.

I am writing to share my research paper (linked below), which argues that **a ban on kratom is not only scientifically unfounded but actively dangerous to public health.**

Why this paper matters to your legislative agenda:

The "Substitution Effect" Danger: Data reveals that state-level kratom bans correlate with significant increases in opioid overdose mortality (e.g., an 11% increase in Vermont post-ban) as users switch to lethal street opioids.

The Crucial Distinction: Legislation often fails to distinguish between safe "pure-leaf" kratom (max 0.1% 7-OH) and dangerous, unregulated concentrates (up to 500% more potent). My paper demonstrates how current prohibitions inadvertently fuel the market for these dangerous adulterants.

Misleading Mortality Data: CDC and state data show that polysubstance use is a factor in 87-96% of kratom-associated fatalities, indicating that the pure leaf is rarely the cause of death.

Economic & Social Benefit: A survey of users shows 91% use kratom for pain and 41% to reduce opioid use. Banning this tool removes a natural cessation pathway, forcing productive citizens back onto disability or into the criminal justice system.

The Solution: We do not need a ban; we need the Kratom Consumer Protection Act (KCPA). This legislation establishes a regulated marketplace that ensures product purity while restricting dangerous concentrates, aligning with the successful public health models of nations like Portugal and the Netherlands.

I kindly request that you review the attached paper. It combines personal testimony with **rigorous analysis** to show how compassionate regulation saves lives, while prohibition destroys them.

Sincerely,

Joseph Anthony Harrington
A pure-leaf kratom advocate

My research paper:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1E5_uQj1wKoPUCdSWE0H_mwzSICAkqAK665vJJ2dEE-s/edit?usp=sharing