



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

From Joseph Harrington <joeyharrington82@gmail.com>

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

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