
Ordinance 251028

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Dear Mayor Lucas and Council Members,

My name is Rebecca DeSpain and I am a Kansas City resident writing to express my strong opposition to Ordinance 251028, which would ban hemp-derived alkaloid products.

These products have become an essential part of my wellness routine and quality of life. For me, alkaloid products like kratom provide relief that I simply cannot find elsewhere. They allow me to manage my daily challenges, maintain my productivity, and live a more normal life - whether that's doing household chores, going to work, or spending time with my family. I have Ehler's Danlos Syndrome, and I am in constant pain. The war on drugs has become a war on pain patients. Despite having stacks of MRI's that show this debilitating condition, it is difficult to find a doctor willing to monitor the real pain medications I need to function as a human. The alkaloids are not as good as an opioid, but it does help enough to keep me able to be present in my own life.

What makes these products so valuable is not just their effectiveness, but their accessibility. I can purchase them locally, safely, and conveniently when I need them. This local access means I know what I'm buying, where it comes from, and that it meets quality standards. Taking away this option would force me to either go without or seek alternatives from unknown sources - neither of which is acceptable.

I am a responsible adult who uses these products safely and as intended. Banning them would not eliminate demand - it would simply push people like me into a gray market with no safety oversight, no quality control, and no recourse if something goes wrong. My pain is so severe, that without access to this, I would probably not be around for very long, it's literally saving my life having access to this.

If you are asking yourself if this drug is safe and is it addicting, the answer is yes to both. I would support a warning label being added to the product so people can make an informed decision as to whether this is a suitable option for them. I would also point out that cigarettes and alcohol are both addicting and detrimental to health, and we still sell them over the counter. Pain patients need access to medication like this, without it, we simply cannot

continue to just live with the pain. Imagine if you had a painful condition that caused so much pain that you couldn't get out of bed, what would this medication do for you? Ill tell you, it reduces the pain and you don't have to see a doctor and prove to them that you are not a criminal. The way chronic pain patients are treated in this country is absolutely disgusting. I met a breast cancer survivor in the store just last week. She had a mastectomy and her doctor felt he had given her enough pain medication and took her off of it with no warning. Thank goodness she had this option to help her. This story, and mine are exactly why it's imperative that we aren't limited in our access to this life saving medicine.

I urge you to vote NO on Ordinance 251028 and instead focus on reasonable regulation that protects consumers while preserving our right to access these beneficial products.

Kansas City should be a place where residents can make informed choices about their own wellness. Please stand with your constituents and oppose this ban.

Thank you for your consideration and for listening to the voices of Kansas City residents.

Respectfully,
Rebecca DeSpain

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