

# Testimony Opposing SB 497

Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee

February 13,, 2026

Chairperson Gossage and Members of the Committee,

My name is Aaron Estabrook, and I am appearing today as a Kansas resident and small business owner engaged in the hemp and kratom marketplace.

I respectfully oppose SB 497.

This bill would add kratom and Delta-8 THC to Schedule I under Kansas law. Doing so would criminalize products that are currently legal, widely used by adults, and openly sold across our state.

I want to be clear: I support responsible regulation. I do not support prohibition.

There is legitimate concern regarding high-potency synthetic derivatives such as 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH), particularly when concentrated and marketed irresponsibly. Those products raise real public safety questions. However, conflating raw kratom leaf with high-concentration extracts creates unintended consequences.

Raw kratom and hemp-derived cannabinoids are not the same as synthetic opioids. Scheduling them alongside heroin under Schedule I would:

- Push consumers to unregulated markets
- Eliminate quality control
- Remove labeling and age safeguards
- Harm Kansas small businesses
- Reduce tax revenue
- Increase criminal justice costs

Kansas has a better option.

HB 2230 and other regulatory proposals demonstrate that reasonable guardrails are possible:

- Age restrictions (21+)

- Labeling and testing requirements
- Prohibitions on adulterated or contaminated products
- Clear enforcement authority

Regulation protects consumers. Prohibition removes oversight.

If the concern is concentrated 7-OH or synthetic analogues, then narrowly target those compounds. Do not create a domino effect that wipes out entire categories of products that thousands of Kansans use responsibly.

Kansas can separate high-potency synthetics from traditional plant products.

I urge the Committee to reject SB 497 and instead advance thoughtful regulatory frameworks that prioritize safety without criminalizing adults or small businesses.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to stand for questions.