

February 11, 2026

Dear Senate Committee Chair and Members,

I am writing to ask you to oppose SB497

Thank you for allowing me to add my voice to this very important issue. I bring with me 12 years of positive lived experience with plain leaf Kratom. I was the only Kratom advocate in the country to be welcomed to the HHS press briefing stage last July by FDA Commissioner Makary. Soon I will be attending the Kratom Science Symposium at the University of Florida, where any concerns could be brought to leading scientists in person.

For over 20 years, I lived with chronic pain from fibromyalgia, arthritis, sciatica, and other conditions. Before consuming kratom, I was often bedridden and required assistance, which affected my ability to participate fully in family life.

Eleven years ago, I began consuming plain-leaf kratom, and it gave me back my mobility and ability to fully engage with my family. In 2022, when my daughter and son-in-law's childcare closed unexpectedly, I provided full-time care for my granddaughter, saving them approximately \$50,000. This past summer, with major home repairs and high childcare costs, I again cared for my 3½-year-old granddaughter for four months, chasing her all over town — weekly trips to the Detroit Zoo, the library, and every nearby splash pad.

I participate in local and state-level meetings on kratom regulation and spoke one-on-one with roughly 200 state legislators at the NCSL conference. I will be attending a scientific symposium again this year, where I will share my personal experience alongside researchers and regulators. I was also asked to speak at a joint HHS/FDA press briefing about the benefits of kratom and to distinguish it from the dangerous 7OH.

Outside of advocacy, I sing in a chorus, performing for nursing homes and assisted living facilities as a form of community service, helping bring joy and connection to others.

My personal experience demonstrates the profound impact kratom has on function, family life, and community engagement, and underscores the importance of patient perspectives in informing science and policy.

We support protecting plain leaf Kratom, with common sense regulations such as an age gate, and truthful packaging, while prohibiting products containing over 2% of the metabolite 7-OH (7-hydroxymitragynine). In fact, in a recent Oval Office press

conference, FDA Commissioner Makary just mentioned that 7-OH was the problem, not the plain leaf.

Please do not ban plain leaf Kratom for those who take it responsibly. My number is 269 873-9592. More information and the science is found on my LinkedIn Profile:

https://www.linkedin.com/in/melody-woolf-366a7b146?utm_source=share&utm_campaign=share_via&utm_content=profile&utm_medium=ios_app

Best regards,

Melody Woolf