

Testimony for the Record
Submitted to the
Public Health & Welfare Committee
for the Hearing on
SB 497
Adding Kratom to Schedule 1 of the uniform controlled substances act
Feb 16, 2026
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Owner - Nature's Gifts

Chairman Gossage, Ranking Member Holscher and members of the committee - Thank you for giving me the time to speak at today's hearing and for your attention to this very important matter concerning Kratom being included in the Schedule 1 controlled substances list.

My name is Kelly Gray and I am one of the owners of Nature's Gifts, which has two locations in the state of Kansas. One in Salina since 2019 and another location in Derby since January of 2025.

Many Kansas consumers of Kratom and myself, who depend on the benefits of kratom are extremely concerned about the possibility of kratom being added as a schedule 1 substance. There are many misconceptions about kratom that were originally introduced by the FDA about kratom in the past, that have been proven false by the FDA's own studies more recently. In fact there was a US Congressional hearing just last year where testimony was heard from doctors and scientists from Harvard, Johns Hopkins, University of Florida and Ohio State concerning their studies of kratom. One of these studies goes back 20 years. I would strongly encourage each of you to watch this hearing before voting to reschedule this product that has helped millions of people across the world. People with chronic pain, MS, fibromyalgia alcoholism and many other ailments including addiction of ACTUAL Schedule 1 narcotics, such as methamphetamine and fentanyl. I broke my back a dozen years ago and was prescribed percocet 10's. After 30 days on this medicine I had already become addicted and decided I had to get off of it. I had to go through the painful experience of a 24 hour withdrawal that I wouldn't wish on my worst enemy. I told myself then that I would never again take pain medication unless it was given to me at a hospital out of necessity. I was still going through daily pain with my back as well as my hips being bone on bone when I heard about and tried kratom, after much research. It completely changed my life for the better. I would ask you if, looking at me today, you see someone who looks to be under the influence of heroin, meth or fentanyl? I certainly hope not. But you do see someone who uses kratom daily, including this morning just to be able to walk into this room to be before you today. One of the reasons that we opened a store in Salina is because Kansas is fortunate enough to have the two largest drug highways running through our state. Intersecting right through Salina. Salina has been absolutely ravaged by methamphetamine. Because of my experience with prescription pain medication, I wanted to help combat the opioid addiction problem in Salina. Our customers have become like family to us. And every day we are seeing the success stories of Kratom. Every day we are reminded by at least one of our customers that kratom saved their life, their family, their independence. Every

day we are able to come to work and see the positive change that we have made in our communities. Money doesn't buy that kind of feeling. It's truly rewarding and inspiring. The actual problem that is causing concern is a product known as 7OH. 7OH was introduced in the last year and a half and was marketed as a kratom product. I can assure you that 7OH is NOT a natural kratom product. It is a synthetic product with an extremely minimal amount of synthetic kratom. It is a product that is up to 30 times more potent than morphine at its lowest dose. It is highly addictive, expensive and ruining peoples lives. It was basically given away in the beginning because the manufacturers knew how addictive it was. And since it first hit the market at 10mg per dose, it has increased all the way up to 120mg dose. True kratom advocates are not in support of 7OH being on the market. It has taken a wonderful, 100% natural product and has put a stain on the product due to its deceptive marketing as a kratom product. Kratom advocates are in support of 7OH being added to the schedule 1 list but I would urge you not to lump kratom into that category. I would also urge you to watch the Congressional hearing on kratom science. As I have learned in this industry, many people are not educated on kratom, the benefits of it and the science behind it. I would ask that you not make a ruling on a product that you may not be educated about. I know that you are charged with the protection of the people of our state from harmful products. And I respect that. But again I ask you to please watch the Congressional hearing that I referenced, to educate yourselves on the actual science of kratom. Please allow the people of Kansas to be able to purchase this product legally and remain functioning members of our society. Each state that has banned this product through ignorance of education has seen an overnight jump in overdoses of illegal products. I would ask that you instead adopt the Kratom Consumer Protection Act, which many states have adopted, that regulate the Kratom industry, such as lab testing and age requirements. Don't allow the bad actors in our industry to destroy the lives and progress that kratom has created.

I have included the link to this hearing below:

https://youtu.be/uc_UqjQfmzI?si=OFEImSlcHT3YiYue

 Congressional Briefing on Kratom Science

I thank you very much for your time today.

Respectfully,

Kelly Gray