

5/2/24

Controlled Substances Board
DSPS PO Box 8366
Madison, WI 53708-8366

Honorable Members of the Board,

My name is Roxanne Griffin. I am a Critical Care Registered Nurse with extensive experience in patient care. My experience is not only as a healthcare professional but also as the spouse of a disabled Gulf War veteran who has endured immense suffering due to a severe back injury and PTSD.

For years, I have witnessed the debilitating effects of chronic pain and the toll it takes on one's mental health and family life. Prescription opioids, while effective for pain management, have rendered my husband too sedated to engage in the simplest of family activities, robbing him and our children of precious moments together.

However, our lives transformed during a family vacation when a friend suggested the natural plant, kratom. The impact was immediate and life changing. Kratom significantly alleviated his pain without the drowsiness associated with opioids, allowing him to reduce his anxiety and irritability. For the first time in many years, he was able to fully immerse himself in our family's joy. Our children expressed their happiness by saying, "We have our daddy back."

Regrettably, this newfound quality of life is not attainable in our home state of Wisconsin due to the current scheduling of kratom's alkaloids, Mitragynine, and 7-OH Mitragynine. As a result, we are deprived of the very substance that has restored harmony to our family.

As an ICU nurse, I am acutely aware of the serious and sometimes fatal side effects of prescription pain medications. In comparison, the safety profile of kratom is unparalleled. It is my professional and personal observation that kratom offers a viable and safer alternative for pain management.

Therefore, I urge you to consider the evidence and the real-life implications of your decision.

Please remove Mitragynine and 7-OH Mitragynine from the Wisconsin Controlled Substances List and support the passage of the Kratom Consumer Protection Act. By doing so, you will not only be supporting my family but countless others who seek relief from chronic pain without compromising their consciousness and quality of life.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Roxanne

Roxanne Griffin BSN, RN
423 Main St
Belgium, WI 53004
Griff.roxanne@gmail.com

5/2/24

Controlled Substances Board
DSPS
PO Box 8366
Madison, WI 53708-8366

Dear Chairman Englebert and Members of the Board,

My name is Billy Griffin, and I am a proud but disabled veteran, having served as an Army Staff Sergeant during the Desert Storm Gulf War. My service to our country left me with a severe back injury and PTSD, which has significantly limited my mobility and quality of life.

The prescribed opioids that I have been given to manage my pain have proven to be a double-edged sword. While they offer some relief, they come with debilitating side effects such as bowel obstruction and extreme fatigue, not to mention the psychoactive effects that cloud my mind. These side effects prevent me from being the active father I strive to be for our three boys. The fear of respiratory depression is so great that I dare not take these medications at night, which only exacerbates my chronic pain and anxiety.

During a family vacation to Disney World—a rare moment of respite—I had the opportunity to try kratom. The impact was immediate and profound. For the first time in a long while, I experienced a significant reduction in my pain levels and anxiety. More importantly, I was free from the PTSD flashbacks that frequently haunt me, and I slept through the night peacefully.

The difference kratom made in my life was nothing short of remarkable. It allowed me to be present and engaged with my family, to enjoy life's simple pleasures without the looming shadow of pain and anxiety.

Unfortunately, back home in Wisconsin, kratom is scheduled as a controlled substance, which puts it out of my reach. If this were not the case, I could continue to benefit from its therapeutic effects. I could be the father who is there to cheer on his children at basketball games, the dad who can attend football matches, and the parent who is present for the myriad of events that mark the milestones of a child's life.

I urge you to consider the positive impact that kratom has had on my life and the potential it has to improve the lives of many others who struggle with chronic pain and the side effects of traditional medications. Please consider the removal of Mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine from the list of controlled substances in Wisconsin and support the Kratom Consumer Protection Act.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Billy Griffin
423 Main St
Belgium, WI 53004

5/6/24

Controlled Substances Board
DSPS
PO Box 8366
Madison, WI 53708-8366

Dear Chair Englebert and Members of the Board,

My name is Heidi Sykora and I am a resident of Grafton, Wisconsin. I am writing to express the significant hardship that the current legal status of kratom in Wisconsin imposes on my life and well-being.

I suffer from multiple chronic conditions, including Chiari Malformation, Tethered Spinal Cord, Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, Hereditary Alpha Tryptasemia, and Thoracic Outlet Syndrome. These conditions cause me persistent pain and discomfort, severely impacting my quality of life.

Due to the prohibition of kratom in Wisconsin, I divide my time between Wisconsin and Illinois. In Illinois, kratom is legal and provides me with essential relief from the constant pain I endure. This necessity to travel imposes not only a physical and emotional burden but also a financial one, as I must maintain residences in two states.

In Wisconsin, the prohibition of kratom—a plant that has been instrumental in managing my pain—forces me to live a fragmented life. To access the relief that kratom provides, I must travel to Illinois, where it is legal. This division of my existence between two states is more than an inconvenience; it is a source of physical strain, emotional distress, and financial burden. My husband's longstanding career in real estate and public service in Wisconsin underscores our deep roots in this community. Yet, the legal constraints on kratom mean we are too often separated.

As Dr. Christopher McCurdy describes it, Kratom's unique "symphony" of alkaloids has been a cornerstone of my pain management. It effectively alleviates the intense nerve pain that I experience in my spine and chest. It allows me to exercise and stretch which is essential for preventing further debility.

The legal status of kratom in Wisconsin forces me to make difficult choices that no individual seeking relief from chronic pain should have to make. The current law not only restricts my access to a natural remedy that significantly improves my condition but also limits my ability to participate fully in my community and live a stable life.

I appeal for the exclusion of Mitragynine and 7-Hydroxymitragynine from the scheduled substances list, or alternatively, to cap the presence of 7-Hydroxymitragynine at a maximum of 1% in any given product. Subsequently, I advocate for the enactment of the Kratom Consumer Protection Act to ensure a secure and regulated framework for its use.

I urge you to consider the implications of kratom's legality on individuals like me who rely on it for pain relief. Legalizing kratom in Wisconsin would not only alleviate the hardships imposed on us but also provide a regulated, safe framework for its use.

Sincerely,

Heidi

Heidi Sykora DNP, GNP-BC (retired)
2321 Ridgewood Rd
Grafton, WI 53024
262-573-7848

5/6/24

Controlled Substances Board
DSPA PO Box 836
Madison, WI 53708-836

Subject: Request for Support to Decriminalize Mitragynine and 7-Hydroxymitragynine in Wisconsin

Dear Chairman Englebert and Members of the Controlled Substances Board,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to you today to advocate for the removal of Mitragynine and 7-Hydroxymitragynine, active compounds found in the Kratom plant, from the list of controlled substances in Wisconsin.

This natural plant has proven to be a safe and effective alternative for pain management and has shown promise in aiding those struggling with addiction. Its potential benefits could positively impact the lives of many Wisconsin residents, including my wife, Heidi.

I have seen my wife Heidi suffer for years with no relief until she found Kratom, this has been the only thing that has helped her with chronic pain and given her the opportunity to enjoy a somewhat normal life. Without Kratom she is limited in the time she can spend enjoying the grandkids because she cannot physically play or help with some of their simplest needs, not to mention taking care of my 90-year-old mother-in-law who also lives with us.

Because the only relief she gets is with Kratom we are forced to spend many days and sometimes weeks apart because she must seek that relief in Illinois where it is legal.

Unfortunately, due to the current legal status of Kratom in Wisconsin, Heidi is compelled to seek this relief in Illinois, where it is legal. This situation often results in us spending extended periods apart, sometimes spanning weeks.

I kindly request your support in reconsidering the legal status of Mitragynine and 7-Hydroxymitragynine in Wisconsin. By doing so, we can improve the quality of life for individuals like Heidi, who benefit immensely from the therapeutic effects of Kratom.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,

Tom Sykora
2321 Ridgewood Rd.
Grafton, WI 53024
262-573-7323

5/3/24

Controlled Substances Board
DSPA PO Box 8366
Madison, WI 53708-8366

Dear Members of the Board,

My name is Ila Webster. I live with my daughter in Wisconsin but travel weekly with her to Illinois because Kratom is legal there.

I have seen the difference Kratom makes for her chronic pain and the improved quality of life we both have in Illinois. I am able to tolerate traveling at this time, but it is often a hardship for both of us. As I age this will become more of a hardship. I have been fortunate to enjoy good health. Per my Apple watch, I continue to walk about 3 miles each day and continue my regular exercise program.

I am almost 91 and have compression fractures in my upper and lower spine and chronic pain in my elbows and knees. I cannot take Anti-inflammatories due to GI bleeding. I do not tolerate Tylenol. I'm so thankful that I can take Kratom in Illinois because it enables me to chase after my 2-year-old great granddaughter and play games with her five-year-old brother.

Because of Kratom, I am also able to help by doing many loads of laundry and cleaning kitchens and bathrooms. To conclude, I believe that Kratom has played a significant role in enabling me to live my best life.

Please remove Kratom from the list of controlled substances in Wisconsin and in place support the Kratom Consumer Protection Act.

Sincerely,

Ila Webster
2321 Ridgewood Rd
Grafton, WI 53024
llawebster3@gmail.com