

## **HB0283**

Hello, I think the first thing I would ask all of you is, How many of you have family members or know someone that suffers from chronic pain or suffers from an addictive personality disorder? So many people have been overprescribed pain meds over the last 40 years. This has made many, many people become addicted either through a tolerance build-up or addictive personality disorder. Also, how many of you know someone or have a friend that knows someone who has died from an overdose.? I am 62 and have battled addiction for 40 years ..I have been on and off methadone since 1988, my friend introduced me to Kratom and I am very pleased to say I am no longer a slave to opioids/opiates. I actually have a vision of how many more lives could be saved if Kratom was made available in such places as treatment centers. We all agree Kratom should be regulated and kept out of the hands of minors. We also all agree there need to be more studies with more science. most of us agree it should not become illegal. How could any governing body take something away that is saving lives every day. Our cities are flooded with fentanyl cut heroin and people are dying every day.. sons. daughters, mothers fathers. Please, I am asking you to study science and embrace the truth and the facts. Some of the side effects I have read are absolute lies, such as hallucination, How do I know this? well, I take kratom daily the worst side effect I have had is constipation. ..I have extreme anxiety, depression and anger issues. Kratom is the only thing I have found that helps keep me level. how will someone with chronic pain keep from being suicidal or going to the street drugs to get relief if this plant is criminalized? , wouldn't a cup of tea in the privacy of their own home be a much better option? Also, there is a place called Greener Pastures rehab that is having huge success with PAT (Plant Assisted Therapy) Cannabis and Kratom. Please, please investigate this. It is truly helping people daily. I just don't believe we need the government (FDA & DEA) trying to take away our freedom to choose living life in a healthy and productive manner. I thank you so much for your time, Please consider not banning Kratom.,please consider the KCPA