

HB0283

When my husband was awaiting hip replacement surgery several years ago, he was prescribed Vicodin for pain. He couldn't stop working as he would need his sick leave for after surgery. One day while operating machinery, he cut his finger down to the bone. The Vicodin had made his brain fuzzy and he wasn't paying as much attention as he normally would. After that we have both been very leery of pain meds of any kind.

Our daughter introduced kratom to him. He has arthritis and some days are much worse than others. He does not take it multiple times a day, or every day, but he will use it when it is necessary. He takes kratom and the pain is gone, and no fuzzy brain. I have never hesitated to get in a vehicle with him after he has taken it. I have never worried about him going outside to work in the garage. I think this has truly changed the quality of life for my husband, and for many elderly arthritic people.

Maryland has declared a state emergency due to the opioid epidemic. If we really want to fight the problem, we cannot overlook the need to find safer, effective pain relief! Kratom has the potential to be one of those solutions. As lawmakers, I respectfully ask that you consider the Kratom Consumer Protection Act, rather than a ban on this plant.