

In Reference To HB 0283

I am a 39 year old wife and mother to 3 beautiful boys. I'm the co-owner of a small, successful, family-owned and operated trucking company residing here in Garrett County Maryland. The reason I tell you that I'm a successful co-owner of a trucking company is because I come up and out of a drug addiction of 15+ years, thanks to a tea called kratom. My life use to be a mess.

My parents had died when I was 17 and 21 and I didnt know how to cope with life on lifes terms, which led me to a life of addiction and self medicating. I spiraled out of control many times.

I had gotten clean in 2012, but then had a severe car accident in 2014 that left me with multiple metal plates throughout my face and blindness in my left eye. Also, it left me in pain, BUT I cannot successfully take pain pills because of my past. In order for me to manage my pain, I had to find a safe alternative that wouldn't lead me back to the streets. THATS when i discovered kratom. An evergreen tree from southeast Asia that is similar to coffee. I figured I'd try it out and make a tea. That was 4 years ago and that's when my life changed for the better.

I am proud to say I never ran back to the streets. I haven't relapsed in over 4 years. I manage my pain with a safe alternative called kratom. I am able to keep up with the 2 toddlers I have and also successfully help run a trucking company.

While I understand regulation is needed, a full out ban would be completely devastating to not only me, but many others in this country that responsibly utilize kratom.

If you follow the science, the American Kratom Association has proven the safety of kratom. Please consider enacting the "Kratom Consumer Protection Act" for the state of Maryland that will help keep it out of the hands of young people, hold vendors to a higher standard, keep kratom from being adulterated, but still allowing responsible adults, such as myself, to utilize the tea and have access to it.

Please take my testimony into consideration when the bill HB283 comes across your desk on February 4, 2020.

Thank you so much for your time. If you have any questions you would like to ask me, feel free to contact me at the number or email listed below.

Sincerely,

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