

February 2, 2019

Bill Number: HB0283

Good Afternoon,

I wanted to Thank You for taking the time to read this written testimony. I am currently a 42 year old male, that resides in the city of Hagerstown, MD. I am writing this in regards to the potential passing of bill HB0283. I am a former opiate addict, and this was an addiction that held me in its clutches for well over 10 years. I would often attempt to curb my addiction myself, and received minimal help from drugs such as suboxone and methadone. Regardless of my efforts, I remained addicted to prescription pills, and risked my own livelihood (shelter, transportation, utilities) to pay for them illegally. It got to the point where I was no longer interested in relationships, and just wanted a monogamous drug marriage with opiate pills. During this time, I was arrested on 3 separate occasions for DWI, in which alcohol was always the complimentary substance used during my many opiate binges. My will to quit was very strong, but there was no action behind it, based on the physical ramifications that came with trying to ween myself off of the addiction gradually. I discovered Kratom on the internet, and it was made clear during my research that this was not an opiate substitute. To be clear, I started off disappointed, as every addict normally trades one addiction for another. I eventually gave in, and started taking very modest amounts of Kratom. The improvements were gradual, and I stuck to the regiment. I ultimately was able to completely rid myself of an opiate addiction, and also noticed other benefits. I appeared to have a much clearer consciousness, and this was apparent in my improvement at work, and also maintaining personal relationships. I also contribute lowering my blood pressure to this plant. As I was notified that my blood pressure had significantly improved, and the only variable would be my use of the plant. Please understand, I do realize that there is not a vast amount of information on the benefits of this plant, but I can tell you that it has greatly improved my life. I do think that this would also help others that have been in similar situations. It is a great alternative to remaining drug addicts and alcoholics. As I mentioned, I live in Hagerstown. It is well know that this city is a haven for opiate addiction. I do believe that taking this option away as a potential tool in helping individuals get "back on track", and passing HB0283, will lead to increased statistics, mainly from former addicts that no longer have a tool to assist them in maintaining clean from a former addiction. I do appreciate your time, and am hoping that you take people with similar cases like mine, into consideration.

Regards,

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