

To whom it may concern;

I am a chronic illness sufferer whom was damaged by a commonly prescribed antibiotic called Cipro. If you're not familiar with it, it has a black box warning with a laundry list of severely devastating symptoms like; central nervous system damage, anxiety/panic disorders, depression, arthritis, tendon ruptures, other connective tissue tears, muscle waste/fatigue, intracranial pressure, bone deformity, and more. Plus a long list of chronic illnesses such as; fibromyalgia, chronic encephalopathy, chronic fatigue syndrome, myalgic encephalomyelitis, all from an antibiotic, and all of these things I have had to deal with, thanks to this legal poison I was told to take by my doctor. Thousands have been killed by this antibiotic, but it's legal, so that makes it okay in the eyes of the law? That makes NO sense. Kratom alone, though, has never killed ANYONE, yet it's being vilified as this "dangerous drug". It's been the thing that's helped my pain from all the symptoms above though! I'd be in a clinical state of depression with the amount of pain I deal with, but this has put a stop to it. To act as if it has no medicinal value, is like saying marijuana has no medicinal value, which we all know now, after decades of scientific studies done, that it does. Now we need to do the same for kratom. Some facilities already are, and I hope that our lawmakers will take them into consideration when the studies come out. But at this current time, we cannot fall victim to false reporting becoming the reason we make laws. If we play fast and loose with law and order like that, we are no better than a dictatorship. This plant is the only reason I am able to clean my house, take care of business outside of my house, take care of my kids, it even may get me working again soon, after being unable to work since being poisoned in my 20s. I was a hard working mom before I was injured by a LEGAL drug, and I may never fully recover, but this herb has stopped my anxiety, helps manage my pain, and has even helped with my fatigue, when I had to drink mounds of coffee just to do the dishes.

I was, at one point, taking opiate pain medications; morphine and percocet, that bogged me down, made me feel high all the time, and eventually got me hooked both mentally and physically, although I didn't admit it to myself back then. Getting cut off of those opiate meds for good after the crackdown, turned out to be a blessing in disguise, because despite the pain, the meds were destroying my capability to get better in other ways. I was lethargic, and losing myself little by little to drug psychosis. It also showed me that it wasn't helping my pain, it was simply making me not care about it so much, and also made the pain WORSE over time. I went at it alone for 3 yrs trying to manage my pain with Nsaids (anti-inflammatories) and nothing else, and it was hard, because they didn't touch my pain. They just made me a little more mobile despite the pain.

My relief didn't come until a friend recommended I try kratom for pain management. I was skeptical at first. Even botched my first attempt at taking it, and didn't take enough. I thought, it too, wasn't strong enough. Then I got my dosage right, and I've been managing my pain for almost 2 yrs now, with it, with much success. I will NEVER go back to pharmaceutical pain meds again, not even if I lost my kratom, but I think it's important to have options for EVERYONE, not just those pharmaceutical choices either, because not all of us trust them. Pharmaceutical companies are just glorified drug dealers, let's face facts here. Kratom has gotten tons of my friends off of heroin and other illicit drugs safely, and now they all lead happy, healthy and honest lives, whereas before, they were lying, stealing and cheating their way through a miserable life of opioid addiction. Now they're upstanding and productive members of society. I heard from a friend today, that told me thanks for telling her about kratom because she's now dealing with her back pain without having to take medicines that make her tired, and unable to operate her work machinery. That's right, she had to quit her career to help her pain because of opiate pain meds, and kratom got her back to work! I have 2 neighbors who were addicts. One of them didn't want to try kratom because of all the lies that have been spread about it, and the other one was done with her addiction and willing to try anything to get her off of the drugs, so she did try it. Guess which one is alive and well and which one is dead? The one who died isn't the one that took kratom, it was the one that refused. She kept going down the addiction rabbit hole, and eventually OD'ed. The girl that took the kratom, is now driving for Uber eats, and is even about to get a second job, and got her kids back! This is just going to show that this medicinal herb has saved a lot of lives! Sure, it's not for everyone in these situations, but it can help tons of people still none the less! If I lose kratom, I don't know what I'm gonna do for pain, because I CANNOT go back to opiates again, EVER. Medical marijuana can only help certain types of pain, unfortunately mine is not one of them, so I have no clue what I would do. Please don't take our kratom away.

I appreciate your time, and hope you take all of this into consideration.
Thank you,
Sincerely,
Kyah Kelley