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To: Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair  
House Health and Government Operations Committee

From: Heather Forsyth, Deputy Director, Health Education and Advocacy Unit

RE: HB 1229 - Public Health - Kratom Consumer Protection Act (**Support**)

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The Health Education and Advocacy Unit (HEAU) writes on behalf of the Office of the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division in strong support of HB 1229. This bill, along with HB 1230, protects consumers from non-FDA approved substances that raise significant consumer health and protection concerns.

HB 1229 provides important consumer protections regarding "Kratom," an herbal substance that acts as a stimulant and produces opioid-like effects. Individual effects vary widely depending on the amount taken, potency, formulation, ingestion method, use with other drugs, and underlying medical conditions. Adverse effects range from mild to severe (most especially severe in use in combination with other drugs), but because research is relatively new long-term health effects are not well understood. (See, <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/public-health-focus/fda-and-kratom>.)

This bill prohibits the sale of Kratom to minors and Kratom products that don't meet certain specifications or that are adulterated with other substances. This common-sense approach mitigates potential harm to consumers by requiring clear and transparent labeling on Kratom products and prohibiting marketing activities that target minors.

The HEAU and Consumer Protection Division of the OAG support the consumer protections in HB 1229 and recommend the Committee's favorable report.