

Dear Senator Hayes,

I am writing to you today as a concerned Maryland resident to express my strong **opposition to SB 0820**, which is scheduled for a hearing in the Finance Committee on February 26th.

While I support the goal of ensuring product safety, SB 0820 as currently written would be detrimental to this goal:

- **Forcing Consumers to Order online:** Kratom is a popular and safe option for pain patients in Maryland and opiate addicts in recovery. Given the nature of addiction, patients should be able to access this safe option anonymously and immediately, both of which are impossible if the only option is to have kratom shipped.
- **Harm Small Businesses:** Local retailers who follow strict safety protocols would be forced to pull products from their shelves immediately under the threat of seizure and criminal misdemeanors.
- **Ignore Sensible Regulation:** Rather than an outright ban, I urge the committee to consider a **Kratom Consumer Protection Act (KCPA)** model. This approach focuses on age-gating (21+), strict labeling requirements, and mandatory laboratory testing for contaminants to ensure public safety without criminalization.

I ask that you protect the rights of Maryland consumers and the livelihoods of local business owners by issuing an **unfavorable report on SB 0820**.

Thank you for your time and for your dedicated service to our state.

Sincerely,

Troy Blackwood

Catonsville, MD

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