



Massachusetts Society of Addiction Medicine

A Chapter of American Society of Addiction Medicine

OFFICERS

President

Jessica Gray, MD

President-Elect

Heidi Ginter, MD

Immediate Past President

James Baker, MD, MPH

Treasurer

Ruth A. Potee, MD, DFASAM, FAAFP

Secretary

Daniel Liauw, MD, MPH

Director of Education

Maria Quinn, MSN, PMHNP-BC

Director of Advocacy

Joshua St. Louis, MD, MPH, AAHIVS

June 26, 2026

The Honorable Aaron Michlewitz
Chair
House Committee on Ways and Means
24 Beacon St, Rm 243
Boston, MA 02133

Re: MASAM's Support for H. 5127, An Act Relative to Kratom

Dear Chair Michlewitz,

On behalf of the Massachusetts Society of Addiction Medicine (MASAM), the leading medical specialty society representing physicians and other clinicians in Massachusetts who treat addiction, we write today in support of H. 5127. This important legislation would implement new regulations on kratom products including clear labeling requirements and limits on 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH). H. 5127 would also prohibit the sale of kratom products to people under 21.

Currently, Massachusetts is one of 26 states that neither regulates kratom nor classifies it as a controlled substance.¹ As addiction specialists, we know firsthand the health and safety risks posed by unregulated kratom products. As such, our Commonwealth has a unique opportunity to enact regulations that protect public health and consumer safety. H. 5127 puts us on a path towards that goal. This legislation would require labels to display key health and safety information including a full list of ingredients and recommended serving size. Further, H. 5127 would limit the amount of 7-OH in kratom to 2% of the total product. Taken together, these notable provisions would improve upon the current unregulated status quo.

We support the approach of H. 5127 in implementing strong health and safety regulations of kratom, and we oppose legislation like S. 1558 that would ban kratom outright. As addiction specialists, we have consistently seen how sudden bans do not treat substance use disorder but rather compound harm for people who use drugs.² We are concerned that a full ban may have unintended consequences such as driving people using kratom products towards more dangerous illicit substances. Further, abrupt criminalization of kratom could cause acute withdrawal for

those using the substance. Simply put, our Commonwealth would be wise to prioritize intelligent regulation over strict criminalization. We believe that H. 5127 strikes this balance.

We commend the sponsors of H. 5127 for their commitment to addressing the challenges posed by unregulated kratom products. MASAM stands ready to assist lawmakers as they debate the merits of regulating kratom as compared to criminalizing it. Please contact us if you have any further questions. Otherwise, thank you for your consideration of our perspective.

Sincerely,

Jessica Gray, MD

President, Massachusetts Society of Addiction Medicine (MASAM)

CC: The Honorable Todd M. Smola
The Honorable Kip A. Diggs
The Honorable Shirley B. Arriaga
The Honorable David Biele
The Honorable Manny Cruz
The Honorable Patricia A. Duffy
The Honorable Rodney M. Elliott
The Honorable Judith A. Garcia
The Honorable Ryan M. Hamilton
The Honorable James K. Hawkins
The Honorable Natalie M. Higgins
The Honorable Russell E. Holmes
The Honorable Kristin E. Kassner
The Honorable Patrick Joseph Kearney
The Honorable Sally P. Kerans
The Honorable Meghan K. Kilcoyne
The Honorable Rita A. Mendes
The Honorable Samantha Montaña
The Honorable John Francis Moran
The Honorable Steven Owens
The Honorable Orlando Ramos
The Honorable Lindsay N. Sabadosa
The Honorable Margaret R. Scarsdale
The Honorable Alan Silvia
The Honorable Priscila S. Sousa
The Honorable Chynah Tyler
The Honorable Joseph D. McKenna
The Honorable Kelly W. Pease
The Honorable Michael S. Chaisson

The Honorable John J. Marsi
The Honorable Alyson M. Sullivan-Almeida
The Honorable Marcus S. Vaughn
The Honorable Steven George Xiarhos

¹ Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association (LAPPA). (2025). Kratom: Summary Of State Laws. <https://legislativeanalysis.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Kratom-Summary-of-State-Laws.pdf>

² Volkow N. D. (2021). Addiction should be treated, not penalized. *Neuropsychopharmacology : official publication of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology*, 46(12), 2048–2050.