



Advocacy | Education | Community  
Pennsylvania District Branch of the American Psychiatric Association

December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

**Re: PSAM & PaPS Support for HB 2058 and SB 899**

Dear House Leaders Matthew Bradford and Jesse Topper and Senate Leaders Joe Pittman and Jay Costa,

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Society of Addiction Medicine (PSAM) and the Pennsylvania Psychiatry Society (PaPS), the leading Pennsylvania medical specialty societies respectively representing addiction treatment specialists and psychiatrists, thank you for your support in preventing and treating addiction in Pennsylvania. **We write today to express our strong support for both HB 2058 (Regulating Kratom) and SB 899 (Kratom Consumer Protection – Controlled Substance Act).** These important pieces of legislation would establish regulations for the sale of kratom products, so that PA will join the at least 22 other states who have already started to regulate kratom products.

A growing number of people in Pennsylvania are being negatively impacted by kratom and its extracts. Kratom is a product derived from the plant *Mitragyna Speciosa*, which contains multiple psychoactive substances. The most prominent effects of kratom are due to the alkaloids 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) and mitragynine acting as atypical opioids. These alkaloids have similar effects as other opioids when it comes to intoxication and addiction but seem to be less likely to stop breathing and result in overdose death. Products now include the kratom compound and semisynthetic or synthetic alkaloids sold alone or added to kratom to increase potency. These are currently sold unregulated in Pennsylvania, most commonly in gas stations and smoke shops.

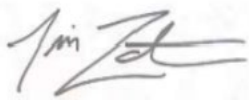
As psychiatrists and addiction treatment specialists, we have increasingly been treating patients with kratom product poisoning, addiction, and withdrawal. We are seeing people across the state with significant dependence on these morphine-like concentrated kratom extracts. Our primary concerns with the current unregulated sale of kratom products in PA are:

- Labels on products often market them for positive health benefits, claims with minimal scientific evidence that can mislead consumers.
- The true ingredients in products are unknown because there are no federal or PA requirements for testing or labeling, contributing to the risk of poisoning and overdose.
- Kratom product sales are currently limited to those at least 18 years old. This should be increased to 21 years old, consistent with other psychoactive substances like alcohol and nicotine products.
- High concentration alkaloid (7-OH and mitragynine) products are widely available, which most likely carry a higher risk of harm and addiction.

Regulating kratom and limiting access to high potency 7-OH and mitragynine products is a reasonable approach to curb the growing problems experienced by misusing and developing an addiction to these products. HB 2058 and SB 899 are sensible pieces of bipartisan legislation that would help protect adults and children in Pennsylvania from these potentially harmful products.

PSAM and PaPS are proud to support these bills and thank their sponsors for their leadership. **We urge you to bring HB 2058 to a House Committee vote and both HB 2058 and SB 899 to full floor votes as soon as possible and support their passage.** Thank you for considering our perspective and please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



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