



September 18, 2026

**Re:** PSAM's Support for HB 2657, Kratom Standards, Labeling, and Consumer Protection Act

Dear Chair Frankel and Chair Rapp,

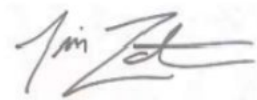
On behalf of the Pennsylvania Society of Addiction Medicine (PSAM), the leading medical specialty society representing addiction treatment specialists in Pennsylvania, thank you for your support in preventing and treating addiction in Pennsylvania. **We write today to express our strong support for HB 2657 or the Kratom Standards, Labeling, and Consumer Protection Act.** This important legislation would establish regulations for the sale of kratom products, so that Pennsylvania can join the 24 other states that regulate kratom products.<sup>1</sup>

A growing number of Pennsylvanians are being negatively impacted by kratom and its extracts. Kratom is a product derived from the *Mitragyna Speciosa* plant, 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.<sup>2</sup>

As addiction treatment specialists, we have increasingly been treating patients with kratom product poisoning, addiction, and withdrawal. Therefore, we support HB 2657 as a sensible first step towards protecting the health and safety of the public. Specifically, HB 2657 contains key provisions requiring labeling of kratom products and prohibiting the advertising and sale to people under 21. Additionally, HB 2657 would restrict the sale of synthetic or adulterated kratom products. All told, HB 2657 represents a significant improvement over our Commonwealth's current unregulated approach to kratom products.

It is a public health imperative that our Commonwealth take the risk of unregulated kratom products seriously. HB 2657 represents a bipartisan approach that will implement basic consumer health and safety provisions. As such, PSAM is proud to support HB 2657 and encourages all members of the House Health Committee to vote for its advancement. We are happy to assist if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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Robert A. Tessier, MD, MPH  
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Pennsylvania Society of Addiction Medicine

CC: The Honorable Bridget Kosierowski  
The Honorable Lisa Borowski  
The Honorable Rick Krajewski  
The Honorable Jessica Benham  
The Honorable Heather Boyd  
The Honorable Liz Hanbidge  
The Honorable Kristine Howard  
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The Honorable Marla Brown  
The Honorable Gary Day  
The Honorable Charity Krupa  
The Honorable Brad Roae  
The Honorable Joanne Stehr  
The Honorable Jamie Walsh  
The Honorable David Zimmerman

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<sup>1</sup> 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>

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<sup>2</sup> Riley, J. (2026, September 10). *Uptick in “gas station heroin” withdrawals reported at Pittsburgh-Area Hospital*. CBS News. <https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/gas-station-heroin-kratom-withdrawal/>