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DEA: No Timetable for Kratom Ban

September 29, 2016

By Pat Anson, Editor

A spokesman for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration says there is no timetable yet for kratom to be formally classified as a Schedule I controlled substance – a move that would make the sale and possession of the herb a federal crime.

Under an emergency scheduling order published in the **Federal Register** last month, the DEA could schedule kratom as an illegal drug as early as Friday, September 30. But that appears to be increasingly unlikely.

"I don't have a timetable. It could be this week, could be in the next few weeks, I just don't know," DEA spokesman Rusty Payne



told *Pain News Network*.

Since the DEA announced its plans on August 30, online kratom suppliers have hurriedly shipped orders to deplete their inventory and tens of thousands of consumers have stocked up on the herb, which many use to treat chronic pain and other medical conditions.

An unprecedented grassroots lobbying campaign was also launched to get the DEA to reverse or postpone its decision. **Over 135,000 people signed a petition** asking the Obama administration to stop the DEA, and **hundreds of kratom supporters rallied** in front of the White House.



A bipartisan group of congressmen in the House also signed **a joint letter asking the agency to delay** the scheduling of kratom to allow for public comment.

No second letter to the DEA is circulating in the U.S. Senate that calls the scheduling of kratom "unprecedented for a natural substance" and urges delay.

The letter was drafted by Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch, the powerful chair of the Senate Finance Committee, who has long maintained an interest in supporting the dietary supplement industry.

That's more than those who suffer from **heart disease** and **diabetes** combined^{2,3}

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All of this has apparently made the DEA think twice about scheduling kratom, at least for the time being.

“What we’re hearing from the DEA today is that it’s not going to happen tomorrow (Friday), but that it’s still going to happen,” said Susan Ash, founder of the American Kratom Association, a consumer group that promotes the use of kratom for medical reasons.

“I’m hoping and praying for some kind of negotiation or compromise. But it sounds like the DEA has dug in because they’re trying to save face. The level of calls that they are receiving and the level of complaints there are receiving is nothing like ever before. We are not a bunch a bunch of drugged out people. If we were, we wouldn’t be on the phone to DEA, congress people and our senators pleading with them to step in and get a delay.”

Acting on the advice of the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the DEA moved to classify kratom as a Schedule I substance – alongside heroin, LSD and marijuana – without any public notice or comment. The DEA maintains that kratom, which comes from the leaves of a tree that grows in Southeast Asia, poses “an imminent hazard to public safety” and has been linked to several deaths.

However, **in a survey of over 6,000 kratom consumers** by *Pain News Network* and the American Kratom Association, 98 percent said kratom was not a harmful or dangerous substance and 95% said banning the herb will have a harmful effect on society. The vast majority said they use the herb in teas and supplements to treat chronic pain, anxiety, depression, addiction or other medical issues. And many say they will continue using kratom even if it is scheduled as a controlled substance.

“We need to be very careful about what we put into Schedule I, especially with limited data. I think that’s a huge mistake,” says John Burke, president of **Pharmaceutical Division Education**, which educates law enforcement and healthcare professionals about prescription drug abuse and



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diversion.

“What if it’s a legitimate drug that can help people? And now we’re going to make criminals out of them. I just think it’s awfully fast. I would hope that if it is Schedule I that it is given a huge window of research and experimentation. To me, if 6,000 people say it’s helping me, that tells me there’s a promise there and we ought to be exploiting it.”

If and when kratom is turned into a controlled substance, it will fall in line behind a long list of illegal drugs the DEA is already struggling – some would say failing -- to control.

“Our priorities would not change. Anybody that’s in violation of the CSA (Controlled Substance Act) runs the risk of arrest and prosecution,” says DEA spokesman Rusty Payne. “That said, right now our biggest problem is the opioid epidemic; fentanyl, heroin, prescription drugs, fentanyl compounds from China, designer synthetic drugs. That’s the biggest priority right now that we’re dealing with.”

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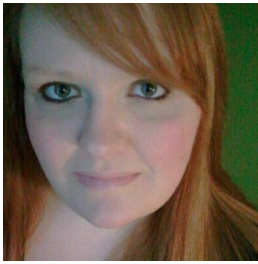
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Kelli Audet 2 hours ago

I have been taking kratom for 2 years. I have been medically treated for pain, anxiety, depression as well as opioid and alcohol addiction. At one time pharmaceuticals were my way of "surviving". Kratom has changed my life. It has saved my life! Addiction has always been a struggle for me, even after many arrests and rehab facilities. I am now clean from all

opioids. No longer do have the urge to drink alcohol in copious amounts as I once did. Kratom has given me my life back. I am now a responsible, productive, contributing member of society. I am happy. I live a healthy lifestyle that I never have before and never would have had I not found this miracle leaf. I am merely one of many who are most likely alive today because they found kratom. #iamkratom #keepkratomlegal #savekratom #kratomsaveslives



Ervin 2 hours ago

Kratom deaths- 1 link exclusively

Alcohol deaths- 88,000 annually

Kratom related motor vehicle fatalities- 0

Alcohol related motor vehicle fatalities- 9,967 annually. 209 children were killed amongst these in 2014.

Alcohol stats per CDC.....where the DEA gets their info on kratom being an imminent public health threat.

If driving down the road with sealed bag of kratom- possible 3-5 year prison sentence

If driving down the road with open container of alcohol- misdemeanor at best.

The state of Alabama placed a ban on kratom prior to the DEA filings.

I took kratom to manage pain so I could continue to lift weights and go to work (as a nurse working with a mental health program through the Dept of Mental Health). When this ban took place, the first thing through my mind was.....So, basically my state is telling me it is justifiable that I could serve a 3-5 year

prison sentence for possessing a substance so I can better myself vs driving with a substance I can get drunk off of that has no medical value (alcohol) and end up with only a misdemeanor. Great message they are sending.



Roger L 3 hours ago

I am not an active Kratom user, but my very best friend is. She has had an opiate problem for the entire 15 years that I have known her, since she found Kratom about 6 months ago she has gotten herself completely drug free. I don't know about the rest of the people, but as far as I'm concerned this is one of the best discoveries ever. Thank you to the American Kratom society and it's fight to help this medication available for people that need it.



Jay 3 hours ago

This is your government. Wake up.



Donnie Lee 3 hours ago

Leave it Alone. It hurts no one! Get out of bed with big pharma and stop screwing with the American people who pay your damn salary DEA



Sara 4 hours ago

You guys are trying to use logic here. This is the DEA. Marijuana is schedule 1 and has killed no one. Alcohol is the biggest killer by far out of any drug. No,

logic is not involved here.



Sherry 4 hours ago

I have been taking kratom for four years to control fibromyalgia pain, chronic migraines, sleep and depression/anxiety. I have gotten off of 7 prescribed meds , controlled substances! I am a stay at home mom/wife and it even helps me my ADHD!!



Candice Bergen 4 hours ago · 1

like

I can guarantee that the heroin and opiate addiction and overdose epidemic will get worse if the DEA bans this. Not only is this plant getting people off heroin and other opiates it's also giving people with legitimate pain depression anxiety etc issues an alternative to opiates and other harsh prescription drugs that cause a lot of unpleasant side effects. I think that's the real issue here is big pharma with all its money and connections with the DEA and FDA is trying to eliminate any potential competition. They would like to leave you no choice but to use their pill for every ailment you have whether it even needs rx intervention or not. Which I suppose would be ok if their pills worked for everyone but they don't. The reality is most meds only have a 10 to 20% success rate low enough to wonder if the few people who get better really did so because of the pill and not some outside factor. If you're lucky enough to be that 10% and you don't end up with side effects worse than the ailment you're taking the pill for then maybe that works. What about everyone else?

I was one of those people had to give up the career I worked three jobs all through college to get as a

police consultant for fighting with the SSA about disability benefits because of horrible side effects.

I don't know what's wrong with the medical profession these days but I bet it's got a lot to do with big pharma kickbacks when a medication had bad side effects the doctor suggested increasing the dose. When you call your doctor with chest pains and difficulty breathing the last thing you expect is being to take more. I can't tell you how many times in the five years I've been sick I've had experiences like this with a doctor and not the same doctor either. It left me feeling very anxious about my care and if their recommendations were truly in my best interest.

One time I was put on this crazy drug they use for soldiers with night terrors, I had a mental breakdown. I have no idea why I got that for run of the mill insomnia. Before I knew it I was on 30 plus perscription everytime I was given another pill I was always told this is the magic pill that is going to make you better. You'll be able to go back to work. That was never the case, I only got more and more dysfunctional until I couldn't drive walk or even stand up. I became totally bedridden like in an awake coma. I couldn't sleep, hold down food, I truly believed I was one breath from death some days. After I'd been through so many pills the doctors started taken the fact their magic pills didn't help out on me. I've been told I'm still sick because I'm lazy and weak, not trying hard enough to get better (when I was literally blindly following orders to my deathbed taking their pills), or the least insulting but still disappointing you're hopeless stop wasting my time calling and coming here even if you do get worse if like you are like you are right now unable to stand or hold down food I can't help you. The only thing that will help you is getting use to your new reality.

Guess when there's no more money to made on rx kickbacks, the doctors can't even be bothered to see you even when obviously being paid to by insurance.


They must not pay enough per visit to get any care, the rest is made up by rx kickbacks and when they've run out of things to prescribe and put me in a wheelchair doing it they just walk away.

I would have killed myself if i wasn't told about kratom. I had no hope, every doctor gave up on me after they made it worse they said horrible things to me, insulting my character, and told me to suck it up after thier pills had ruined my life and my body inside and out.

I simply cannot take rx drugs but no doctor would accept that. They'd rather make me worse to get kickbacks than just let be me and they'd even threaten to give disability a report I was noncomplaint if I didn't take this or that pill. I felt like a prisoner, I was being forced to take pills that made me more sick which only made me more disabled. It made no logical sense.

When I first went to the doctor I had insomnia and some neck pain I was still totally fuctional. It was the medication that made me non fuctional eventually lead to me losing my career and taking my ability to walk. A month after weening off everything else with the help of kratom and I was my old self again. I'm not in a wheelchair but if it was up to big pharma and the medical community I'd still be totally bedridden. Half of problems I had were side effects from rx drugs but the doctors wouldn't hear that, they wanted me on drugs so badly they'd even increase the dose of something that caused chest pains. I think people may be confused who the biggest drug dealers and where the true dangers lie.

 **KMC** 4 hours ago

 MAO @ Marcus, I think your comment should be illegal! Ban it!



Lisa 4 hours ago

I have never felt so betrayed or let down by our government. regardless if a person is in support of Kratom we should be greatly concerned with the breakdown in the way the DEA has handled the scheduling of Mitragyna Speciosa as a class 1 drug. This is not how our government is ran. This witch hunt started with a gentleman that owns a chain of suboxone clinics, after results became pubic for a very thourgh research study in kratom for various drug addictions. These result are a game changer, and with him not being the one to have started the patent application for a chemical in Kratom he knew he would loose millions, but good thing he has a buddy at the DEA who happened to be in debt. I cannot prove these allegations but they are known by hundreds, but once again if they are wrong it doesn't excuse the fact that, money is the root of this and it breaks my heart to loose faith in our so-called Democratic system. There is a special place for individuals that KNOW that everywhere Kratom has been banned overdose DEATH rates increased a minimum of 20%.



Nathan 4 hours ago

Kratom helps alot of people its a medical plant with lots of medical benefits! If it becomes illegal coffee should be illigal too because they both come from a plant related and both have benefits



Kaci Jones 4 hours ago

Kratom saved my life. I have severe chronic pain from

Ehlers Danlos Syndrome. I was put on norco, fentanyl, and many more. Of course, when you take something you become addicted or dependent. It was extremely hard for me to stop and I could never find a doctor who would want to help me because the DEA has them scared of loosing their license. We are in a drug crisis because doctors hook you on prescription drugs and then leave you high and dry. Due to the fact I couldn't get help, I tried Kratom. Because of Kratom I am narcotic free. It has changed my life and saved my life. Instead of being forced to the streets to find help with my pain, I take a natural herb. I had no withdrawal with Kratom when I got off my pain meds and it helps my pain so much that I'm off all meds including ibuprofen. I feel normal, pain free, anxiety free and I don't get treated like a drug addict. I can even get on the floor and play with my two year old even with metal rods in both of my legs. Please I'm begging you, your not just hurting me but your hurting my family, my two year old daughter who finally has her mother back. Think about that!



Edward Dubois 4 hours ago

Kratom is an amazing herbal supplement that is no more harmful or addictive as coffee. Canada has it right: labeled as a dietary supplement.



Janice Reynolds 5 hours ago

There needs to be serious consideration to either closely supervision of the DEA by a panel of knowledgeable experts (pharmacists, pain management experts, addiction experts, possibly others) or dissolving it outright. I should be handling known illegal drugs, not deciding the value or even anger of medication. They obviously overstepped

their bounds with Kratom. They should have no say on medication like Kratom, opioids (prescription), or marijuana, Their aggressiveness in all three of those is uncalled for and destroyed lives. There are many medications out there much more dangerous than opioids. Opioids have the potential to be addictive but so do other medications as well. The fact they were ready to attack Kratom without any evidence of harm is just more evidence that it is the person with pain they are after-not necessarily the medication.



Adam 5 hours ago

I really am proud of all of you who have written to your governmental representatives and taken action. Anyone who has used Kratom knows that the DEA's rushed decision to schedule it is absolute insanity. I am extremely pleased that members of congress and the senate have used their powers to inform the DEA of what a mistake they are making. We are in the middle of a heroin / opiate epidemic caused by the over prescription of opiates. Big pharma has created a plague of addiction. Once their prescriptions are no longer enough users turn to heroin. The decision to ban a miraculous plant that has the power to help with pain and ease withdrawal from addiction is pure insanity caused by an organization that is completely out of touch with reality.



Alex 5 hours ago

I was an opiate addict. Tried to quit opiates with Methadone. Tapered from 120mg to 5mg, but couldn't seem to come off the last 5. In the last 1.5 months, I've been taking kratom & am completely OPIATE FREE!!! I even had gallbladder removal surgery this week. Told them no opiates. Wake up post-Op doped

on morphine! Didn't matter. Came home w/ a hydro script & haven't touched them! Kratom works BETTER! Rather than being numbed from the pain, I'm relaxed into taking it easy & properly healing. A much smarter & healthier option. I believe in kratom. The benefits are amazing.



Allan 5 hours ago

I have been taking kratom for a long time and NEVER experienced a negative side effect. It has been extremely helpful for my depression and anxiety. This plant needs to remain legal!



T 6 hours ago

Watching those around who have been addicted to Pharmaceutical opioid impacts those around them. They have tried getting off or was prescribed Suboxone which was just as worse. When they were given Kratom for the withdrawals they were amazed. Prescription free.. something to control their pain and life.

Only the Pharma would like this natural plant to become something they would later put in their pockets for the sole purpose of money. The DEA will follow their lead instead of the public which they are to have our interest not the interest of \$



derek 6 hours ago

What nonsense! The dea is over-stepping their bounds on this one; more so than even marijuana.

Kratom is a gentle herb. All 5 deaths "related" to kratom all were found to have synthetic and/or

dangerous prescription drugs in their system (the dea left that part out) If the majority of the public REALLY knew what this plant was (related to coffee!) There would be an uproar. This is the absolute dumbest move on the dea I have ever seen. Not to mention they have no scientific data nor MD's opinion on this. The dea are just regular people with WAY TOO MUCH AUTHORITY and expertise in this field. With the opiate epidemic higher than it ever has been, this is the biggest contradiction in recent history. Pathetic! I and many others are very disappointed in our country right now.



Marcus 6 hours ago · 1 like

I think Kratom needs to be illegal. If you take it with a bunch of street drugs, it can kill you. Ban it!

I also think that Tylenol should be illegal. Too many accidental overdoses. And headaches aren't that bad anyway. Ban it!

I read somewhere that 5-hour Energy has killed 13 people. Ban it!

My brother drank Mountain Dew for months and when he decided to quit, he was a complete bear for a couple days. Ban it!

I once had a cold and thought I was taking DayQuil but I grabbed the wrong box and it was NyQuil. I was groggy and unproductive all day and crashed my car into my trash dumpster after work. Ban NyQuil!

Years ago in St Louis a radio show hosted a water drinking contest. One lady drank so much water she literally died. Ban the radio! Ban St Louis! Ban water! Save us, DEA, save us!



Slkwont 3 hours ago

You forgot to mention alcohol. That stuff kills more people than all of the stuff combined, yet it's still perfectly legal!



stephen 6 hours ago

All about the greedy pharmaceutical company's. They could care less about your health.



Alicia 6 hours ago

The DEA needs to focus attention elsewhere, not on natural herbs that are actually helping people!



Brann 6 hours ago

Kratom is safe , effective and entirely functional. It actually improves my performance of everyday tasks and work. My mind is completely clear , awake and focused. This ban would be like banning coffee.

Coffee is more dangerous than kratom. That is how benign this plant is. Taking kratom away from people will throw them at the mercy of opiate narcotics that truly can and will kill them. The DEA will have blood on their hands if they ban kratom just to "save face" because they don't want to face they are mistaken.



Gary Parillo 7 hours ago

The ban will not happen on Sept30,good news for millions like myself,disabled and in chronic pain,who find excellent pain relief with KRATOM.Good news for the tens of thousands of combat vets,who find relief from anxiety and PTSD,by using this safe gift of nature.Good news for the many who find relief from depression&anxiety,without any high or psychoactive side effects.Now we must over the next several months,educate the ones who try to deprive us of this gift.We must clear up the misconceptions so they that are truly concerned for public safety can understand the benefits of this herb.One major misconception is that KRATOM is an opioid.Kratom is NOT an opioid.Research confirms that.Kratom is NOT addictive.There are no withdrawals as there would be with opioids.There are no DTs as there would be with alcohol.You CANNOT overdose with KRATOM.Using to much at one time will cause nausea and dizziness,and one quickly learns to not do that again,unless one enjoys being dizzy and nauseous.Due to the side effects of using to much that I just mentioned the abuse potential of this herb is very low.Someone looking for a YEEEHAW time better look elsewhere,like maybe with Americas favorite drug,alcohol,because you will not find a YEEEHAW time sipping KRATOM tea.These are a few of the major miconceptions that some worry about.There are a few more.I just wish people who want to be prohibitionists would take the time to know facts and not get in a frenzy of hysteria based on misinformation and lies.Maybe even try something themselves first,so they know what there talking about.

Katie L. 7 hours ago

Sarah, I am in agreement with you. I am a medical social worker, and I have also done work on the macro (policymaking level). I think that Mr. Payne is right when he says that dealing with the opioid and

Fentanyl crisis is what needs the attention right now and that banning kratom will not only take up valuable time and resources in enforcing this ban that would be better used elsewhere, it will actually most likely cause more and more people to get hooked on Rx drugs, overdose and die or become disabled.

#iamkratom



Amazed 7 hours ago

Alcohol is by far the number one killing drug per year in the U.S. and should be the first schedule one drug on the list. I have found very few folks who would even think about arguing with that fact (thank God, for arguing with those who would, might be similar to talking to a potato bug). So let's face reality - "danger to the public" is not what this is about and therefore it's all a big sham. Once again corruption shows it's nasty head in our administrative government.



Bruce 7 hours ago

IAMKRATOM!

I used to be addicted to opiates because my doctor prescribed them to me like candy for severe arthritis pain.

When I stopped taking them, I went in to horrible withdrawals. I found Kratom.

It has saved my life



Ryan Cahner 7 hours ago

Kratom has helped immensely with my mental health

and also helped me to get off the poisonous

Suboxone once and for all. So happy I was able to so

my part in this historic fight. One day I will tell my daughter how the community united against DEA tyranny.



Cleve Williams 7 hours ago

DEA could save face by admitting they were wrong and moving on. Kratom has given me a portion of my life back after being disabled by several neurological diseases.



Dave 7 hours ago

I'm not one for conspiracy theory but it's OBVIOUS there is more to this than meets the eye. Perhaps there has been recognition of the profits being made by this industry and they want those profits. Government agencies and Big Pharma are using the DEA as their scapegoat in order to cash in on this beloved plant. They'll probably try and turn it into the next pill and you'll see some ridiculous commercial asking you to ask your doctor to prescribe you "Mitrasyrica" or some such ridiculous name....sad



Zephyr 7 hours ago

They're worried about an opioid epidemic yet they're going to take away the ONE THING that's saved people from experiencing the withdrawal and return of pain/fatigue that we all experienced and fear having to go through again?? The DEA is completely contradicting themselves and it seems they're waiting for them to find a way to get their pockets lined rather than helping the huge kratom community coming out of their arms over this from day one.

HEAR US!!!! DO THE RIGHT THING FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE!!! We're screaming at the top of our lungs to be heard for a change. Show us you care about us rather than working against us.



Heather Culpepper

7 hours ago

The fact that DEA cannot even control or divert the supply of heroin, fentanyl and carfentanil out of this country speaks volumes. They aren't doing much in the way of helping people. As far as I am concerned, all they do is throw people in cages. It's barbaric. And now they want to put pain patients in a cage? What year is this? Is this the same time frame as the crucifixion of Jesus Christ? Or what? Have some compassion for people struggling with chronic pain.



Kevin

7 hours ago

I started using Mitragyna Speciosa two and a half years ago. I've suffered with severe bipolar disorder. All my life. I began having issues as an early teenager. I have been prescribed Paxil, Zoloft, anatriptaline, Valium, Depakote, and a few others. Nothing helped me. I had a motorcycle accident that severed my foot from my leg. I was prescribed prescription opiates. They made me feel good for a very short time. A few months into using the prescribed opiates I went into one of the worst bipolar episodes I had ever experienced thus far. I can only attribute that to the opiates I was taking at the time. I went from the severe depression bipolar into the bipolar/manic type. I tried stopping the opiates. The pain I was going through and the mental agony I experienced was tremendous. So now on top of my bipolar, I was suffering from chronic pain. So I kept

taking opiates. I would feel good one month and another month or so I would go into a deep dark depression. I was either way up or way down. Which to me at the time was better than being severely depressed all the time. Either way, I was unable to take care of myself or my family with any kind of consistency. This pattern went on into my 30s. At the age of 32 I was introduced through differing support groups to plants and herbs that others claimed had helped them with similar issues. I tried quite a few and did quite a bit of research. Many did help. Such as holy basil for anxiety/ depression, turmeric for anti inflammatory, Akumma seeds that help with pain, shilijit, for mood, cats claw for pain, and many others. Then I began using Kratom. It didn't work all that well at first. But I was told to keep trying, that different strains worked differently with individuals. I found a combination of green vein, and red vein leaves that began to help me considerably. Once I found the strain and proper amount to take, I noticed and family members noticed an enormous improvement in my wellbeing in general. I've been taking as I stated before for two and a half years now. I feel stable and balanced and just plain capable. Im well into a career now as a CNC department supervisor. I've been working the same place for two years. Prior to this job I haven't been stable enough to maintain employment for any longer than 6 to 9 months. My family wife and children all attest to the difference this plant has made in my life. They feel as though they can depend on me, and they can and do now. I feel as though I'm clear minded, goal oriented, motivated, happy more times than not. My level of chronic pain and fatigue has all but disappeared. Many other aspects of my life have improved as well I could go on. That plant changed my whole families welfare not just mine. I beg you to do everything in your power to keep the DEA from taking this plant from myself and all the other 100s of thousands that it has done the same for. Research must be allowed to continue. This plant must not be taken from the people. Our country is experiencing an opiate and pharmaceutical epidemic.

This plant has brought many out of the grasp of that epidemic. The pharmaceutical companies already have the alkaloids in the kratom plant researched and patented. They want to synthesize it, make it into something they can sell to the public. Everything they touch turns bad. Let the people choose to take this plant in its natural form. The pharmaceutical industry will make something bad out of it, and raise the price on it so much that it will cause hardships. This plant helps people in its natural form. Help us keep the DEA from taking it away. Please.



Sarah 7 hours ago

Fentanyl and Heroin epidemics will grow when Kratom is banned. This is one of the worst moves I've ever seen. They are trying to fight the war on drugs. Instead they are going to cause it to escalate.



Mel 7 hours ago

This intent to schedule/ban kratom is the most oxymoronic thing I've ever heard of. By the DEA's own admission, heroin and opiate painkillers are their biggest problem. It's completely obvious that kratom safely helps keep people AWAY from these substances. How does this make sense in any Universe? I really hope they come to their senses soon. I'm afraid the DEA and any other agencies involved will be unable to admit they're wrong. This has to stop. The public can't afford to wait around for years while these agencies play games with their lives.



Tom Y 7 hours ago

You said it, here we have a tool in the box that can help the DEA stop the drug epidemic in our country and they want to take it away, I'm just in awe over how negligent an arm of one of our government agencies who are supposed to help protect citizens in our country are just ready to ban a plant that all the current science, polls and testimonies show that it helps people of all age groups whether it be chronic pain, depression, anxiety and yes even help to win the war on both legal and illegal drug abuse in our nation! I hope that the government steps in and doesn't allow this to become scheduled until more research is compiled and see that it is nothing short of nature's own natural miracle herb helping millions of people live their lives without pharmaceuticals or illegal drugs. I for one can say this plant has enriched my life both personally and professionally.



Kelly 7 hours ago

Kelly

Kratom has help me get my life back. I have been sick from Fibromyalgia, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, autoimmune disease and Neuropathy. I will have no quality of life if this ban on Kratom is effective. Western Medicine has not helped me and I have had terrible side effects using allopathic medication. Kratom is a gift from God



Hannah 7 hours ago

This is an outrage and it needs to remain legal.



Laura Baldwin 7 hours ago



If they really wanted to fight the opioid crisis, they would be investigating the use of this herb not banning it. They already know via research that it is a promising plant that would help people wean off of opioids. By the way, this plant has shown research that it is not an opioid. Withdrawals from kratom are minimal at best.



g 7 hours ago

Let's dig for hidden agendas. Kratom contains beneficial alkaloids, a possible miracle alternative for pain mgmt and for treating opiate addiction. There's Profit In this. Who profits if it's out the hands of the people? Glaxo? Who else? Pharma has a huge lobby, one of the biggest. Uncover the real stakeholders. The DEA is mid level here. Who is at the top?



Steve 8 hours ago

This whole sick charade is clearly a backroom maneuver by the Unholy Trinity of Big Pharma, the American Prison Industrial complex, and Big Pharma's thuggish enforcement arm, the DEA- to outlaw Kratom. That way, prisons-for-profit can load up on a whole new class of felons- people who are seeking relief from pain and other conditions; and since Kratom is a naturally occurring plant, Big Pharma can't own it, patent it, and charge us holy balls for it, they have directed the DEA to crush and destroy Kratom and its millions of advocate/users. None of these three corporate/gov't entities have anything resembling a moral conscience. They are evil, greedy and corrupt. Thankfully, they had NO IDEA what an outcry this stupid ban would provoke. They were totally unprepared for the landslide of opposition. And

fortunately, most of us can clearly see what is REALLY going on here.
WE will prevail!



L.W. 2 hours ago

Steve, please don't underestimate what the government can do... big pharma ALREADY has the patents to 2 of the alkaloids in Kratom. This makes it obvious that they plan to make a synthetic Kratom.



Susan Hoak 8 hours ago

yeah the last comment kills me - if their priority is indeed the opiate crisis, how can they, with a straight face and clear conscience, ban the natural substance that works to help get people off opiates. It's just absurd.

iamkratom

kratomsaveslives



KMC 8 hours ago

Thank you to everyone who has fought, and continues to fight for this cause. I have MANY friends who's lives have been saved by this HERB (Its not a

drug) People who have gone to many treatment/rehabs, have their lives back. The DEA needs to start being realistic in its FAILED war on drugs. Kratom, for the most part is natural, if it becomes banned, people are still going to use it, its just the chances that it gets mixed with dangerous substances, as most street drugs do, will make this dangerous. Banning this will have serious consequences in many areas, I know that first hand.



Ben 8 hours ago

The DEA's biggest priority is securing their budget and helping Big Pharma increase its profits. Forget ISIS. The DEA is the world's deadliest terrorist organization.



Mike Golden 8 hours ago

Keep it legal so it can be researched. Wouldn't that be the most logical option? I'm not a kratom user but it seems a lot of people have benefited from the plant. Let scientists research it before making such a hasty decision that could literally kill people.



Trent 8 hours ago

So you are going to ban the one drug opiate addicts use to wean themselves off hardcore opiate prescription painkillers? That's the dumbest decision... well there are plenty of dumb, unscientific, and baseless decisions the DEA makes, but this one takes the cake...



Spaethon 9 hours ago

" right now our biggest problem is the opioid epidemic; fentanyl, heroin, prescription drugs, fentanyl compounds from China, designer synthetic drugs. That's the biggest priority right now that we're dealing with." Well, if this is such a huge priority, then why ban a 100% natural remedy that people take to get OFF opioids?! Kratom is already here. It's out in the public and more people daily are taking Kratom as a substitute to opioids. So why in the freakin' hell would the DEA be struggling to ban Kratom as opposed to rallying behind Kratom? If their biggest problem was really the opioid epidemic, they wouldn't be banning Kratom, plain and simple. Their REAL biggest "problem" is their job security and making Big Pharma happy. Well, and also the satisfaction of busting people and throwing them in prison. Let the SCIENTISTS dictate what gets scheduled...not cops!



Jrshiking 9 hours ago

I had cervical fusion on my c5,c6,c7 and was on oxycodone 30mg as well as fentanyl patches 100mcg for well over 3 years. I had a friend who told me about Kratom. I was very sceptical to say the least. But after a month of stepping down from the extremely dangerous and addicting drugs that I was on I took Kratom for the constant pain. And to my surprise it worked and it worked better then the meds prescribed by my doctor. I believe that Kratom has changed my life for the better. I have recommended it to friends who are prescribed pain meds. And to my delight it worked for them to.PLEASE DON'T MAKE KRATOM ILLEGAL. IT SAVED MY LIFE



Rob 9 hours ago

Kratom helps with the biggest concern in that last statement. It's a miracle plant that helps a lot of people including me.



Pharmacist Steve 9 hours ago

The DEA claims that the poison control center has received some 500-600 calls over 5 yrs and MAYBE 30 have died WORLD WIDE from use/abuse of this supplement... The various poison control centers collectively get some SEVEN PHONE CALLS EVERY SECOND - 24/7. 30 deaths is about the same number of deaths of babies/kids left in cars in hot weather - EVERY YEAR in the USA alone.

Between 2001 and 2010, more than 1,500 people in the U.S. died from accidental acetaminophen overdoses

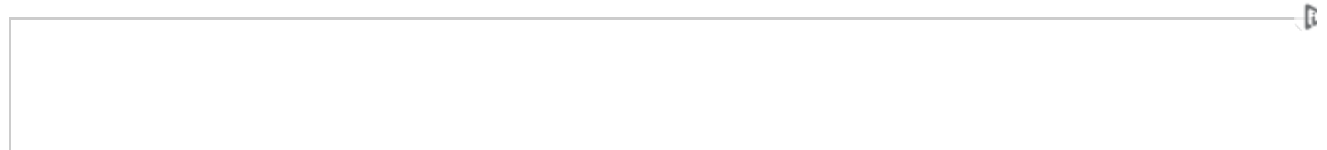
Acetaminophen overdose sends as many as 78,000 Americans to the emergency room annually and results in 33,000 hospitalizations a year, federal data shows. Acetaminophen is also the nation's leading cause of acute liver failure, according to data from an ongoing study funded by the National Institutes for Health.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/24/tylenol-overdose_n_3976991.html

This issue with Kratom.. strongly suggests that the DEA is increasingly ignoring scientific facts and making decisions and interpretations of The Controlled Substance Act 1970 (CSA) .. based on fabrications and this may cause the DEA to start unraveling the war on drugs and in reality.. over the past several years... has become the war on prescribers and patients... which - IMO - I think that few believe was the original intent of the CSA.

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