

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 460 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY STRUZZI, SAPPEY, CONKLIN, READSHAW, RYAN,
SCHLOSSBERG AND SCHMITT, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Food and Drug Administration to
2 recognize this Commonwealth's concern with the safety of
3 kratom and the current distribution and sale of kratom as a
4 drug replacement, supplement or food and to promptly consider
5 guidelines and protocols for the safe use of kratom.

6 WHEREAS, The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
7 has issued warnings to consumers to not use *Mitragyna speciosa*,
8 commonly known as kratom, a plant which grows naturally in
9 Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, because the
10 plant affects the same opioid brain receptors as morphine and
11 appears to have properties that expose users to the risks of
12 addiction, abuse and dependence; and

13 WHEREAS, Kratom is consumed by chewing the leaves, drying and
14 smoking the leaves, putting the leaves into capsules or tablets
15 or boiling the leaves into a tea; and

16 WHEREAS, The effects from kratom are unique in that
17 stimulation occurs at low doses and opioid-like depressant and
18 euphoric effects occur at higher doses; and

19 WHEREAS, The FDA has issued reports about deaths associated

1 with kratom with little or no research performed on the safety
2 of kratom; and

3 WHEREAS, The FDA rescinded the FDA's intention to designate
4 kratom as a Schedule 1 drug after public outcry from supporters
5 of kratom; and

6 WHEREAS, Supporters of kratom assert that illicit substances
7 combined with kratom caused the deaths associated with kratom
8 and that those deaths wrongly served as the basis for the FDA's
9 proposed criminalization of kratom; and

10 WHEREAS, The FDA is actively evaluating all available
11 scientific information to better understand kratom's safety
12 profile, including the use of kratom combined with other drugs;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, While the FDA evaluates the available safety
15 information about the effects of kratom, the FDA encourages
16 health care professionals and consumers to report any adverse
17 reactions to kratom to the FDA's MedWatch program; therefore be
18 it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
20 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the United States Food and
21 Drug Administration to recognize this Commonwealth's concern
22 with the safety of kratom and the current distribution and sale
23 of kratom as a drug replacement, supplement or food; and be it
24 further

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
26 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the United States Food and
27 Drug Administration to promptly consider guidelines and
28 protocols for the safe use of kratom; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
30 the headquarters of the United States Food and Drug

- 1 Administration at 10903 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring,
- 2 Maryland 20993.