



AMERICAN KRATOM ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS FDA AUTHORITY TO REGULATE IMPERMISSIBLE HEALTH CLAIMS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—Washington, DC—The American Kratom Association (AKA) strongly supports the FDA's authority to regulate impermissible health claims being made by any dietary supplement manufacturer, including those who formulate products containing kratom.

Any manufacturer who violates the Drug Safety and Health Education Act (DSHEA) labeling standards by making claims that kratom can "treat, cure or prevent any disease" should be held accountable.

Kratom has been used as a conventional food for centuries in Southeast Asia, and has been safely and responsibly used by Americans since it was first introduced as an ethnic food shortly after the Vietnam War when our returning soldiers and immigrants brought its use to the United States. In the last couple of decades, the popularity of kratom as a natural herb to help consumers manage their health and well-being has increased.

The majority of businesses who manufacture kratom products are responsible and careful when marketing their products. As an organization, we will continue to work to promote the safety of consumers and the transparency of products as primary goals for every kratom product.

The AKA supports strong regulatory action against any kratom manufacturer who makes illegal health claims. We also encourage the FDA and the DEA to use their existing law enforcement powers to stop the manufacture and distribution of any illegally formulated products that contain kratom.

The AKA is committed to preserving and protecting the freedoms of consumers to responsibly and safely consume kratom as a part of their health and well-being regimen, and AKA has adopted the following set of principles:

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES ON REGULATING KRATOM

The American Kratom Association (AKA) recognizes that every effort should be made to keep kratom risks low and protect consumers from adulterated and contaminated kratom products. With appropriate FDA consumer regulation, we can maximize the potential for kratom to be responsibly used to improve the health and well-being of individuals and public health in America. To that end, AKA supports the following efforts:

1. **REGULATION:** AKA supports appropriate FDA regulations to ensure the safety and purity of kratom products. AKA is committed to work with the FDA to share information and collaborate in the development of regulations that will protect consumers from adulteration and contamination of kratom products.

2. **CHILDREN:** While Federal surveys have not identified use of kratom products in children as an emerging problem, AKA nonetheless supports efforts to prevent youth use, such as consideration of minimum age of procurement laws, e.g., age 18.
3. **CHILD EXPOSURE CONCERNS:** Although we are not aware of child or infant poisonings, AKA supports appropriate child resistant packaging.
4. **PRODUCT PURITY:** AKA believes that most manufacturers compete to provide the highest quality and purest products, and to ensure consumers can have confidence in the kratom products they purchase, AKA supports standards for product purity just as there are for most food products.
5. **POTENTIAL ADULTERANTS:** AKA believes that responsible marketers do not adulterate their products with other substances, which is a concern that has been raised by the FDA. However, AKA would welcome FDA standards to prevent contamination or adulteration of kratom products with dangerous substances. AKA also supports appropriate monitoring to reassure consumers that their lawfully purchased products meet purity and manufacturing standards.
6. **CLAIMS CONSISTENT WITH DSHEA:** AKA is committed to limiting claims associated with the use of kratom products to conform with the standards set in DSHEA for dietary supplements. AKA is committed to continuing to work with dietary experts and legal counsel and will work with the FDA to ensure that AKA's statements do not constitute inappropriate claims.
7. **LABELING:** AKA welcomes FDA development of labeling and encourages FDA to work with manufactures and marketers to develop labeling that is helpful to consumers.