



# Kratom: Key Talking Points for Lawmakers

Key facts lawmakers should understand before voting on kratom policy.

## CORE FACTS

- Not FDA-approved; safety not established
- CDC detects kratom in overdose deaths
- Poison control reports thousands of exposures
- Pediatric cases increasing
- Acts on opioid receptors

## POLICY FRAMING

- Drug harm is measured by contribution—not sole cause
- Substances need not be the only cause to pose risk
- Products can be unlawful under FD&C without scheduling
- Retail availability does not equal safety

## ENFORCEMENT REALITY

- **No roadside test exists for kratom impairment**
- Detection requires advanced lab testing (LC-MS/MS)
- Results are delayed—enforcement is not real-time
- Standards without enforcement create false safety

## MARKET REALITY

- Products vary widely in potency and composition
- Extracts and 7-OH increase strength beyond natural leaf
- No standardized dosing or labeling exists
- “Measured by contribution—not exclusivity.”
- “If it can’t be tested, it can’t be regulated.”
- “Risk is established—the question is access.”

If it cannot be tested, regulated, or proven safe—why is it still being sold?