RESOLUTION 2024-I

SUBJECT: Warning the Profession and Public about the Potential Dangers of Kratom Use

SUBMITTED TO: Michigan Osteopathic Association House of Delegates

SUBMITTED BY: Rachel A Young, DO

REFFERED TO: Public Affairs Committee

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as Written

ACTION TAKEN AT MOA HOD:

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, kratom is a substance derived from a tropical tree, Mitragyna speciosa, native to Southeast Asia traditionally used to alleviate pain, fatigue, enhance mood (1,2,4); and

WHEREAS, kratom acts as an opioid agonist that acts on the mu opioid receptor, leading to stimulant effects (in low doses) and sedative effects (in high doses), which can lead to psychotic symptoms, and psychological and physiological dependence (1); and

WHEREAS, the use of kratom in the United States increased 10-fold from 2010 to 2015 and is easily accessible without a prescription at smoke shops, gas stations, or on the internet; and

WHEREAS, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health, an estimated 1.7 million Americans aged 12 and older used kratom in 2021 to treat pain, anxiety, depression, opioid use disorder, and opioid withdrawal (2); and

WHEREAS, there is limited scientific evidence to support its safety and efficacy, and concerns have been raised about its potential for addiction, abuse, and adverse effects, including seizures, liver damage, and death; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 the FDA issued a public health advisory about kratom and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) identified kratom as a drug of concern, although it is still not classified or regulated as a controlled substance (3); and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recognizes kratom as a potential source of fatal overdose (3); and

WHEREAS, the American Medical Association (AMA) has a policy statement noting it is inappropriate to authorize the sale, marketing or distribution of kratom given there is no Federal Drug Administration (FDA) approval for any prescription or over-the-counter drug products containing kratom or its two main chemical components mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH-mitragynine) (2,4); now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Michigan Osteopathic Association (MOA) promote learning opportunities for its members about kratom, its current accessibility and use by the public, and concerns regarding safety and efficacy or lack there of; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the MOA encourages the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) to write a policy statement opposing kratom being available for marketing, purchase, or prescription until such time that the FDA and other relevant regulatory agencies evaluate its safety and appropriateness for sale; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the MOA submit a properly formatted version of this resolution to the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) for consideration at the 2024 House of Delegates.

References:

1. Synthetic and Receptor Signaling Explorations of the *Mitragyna* Alkaloids: Mitragynine as an Atypical Molecular Framework for Opioid Receptor Modulators. Andrew C. Kruegel, Madalee M. Gassaway, Abhijeet Kapoor, András Váradi, Susruta Majumdar, Marta Filizola, Jonathan A. Javitch, and Dalibor Sames. *Journal of the American Chemical Society* 2016 *138* (21), 6754-6764 DOI: 10.1021/jacs.6b00360.<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/jacs.6b00360>.
2. FDA and Kratom. US Food and Drug Administration, Web. 20 February 2024. < https://www.fda.gov/news-events/public-health-focus/fda-and-kratom>.
3. Olsen EO, O'Donnell J, Mattson CL, Schier JG, Wilson N. *Notes from the Field:* Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths with Kratom Detected — 27 States, July 2016–December 2017. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2019;68:326–327. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6814a2external icon.
4. Kratom. United States Drug Enforcement Administration, Web. October 2022. <https://www.dea.gov/factsheets/kratom>; <https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2023-04/Kratom%202022%20Drug%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>.