

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

REFERRED TO: Public Affairs Committee

RECOMMENDATION: Approved as Amended

ACTION TAKEN AT MOA HOD: Adopted as Written

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 25 RESOLVED, that the Michigan Osteopathic Association (MOA) promote learning opportunities for
26 its members about kratom, its current accessibility and use by the public, and concerns
27 regarding safety and efficacy or lack there of; and, be it further
- 28 RESOLVED, that the MOA encourages the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) to write a policy
29 statement opposing kratom being available for marketing, purchase, or prescription until such
30 time that the FDA and other relevant regulatory agencies evaluate its safety and appropriateness
31 for sale; and, be it further
- 32 RESOLVED, that the MOA submit a properly formatted version of this resolution to the American
33 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](http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6814a2external%20icon).
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>>.