Whereas, Kratom is made from a tropical evergreen tree and the leaves possess opioid-like properties and Kratom is legally sold over the counter in the United States; and

Whereas, The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning consumers not to use Mitragyna speciosa, commonly known as Kratom and is concerned that Kratom, which affects the same opioid brain receptors as morphine, appears to have properties that expose users to the risks of addiction, abuse, and dependence; and

Whereas, The following jurisdictions have already banned the sale of Kratom: Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Tennessee, Vermont, Wisconsin, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Jersey and the District of Columbia as well as the communities of Union County, Mississippi, Sarasota, Florida, San Diego, CA, Denver, CO and at least four cities in the state of Illinois, and various other restrictions pending or being considered around the country; and

Whereas, There are efforts in Kentucky to add Kratom to the list of controlled substances that are unlawful to traffic and additionally to add it to the list of controlled substances that are unlawful for a person to possess; and

Whereas, This year, Washington State is attempting to designate Kratom as a controlled substance; and

Whereas, The Ohio Board of Pharmacy recently recommended that Kratom be classified as a Schedule 1 controlled substance, and this follows on the heels of the FDA research, which has been considering similar measures, and refers to Kratom as having a "high potential for abuse", "no accepted medical use", and lacking "accepted safety for use in treatment under medical supervision"; and

Whereas, There are no FDA-approved uses for Kratom and little to no human research on the substance exists, yet it is currently widely available for sale to the public; and

Whereas, The United States is currently in a time deemed as an opioid crisis destroying families daily; and

Whereas, Labeling Kratom as a Schedule 1 drug federally will significantly enhance the ability of Kratom ban advocates to pass regulation and legislation to achieve necessary bans on this dangerous substance across the country; therefore be it
RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association advocate to schedule Kratom as Schedule 1 drug whilst supporting research into the safety and efficacy of the substance should there be any (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA advocate to ban the sale of Kratom directly to the public. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

Received: 05/18/22

REFERENCE

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Kratom and its Growing Use Within the United States H-95.934
Our AMA supports legislative or regulatory efforts to prohibit the sale or distribution of Kratom in the United States which do not inhibit proper scientific research.
Citation: Res. 509, A-16