



OREGON PSYCHIATRIC  
PHYSICIANS ASSOCIATION

Date: February 2, 2022

To: The Honorable Chair John Lively  
The Honorable Vice-Chair Jami Cate  
The Honorable Vice-Chair Jason Kropf  
Members of the House Committee on Economic Recovery and Prosperity

From: Maya López, MD  
Daniel Nicoli, DO  
Oregon Psychiatric Physicians Association

RE: Position statement on HB HB 4010 Kratom

Chair Wilde, Vice Chair Leif and members of the House Government Committee:

The Oregon Psychiatric Physicians Association (OPPA), a district branch of the American Psychiatric Association, was established in 1966. OPPA serves as the organization for Oregon's medical doctors specializing in psychiatry who work together to ensure effective treatment for persons with mental illness, including substance use disorders, and compassion for them and their families.

OPPA is reviewing HB 4010, which prohibits the sale of kratom products unless the product derives from a processor registered with the Department of Revenue (DOR). It also prohibits the sale to individuals under 21 and allows DOR to adopt rules and impose a registration fee. As doctors who care about our patients, we support research into potential benefits and a responsibility to safeguard them from risks and unknown consequences. While the Association doesn't have a position at this time, these are some principles where there is common agreement;

- Kratom with and without additives is widely available and marketed as a low-risk herbal treatment for a variety of conditions including but not limited to opiate withdrawal, cough, depression, and anxiety.
- There is not high -quality evidence to support the use of Kratom for any indication. There is almost no evidence about short-term and long-term safety.
- Kratom has been linked to serious side effects including relapse on opiate addiction, psychotic symptoms, liver damage, and even death.
- The additives found in products marketed as Kratom can be particularly dangerous.
- Kratom is illegal or restricted in multiple other states and countries.
- OPPA supports restricting access to Kratom to people over the age of 21, eliminating dangerous additives, and educating the public about its risks and the lack of evidence for medicinal use.

**Oregon Psychiatric Physicians Association**

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- OPPA would not support legislation that criminalizes individuals who use or who are in possession of Kratom.
- OPPA recommends requirements for poison control center, 911 calls or overdoses that are kratom-related.

Please contact us if you have additional questions. Thank you for your consideration.