

## **Testimony in Support of the Kratom Consumer Protection Act (KCPA)**

My name is **Michael Rivera II**, from **Des Moines, Iowa**.

### **Kratom saved my life — and my son's life.**

Kratom is a botanical substance in the *Rubiaceae* family, the same plant family as coffee. Its primary alkaloids, **mitragynine** and **7-hydroxymitragynine**, act as partial and biased agonists at the mu-opioid receptor. This produces therapeutic effects without the level of respiratory depression associated with full opioid agonists.

Kratom also interacts with adrenergic and serotonergic pathways, which helps explain why many people use it to manage pain, anxiety, and to reduce reliance on far more dangerous substances.

The science supports **regulation, not prohibition**. The **Kratom Consumer Protection Act** establishes testing, labeling, age limits, and enforcement against adulterated products, while preserving access for responsible adults.

Scheduling kratom would ignore pharmacology, criminalize responsible adults, and increase harm. **Evidence-based regulation saves lives.**

I respectfully ask you to **re-adopt the KCPA** and keep safe, regulated kratom legal in Iowa.