
Re: Please Support a Full Ban on Kratom & “Gas Station Drugs” in Kansas City

From Wendy Chamberlain <wchamberlain12@icloud.com>

Date Tue 12/9/2025 10:20 AM

To Clerk <Clerk@KCMO.org>

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Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 8, 2025, at 3:11 PM, Wendy Chamberlain <wchamberlain12@icloud.com> wrote:

Dear Mayor Lucas and Members of the Kansas City Finance and Public Safety Committee,

My name is Wendy Chamberlain, and I am the founder and Chair of Kratom Danger Awareness, Inc. I live in New York, but I work every day with families across the country who have lost loved ones to kratom and its dangerous derivatives. I am writing to strongly support Kansas City’s proposed ordinance banning kratom and other so-called “gas station drugs” and to urge you to pass a full, comprehensive ban on kratom products in your city.

In 2020, my son Joseph S. Lumbrazo died from mitragynine toxicity after using kratom that he believed was a safe, legal “natural” product. He was a 38-year-old father of three, a hard-working small business owner, and he used kratom for energy and focus, not to get high. He died alone at night in his recliner. I was out of state when I got the call that every parent fears. His death was classified as an unattended death and sent to a forensic center, where toxicology confirmed kratom (mitragynine toxicity) as the cause. The shock and devastation to me, my grandsons, and our entire family is something we live with every single day.

Since Joseph’s death, I have heard from hundreds of families with eerily similar stories:

- **A legal product sold in gas stations, smoke shops, and online, marketed as a supplement.**
- **No clear warning that mitragynine and its derivatives act like opioids.**
- **People using kratom for pain relief or energy, unaware they can stop breathing and die.**

Kansas City's own Health Department has already investigated a deadly overdose where kratom was found in the victim's system, and federal authorities just seized thousands of illegal 7-OH products from Kansas City-area warehouses. That is not a theoretical risk—it is already in your community.

I know that some people will ask you to “regulate, not ban.” But what we are seeing across the country is that regulation has not worked:

- States that tried “Kratom Consumer Protection Acts” (KCPA) with age limits, labeling, and testing are still flooded with high-potency extracts, gummies, and drinks. Enforcement is weak, and chemically tweaked products keep appearing faster than laws can keep up.**
- In Utah, which was the first state to pass a KCPA in 2019, lawmakers are now pushing to repeal that law and ban kratom altogether, after seeing rising kratom-involved deaths and realizing regulation gave a false sense of safety.**
- The FDA has warned that kratom has no approved medical use, remains on import alert, and that the semi-synthetic derivative 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH)—sold in your region and even called “legal morphine”—acts as a pure opioid at brain receptors, with serious risk for addiction and overdose.**

What starts as “natural leaf” quickly turns into highly concentrated shots, powders, tablets, and derivatives (like 7-OH, pseudoindoxyl, and other analogs) that are far more potent than anything found in the plant. Once that market is established in gas stations and smoke shops, it is almost impossible to control which version your residents—especially youth and vulnerable people—are actually using.

From a public-health and enforcement standpoint, a clear prohibition on the sale of kratom and its derivatives within city limits is the simplest and most protective option:

- It sends a strong message that Kansas City will not allow unregulated opioids to be sold as “supplements” next to energy drinks and candy.**
- It protects families before they become another statistic.**
- It helps law enforcement and health officials by removing a confusing, constantly shifting category of products from retail shelves entirely.**

My son's death is the reason I started Kratom Danger Awareness, Inc. Our mission is to educate families, schools, and policymakers and to prevent other parents from getting the phone call I did. Your decision in Kansas City will not only affect your residents—it will also set an example for other communities that are watching how you respond to this growing crisis.

Please, for the sake of your children, your young adults, and families like mine, vote to pass a full ban on kratom and its derivatives in Kansas City and keep these “gas station drugs” off your shelves for good.

I would be honored to provide additional information, toxicology documents, or testimony (virtually or in person) if that would help. You can reach me at

wchamberlain11@yahoo.com, and you can learn more about our work at
www.KratomDangerAwareness.org.

Thank you for your time and for your willingness to confront this difficult issue.

Sincerely,

Wendy Chamberlain

Founder & Chair, Kratom Danger Awareness, Inc.

Mother of Joseph S. Lumbrazo (1982–2020)

www.KratomDangerAwareness.org

wchamberlain11@yahoo.com

Please put my email on public record for Ordinance #251028.