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Written Testimony against SB25-072

1 message

Cory Bennett <corybpx@gmail.com>

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To: "committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov" <committees.lcs.ga@coleg.gov>

I had difficulty submitting this through your website . Below is my written testimony.

Hello Esteemed Finance Committee,

I appreciate you taking a moment to consider my opinion. I am writing against the bill. I did review it and it seems that the intention is a sensible framework for the production and sale of kratom. However kratom is often the target of unfair criticism not rooted in science or of the anecdotal experience of tens of thousands of people. This seems somewhat in line with this type of targeting, and I fear this bill if passed will lead to a slippery slope of further regulation.

I anticipate you will hear from many kratom users on this bill. We are a committed group as so many of us have benefited greatly from this plant. Kratom saved me from a life of chronic pain and has allowed me to live a full and happy life. Please listen to us, and most importantly the AKA (American Kratom Association) for a sensible, science rooted, approach to kratom.

Thanks for your time.

Cory

Testimony of
Minuet Huffman
Against SB 25-072

To the honorable members of the Colorado Senate Finance Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Minuet Huffman, and I am submitting this testimony in **strong opposition** to Senate Bill 25-072, which seeks to impose excessive regulations, financial burdens, and unnecessary restrictions on kratom manufacturers, retailers, and consumers in Colorado.

The main reason that this bill has caught my attention is because I am a kratom consumer. I was first introduced to kratom at a kava bar, a place known for being a sober space where safety, inclusion, and community thrive. I am five years sober and I started drinking kava and kratom in my second year of sobriety. I would not be where I am today without discovering kava and kratom and becoming a part of the community. There may be a lot of people here today that speak on behalf of their own kava bars, the ones they frequent, the ones where people have felt safety, freedom and belonging while in an alcohol-centric society. These are the positive effects that kratom has on Colorado residents.

The reason that I am opposing this bill, regardless of personal drive to speak on the matter, is because I see the negative effects this bill will have on these kava bars, and the people who are fond of them, if this bill passes.

The first thing that caught my eye about this bill is that it is being introduced through the finance committee, not a health or public safety committee. That alone raises concerns about its true intent. If kratom presented a legitimate health risk, wouldn't it be addressed by committees overseeing health, consumer protection, or public safety? Instead, this financially motivated bill focuses solely on fees, penalties, and financial barriers, not health concerns.

Kratom is legally consumed by thousands of Coloradans and has become a crucial resource in sober communities, particularly in kava bars as I've mentioned above. This bill threatens kava bars' livelihood by forcing these small businesses to pay excessive fees just to continue operating, in turn eliminating access to kratom for individuals who use it as part of their recovery. Colorado has long been a leader in supporting harm reduction and personal freedom. This bill contradicts those values by making it harder for people who have chosen a natural alternative in sobriety and harm-reduction.

This bill does not cite any public health concerns, medical data, or consumer safety reports to justify the extreme financial penalties and burdens it imposes. Senate Bill 25-072 does not serve the interests of public health or safety—it serves the financial interests of the state at the expense of small businesses and individuals who enjoy kratom. This is not reasonable regulation; it is financial exploitation of an industry.

For those reasons, I strongly urge you to **oppose SB 25-072**. Instead of imposing unnecessary financial barriers, I encourage this committee to engage with the businesses that will be directly impacted and consider reasonable regulations that prioritize safety without unfairly burdening or exploiting small businesses and sober communities. I urge each of you to stand with the people of Colorado and reject this harmful legislation. Thank you for your consideration.