



# RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY

June 25, 2021

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon  
Chair, House Committee on Corporations  
State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Solomon:

re: 21H- 5909  
Representative Kennedy

The Rhode Island Medical Society (RIMS) and the American Medical Association (AMA) strongly OPPOSE this legislation to legalize the use of “kratom” in Rhode Island.

The properties of this substance have not been subjected to sufficient scientific to warrant its legalization under any circumstances. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), “kratom can cause effects similar to both opioids and stimulants.”

Rhode Island does not possess the resources to conduct sufficient analysis of this product to determine whether or not it is safe for human consumption The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has also issued warnings about the false claims made by vendors offering kratom for sale.

We urge the Committee to hold this bill until the federal government has determined that kratom is safe for American consumers.

Sincerely,

Catherine A. Cummings, MD  
President