



AKA ADDRESSES CDC SALMONELLA REPORT, FDA RELEASE

Washington, D.C. – February 22, 2018 – This week has seen alarming developments in the FDA's continued efforts to bar access to the plant-based health supplement known as kratom.

In the wake of the CDC's report on certain kratom supplements containing salmonella and the FDA's release calling for voluntary destruction of kratom supplements, American Kratom Association Chairman of the Board, Dave Herman, has issued the following statement:

"Once again, the Food & Drug Administration is going against sound science in its war against kratom.

This natural botanical is used by millions of Americans to maintain their overall health and well-being—in the same way that coffee, natural supplements, and other life-improving products are used every day.

Simply put, the causal relationship the FDA has attempted to draw between kratom use and addiction does not exist. Likewise, there is zero evidence that the 44 deaths cited by the FDA have anything to do with kratom. As a **letter signed by nine prominent scientists earlier this month** pointed out, all but one of these deaths had other significant factors at play. **The Huffington Post also found the FDA refused to provide details** on the one death that was questionably linked to kratom.

The American Kratom Association also has concerns about the CDC's report, in particular with the CDC's recommendation that no kratom be consumed. There are 1.3 million cases of salmonella each year, **many from eggs, peanut butter, and meat**. Yet the CDC does not recommend Americans stop consuming those products.

Why is a mere 23 cases linked to some kratom supplements—a number which accounts for less than 0.00002 percent of the total food-related salmonella cases in the U.S. each year—enough for the CDC to recommend millions of Americans stop using this healthy and naturally occurring substance? Why should American kratom vendors voluntarily recall and "destroy" all kratom supplements as the FDA suggests because of this fractional number of cases involving potential salmonella contamination?

AKA supports **appropriate product regulation to ensure safety and purity standards** for kratom-based supplements—not barring access to the millions of Americans who utilize this plant's many benefits without issue.

As the voice for millions of kratom users, the American Kratom Association has regularly contacted the FDA to offer the real science behind kratom. AKA is also reaching out to the CDC to confirm its studies with regard to potential contamination of kratom supplements, and we are confident that a productive dialogue can be reached with this agency."

About AKA

The American Kratom Association (AKA), a consumer-based non-profit organization, is here to set the record straight about kratom and give a voice to those who are suffering and protect their rights to possess and consume kratom. AKA represents tens of thousands of Americans, each of whom have a unique story to tell about the virtues of kratom and its positive effects on their lives. Please visit www.americankratom.org to learn more about how you can get involved with the kratom cause and community.

To schedule interviews with AKA spokespersons about the FDA's recent release or other legislative issues related to kratom, please contact Marana Moore of Swell Communications (732-609-1976) or email marana@swellcomms.com.