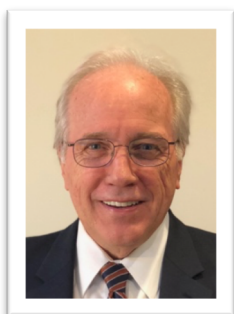


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Mac Haddow, Senior Fellow on Public Policy



REPORT ON MEETING WITH MICHIGAN STATE SENATOR RICK JONES

The good news first: **Senator Jones has agreed to file legislation that will protect consumer access to safe kratom products and specifically target bad actors who deliberately adulterate or contaminate kratom with dangerous substances to boost their effects and increase their sales.**

When we first heard the report that Michigan State Senator Rick Jones had announced his intent to file a bill to ban kratom, AKA Chairman Dave Herman authorized me to immediately contact Senator Jones to see if he would be willing to meet to discuss this issue. Senator Jones was very willing to meet, open to the discussion, and went the extra mile in arranging for the legislative team at the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan to join the meeting. The Prosecuting Attorneys Association had reported their concerns about alleged deaths in Michigan associated with kratom, and they hoped he would lead the effort to ban it.

We held that meeting on Tuesday morning in Senator Jones' Capitol Hill office in Lansing, and I am pleased to report that Senator Jones was generous with his time in a packed schedule, open to listening to a lengthy briefing on the science, and willing to hear us out on the rationale for keeping kratom legal. His questions, comments, and conclusions were thoughtful, well-reasoned, and exhibited a sincere interest in advocating for a good public policy. The attorneys from the Prosecuting Attorneys Association were equally engaged in pursuing a reasonable policy solution that protects consumers and targets bad actors who adulterate and contaminate kratom products and put the safety of consumers at risk.

As a result of our meeting, Senator Jones has committed to sponsor legislation that will ensure consumers have access to safe kratom products and will make it illegal for any bad actor to adulterate or contaminate any kratom product. We agree that any production technique that is used to enhance the effects of kratom by purifying, concentrating, or spiking that natural plant with products with refined or enhanced 7-hydroxymitragynine, or with other substances (including opioid contaminants), should be banned.

Senator Jones was briefed on the proposed AKA GMP Certification Program that is designed to set standards for manufacturing of safe kratom products, and the labeling restrictions that we believe will add an additional layer of protection for consumers. He agreed with our view that impermissible health claims for kratom products should be aggressively interdicted and bad actors should be penalized.

We are grateful for the willingness of Senator Jones to work with the American Kratom Association to protect consumer access to safe kratom products, and to punish the bad actors who skirt the law and put consumers at risk. We will continue to work with Senator Jones and the Prosecuting Attorneys Association on that proposed legislation.

This meeting is the model that should be used for future discussions with state legislators who receive inaccurate or misleading information about kratom, and we are committed to working with any public official who is committed to these shared goals.

