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**House of Representatives**

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg

**MEMORANDUM**

**Committees**


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Judiciary  
Subcommittee on Courts, Chairman  
Insurance  
State Government

**Appointments**

Public School Employees'  
Retirement System,  
Board of Trustees

South Central Pennsylvania Caucus, Chairman

**TO:** All House Members

**FROM:** Representative Glen R. Grell 

**DATE:** August 29, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Cosponsor Legislation – Controlled Substance (Kratom)

In the near future, I will be introducing legislation to amend The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act of 1972 (P.L. 233, No. 64) to place the drug "kratom" on Schedule I of the list of Schedules of Controlled Substances.

Unlike other designer drugs like spice and "bath salts" that are created in chemical labs, kratom is completely organic. Kratom is a medicinal leaf harvested from a large tree in the Rubiaceae family native to Southeast Asia, notably in Thailand and Malaysia. Kratom is the original common name used in Thailand, and has become the predominant name used worldwide. Kratom is processed in a similar fashion to cannabis, whereby the leaves are dried and then made into a powder or oily resin. The substance is marketed as a "legal high" and sold as raw or crushed leaves that can be smoked or steeped for tea, and also in gel caps. Kratom has been reported to produce similar effects to that of morphine.

Our Legislature took a major step forward when Governor Corbett signed Act 7 into law banning bath salts and other designer drugs. Unfortunately there are many other drugs still on the market like kratom that without regulation could take the place of these dangerous substances.

According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's Office of Diversion Control there is no legitimate medical use for kratom in the United States. Currently, kratom is not controlled under the Federal Controlled Substances Act; however, a number of states have pending legislation to place controls on kratom.

If you wish to join me in cosponsoring this bill, please contact my office at 783-2063 or via email at [lkoch@pahousegop.com](mailto:lkoch@pahousegop.com). I would appreciate your support and cosponsorship.

GRG/lak