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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 460 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY STRUZZI, SAPPEY, CONKLIN, READSHAW, RYAN, SCHLOSSBERG AND SCHMITT, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

A RESOLUTION

Urging the United States Food and Drug Administration to recognize this Commonwealth's concern with the safety of kratom and the current distribution and sale of kratom as a drug replacement, supplement or food and to promptly consider guidelines and protocols for the safe use of kratom.

WHEREAS, The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued warnings to consumers to not use *Mitragyna speciosa*, commonly known as kratom, a plant which grows naturally in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, because the plant affects the same opioid brain receptors as morphine and appears to have properties that expose users to the risks of addiction, abuse and dependence; and

WHEREAS, Kratom is consumed by chewing the leaves, drying and smoking the leaves, putting the leaves into capsules or tablets or boiling the leaves into a tea; and

WHEREAS, The effects from kratom are unique in that stimulation occurs at low doses and opioid-like depressant and euphoric effects occur at higher doses; and

WHEREAS, The FDA has issued reports about deaths associated

with kratom with little or no research performed on the safety of kratom; and

WHEREAS, The FDA rescinded the FDA's intention to designate kratom as a Schedule 1 drug after public outcry from supporters of kratom; and

WHEREAS, Supporters of kratom assert that illicit substances combined with kratom caused the deaths associated with kratom and that those deaths wrongly served as the basis for the FDA's proposed criminalization of kratom; and

WHEREAS, The FDA is actively evaluating all available scientific information to better understand kratom's safety profile, including the use of kratom combined with other drugs; and

WHEREAS, While the FDA evaluates the available safety information about the effects of kratom, the FDA encourages health care professionals and consumers to report any adverse reactions to kratom to the FDA's MedWatch program; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the United States Food and Drug Administration to recognize this Commonwealth's concern with the safety of kratom and the current distribution and sale of kratom as a drug replacement, supplement or food; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the United States Food and Drug Administration to promptly consider guidelines and protocols for the safe use of kratom; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the headquarters of the United States Food and Drug

Administration at 10903 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20993.