



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 2, 2025

HART Statement on the End of Illinois' 2025 Legislative Session

The Illinois General Assembly has adjourned its 2025 session without passing any additional legislation to further regulate kratom or its derivative compound, 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH). No new restrictions were enacted this session, leaving existing consumer access currently protected and unchanged. Jeff Smith, National Policy Director at the Holistic Alternative Recovery Trust (HART), issued the following statement:

“No new, and overly burdensome, regulations were passed this session, and that gives Illinois the chance to get it right when it comes to consumer access. Thousands of Illinoisans rely on kratom-derived products to manage chronic pain, anxiety, or withdrawal from opioids: especially in rural and underserved areas where treatment options are limited. For many, 7-OH is one of the few effective and affordable tools available.

“Illinois now has an opportunity to lead the nation in developing science-based and consumer-focused regulation. That means establishing clear rules for labeling, dosage, and third-party testing to protect the public, support responsible businesses, and keep unsafe products out of the market.

“7-OH is a compound found naturally in the kratom plant. In carefully measured formulations, many users report it helps with pain, mood, and withdrawal, without the side effects of opioids. Of course, strong regulation is essential to ensure product consistency and public safety.

“According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, opioid overdose deaths declined by 9.7% from 2022 to 2023. While that progress reflects many efforts, including expanded treatment access and naloxone distribution, it coincides with increased availability of kratom and 7-OH products as part of a broader harm reduction landscape.

“Just as Illinois became a national leader in cannabis regulation, it now has the opportunity to do the same with kratom; by creating a balanced and science-driven

framework that safeguards public health while preserving access. HART stands ready to be a partner in the future stakeholder discussions ahead.”