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DISTRICT 1 STATE SENATOR A.G. CROWE URGES PARENTS & YOUNG PEOPLE TO REMAIN ALERT TO THE DANGERS OF A NEW ADDICTIVE SUBSTANCE ON THE STREETS

District 1 State Senator A.G. Crowe urges citizens, particularly parents and young people, to remain alert to the dangers of a new addictive substance that is showing up on the streets. The new substance called Kratom, which is not approved by the FDA for human consumption, is a highly addictive pain killer.

Sen. Crowe is particularly concerned about the new substance since he has helped lead the effort over the past two years to outlaw other substances such as bath salts and synthetic marijuana which was readily available over the counter and sending young people across the state to emergency rooms with serious health problems. Even with those efforts, additional legislation was necessary this year to give law enforcement agencies more flexibility in dealing with these substances and protecting our children.

“It appears these predators want to continue to assault our children to make a profit with this new substance, Kratom,” Sen. Crowe said. “I have spoken with our local law enforcement agencies as well as the state police crime lab and this item is on their radar and they have tracked an increase in its usage. It appears that the ingredients are not on the Schedule 1 or 2 dangerous and illegal substance list under Title 40 but their research and analysis is on-going.”

Sen. Crowe notes that the Kratom website admits the substance cannot be sold or marketed in the United States. The site also says extended use of the substance is not recommended and that addiction to it will require withdrawal with unpleasant side effects.

“This statement is a legal maneuver that protects the makers and marketers of this product which is clever on their part, but it does nothing to protect our children. We must warn parents and our young people that this is a dangerous, highly addictive substance. My message to all is to be aware that it is out there. Stay clear of it and report it when you see it.”

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