



HEALTH FREEDOM NEWS

A Publication of National Health Freedom Coalition

Fall 2005

Louisiana Health Freedom Victory: SB 189 is Signed Into Law by Governor Blanco

Effective August 15, 2005, a new law will go into effect in Louisiana exempting vendors of food, dietary supplements, and homeopathic remedies, who charge a consulting fee to their clients, from criminal charges of practicing medicine without a license. The exemption is limited to those practitioners who disclose certain information listed in the new law in writing, to their customers or clients. The new law protects consumer access to unlicensed health care practitioners and does not apply to conventional licensed healthcare provider nor does it impact those who are restricting their activities to lawfully marketing, selling, or distributing products, or educating consumers about such products, or explaining the use of such products.

Louisiana Health Freedom Coalition and Senator Sharon W. Broome were the forces behind the introduction and passage of the bill for health freedom. Governor Kathleen Babineax Blanco plans to sign the bill in the midst of a large gathering of health freedom advocates on July 28th, 2005.

For the past year Louisiana Health Freedom Coalition along with many other local organizations worked on a legislative task force exploring the feasibility of licensure for certain types of naturopathic practitioners. The task force did not recommend licensure but the discussions of the task force were very helpful in creating the foundational understanding of a health freedom bill. After



Louisiana Health Freedom Coalition leaders Sandra Bertoniere, Diane Miller of NHFC, Cynthia Reed, and Debbie Broussard

the task force quit meeting the Louisiana Health Freedom Coalition promoted the introduction of an exemption style health freedom bill following the lead of other states that have passed health freedom legislation. Louisiana is now the sixth state to exempt unlicensed health care practitioners from criminal charges and protecting consumer access to these practitioners. Minnesota, Rhode Island, California, Idaho and Oklahoma are other states that have these exemptions.

A special thank you from all of us to all the Louisiana Health Freedom Coalition members who worked so hard in support of Senate Bill 189. We salute you. ■

Independent State Health Freedom Groups Take Action!

Health freedom is in squarely in the limelight of public debate. Conversations that were strongly resisted or unthinkable last year are successfully making their way into action alerts and changes in the laws. Arenas of movement include: efforts on state levels to free up consumer access to healers and health care practitioners that offer complementary or alternative care; efforts to defeat monopolistic practitioner bills, to pass mercury free vaccine legislation, to defeat GMO proliferation, to stop mandatory mental health screening and to resist "best practice" legislation impacting freedom of speech between doctor and patient. On a national level efforts are to defeat bills that attack the integrity of the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act (DSHEA). And on an international level advocates are working to resist global guidelines, agreements, and policies that jeopardize our freedom of access ensured in our Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act (DSHEA) and which promote a global precedent that dietary supplements are harmful and in need of pre-approved maximum upper limits before being traded between countries.

Consumers are absolutely demanding that they have access to any individual, products or services that they want and any information they desire when they are making health care choices. The health freedom progress is being accomplished by hard working independent state and national health freedom groups around the country working to protect consumers health freedoms. Below you will find a summary of some of the independent state groups NHFC and NHEA have assisted in their work.

Arkansas: Senate Bill 976 was filed in the 2005 Legislative Session and placed on the agenda for the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee. Testimony before the

Inside

<i>Codex – Do We Need to Worry?</i>	4
<i>Highlights from Codex Meeting in Rome</i>	7
<i>NHFC 2005 National Conference for Health Freedom Advocates</i>	5
<i>European Court Ruling: The Perfect Compromise?</i>	8
<i>2004 Health Freedom Conference Made History!</i>	9
<i>Mercury in Vaccines</i>	10



National Health Freedom Coalition

THE VISION:

A healthy nation, with empowered people, making informed health care decisions.

The Mission:

To promote access to all health care information, services, treatments and products that the people deem beneficial for their own health and survival; to promote an understanding of the laws and factors impacting the right to access; and to promote the health of the people of this nation.

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Committee was well received; however, the bill has not progressed further. Arkansas says that they are pleased with their successes and are preparing for the next session in 2007.

Florida: Florida Health Freedom Action worked hard this year to provide protective health freedom amendments to a restrictive naturopathic licensing bill but the licensing bill did not pass. The bill's language defined naturopathy to include virtually all natural health therapies, and would have made it a crime to practice naturopathy without a license. FHFA supports the concept of freedom to access all natural health care practitioners, including licensed persons. However, it opposes jeopardizing homeopaths, traditional naturopaths, herbalists, and other practitioners of low and no-risk natural health therapies, and preventing their clients from consulting with them. FHFA will continue to oppose professional licensure bills which would give licensed practitioners a monopoly on gentle health therapies while criminalizing unlicensed practitioners who do not attempt to pose as licensed persons.

Georgia: CAMA Complementary and Alternative Medical Association of Georgia has

been a leader in the country in educating the public about complementary and alternative forms of healing, holding statewide and regional conferences. House Bill 680 has been introduced this 2005 session and is entitled the "State Planning For Increased Community Access Act". Marge Roberts, CAMA President, continues to educate, and gave a great presentation on "How to Implement a Strong Lobbying Force at the Capitol" in November 2004, at the second annual Health Freedom Conference in Minnesota

Iowa: Iowa Health Freedom Coalition supported the introduction of SF291 Spring 2005, a freedom of access bill designed to protect consumer access to all unlicensed health care practitioners and to require certain disclosures. The bill was held over to give interested health care professionals and consumers in their local communities, an opportunity to participate in a process called "Framing" which was meant to help people discuss their views of complementary and alternative health care issues. IHFC is now gearing up to educate Iowans during the summer and fall about their bill and to prepare for an exciting and intense time moving it through the legislature next ses-

States that have introduced health freedom bills in the past or are supporting bills currently moving:

STATE	CONTACT	BILLS
Arkansas	Arkansas Health Freedom Coalition (ARHFC); Phone: 479-637-4361 or 479-637-4441; Email: arhfc@lycos.com; www.arhfc.org	SB 976 (Altes)
Florida	Florida Health Freedom Coalition & Action FHFC & FHFA Phone: 305-668-2800; www.floridahealthfreedom.org; info@floridahealthfreedom.org	2004 introduced
Georgia	Complementary and Alternative Medical Assoc. CAMAction and CAMA Phone: 404-284-7592; Websites: www.CAMAction.org and www.camaweb.org; Email: cama@mindspring.com	HB 680 (Smith)
Hawaii	Representative Cynthia Evans; Phone: 808-586-8510; E-mail: repevans@Capitol.Hawaii.gov; www.capitol.Hawaii.gov/site1/house	2003 introduced
Iowa	Iowa Health Freedom Coalition (IHFC); Phone: 319-269-6343 E-mail: lijanz@yahoo.com; Website: http://www.iowahealthfreedom.org	SF 291 (Hatch)
Kentucky	Representative Mary Harper; http://www.lrc.state.ky.us/House/hseadd.htm	2003 introduced
Louisiana	Louisiana Health Freedom Coalition (LHFC); Phone 225-761-9117; E-mail: lhfc@lahfc.org www.lahfc.org	SB 189 (Broome) PASSED INTO LAW
New York	HFNY - Health Freedom New York; http://www.healthfreedomny.org	
New York	NYNCP - New York Natural and Complementary Practices Project; Newyorknaturalhealthproject.org; nynhp@earthlink.net	A4404B S3334A
North Carolina	North Carolina health freedom federation: CHF (Citizens for Health Freedom); CHF-NC Fund; CNHP (Certified Nutritional Health Professionals); CNH (Coalition for Natural Health); SHFF (Sunshine Health Freedom Fund); E-mail: chf@nc.rr.com www.citizensforhealthcarefreedom.com; Phone: 919-266-6155	HB 1303 (Luebke)
Ohio	The Health Freedom Coalition of Ohio (HFCO); E-mail: info@ohiohealthfreedom.org; www.ohiohealthfreedom.org; Phone 614-306-3477	HB 117 Reidelbach SB 98 Clancy
Washington	Contact Info from NHFA upon request	2004 introduced

Below are the State Organizations in a variety of developmental stages of health freedom work from beginning to develop effective teams, to research and drafting language, to mobilizing the grass roots, setting priorities, to hiring lobbyist and gaining sponsorship.

STATES	NAME OR TYPE OF GROUP	CONTACT INFORMATION
Colorado	Colorado Citizens for Health Freedom	Phone: 719-231-5715; Email: advancedtherapy@hotmail.com
Kansas	Kansans for Health Freedom	866-899-7905; herbalsurvival@terraworld.net and herbsforhealth@4state.com
Massachusetts	Health Freedom Action Massachusetts, Inc (HFAM)	www.healthfreedommassachusetts.org; Email: freedom@healthfreedommassachusetts.org; 617-524-2223
Michigan	Michigan Natural Health Coalition	Phone: 989-779-0730; www.mnhc.info/mnhc_001.htm mnhcinfo@yahoo.com
Nevada	Nevada health freedom advocates	Contact info from NHFA upon request
New Hampshire	New Hampshire Citizens for Health	Phone: 603-355-2202; E-mail: gbedding @verizon.net; www.nhhealthfreedom.org
New Jersey	New Jersey Natural Health Coalition	Email: membership@njnhc.org; web: www.njnhc.org
New Mexico	New Mexico citizen group	Contact info from NHFA upon request
Texas	TFHSC (Texas Health Freedom Steering Committee): TCAM -Texas Complementary and Alternative Medical Association; CNHP – Certified Nutritional Healthcare Professionals; and SHFF- Sunshine Health Freedom Fund	gretchenbfrp@yahoo.com, texascam@earthlink.net www.tcam.org
Utah	Utah Group now forming	Contact info from NHFA upon request
Virginia	Virginia Chapter of the CNHP Certified Natural Health Professionals	Email: theherbbasket@erols.com; Phone: 804-862-2771
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Health Freedom Coalition	Email: info@wihfc.com; website:www.wihfc.com

sion. Their second annual Health Freedom Expo will be held in Cedar Falls, Iowa, Saturday, October 15, 2005. IHFC has a great website, a 15 minute video of Berkley Bedell supporting their bills, and a colorful and informative power point presentation that they developed themselves to educate the public regarding the need for health freedom.

New York: HFNY - Health Freedom New York is a new health freedom organization in New York, working to promote health freedom. They are interested in passing legislation that would protect consumer freedom of access to unlicensed practitioners; however they have not been supportive of mandatory registration for unlicensed natural health care practitioners. Since the registration bill in New York has been amended and the registration component has been deleted, HFNY is evaluating the newly amended bill and is in communication with the proponents with their recommendations regarding the new language.

New York: NYNCP - New York Natural and Complementary Practices Project has worked for health freedom for over five years and has recently adopted significant amendments to their 2004 and 2005 bill which had originally mandated the registration of all unlicensed health care

providers with the secretary of state of New York. The amendments have taken out the mandatory registration component from the bill and this change has opened up the potential for a unified health freedom movement in New York and new dialogue between health freedom advocates who were in conflict over the registration bill.

North Carolina: April 2005 North Carolina Representative Paul Luebke introduce HF 1303 to protect access to health care practitioners such as homeopaths, herbalists, naturopaths and many natural health practitioners. A hearing was held in the Health Committee on May 24th and there was much good discussion and interest among committee members for the bill. In a subsequent meeting the bill was assigned to a special subcommittee. North Carolina has a strong federation of health freedom groups and they are working hard to prepare for the subcommittee hearing, mobilizing the grassroots to let their legislators know what they want. North Carolina leaders are very optimistic. They have hired a lobbyist and need financial support from all supporters.

Ohio: Ohio Consumer Health Freedom Bill, House Bill 117 and Senate Bill 98, is currently in Committee in the Ohio Statehouse. Testimony began

April 5th in the Commerce and Labor Committee of the Ohio House of Representatives, and several hearings have been held since. Daryl Kulak, President of the HFCO says “These practitioners have been helping hundreds of thousands of Ohioans every year, and yet they must operate under a cloak of fear, because the medical boards could shut them down any minute. It’s necessary to give all Ohioans a choice in their healthcare and keep government out of the business of restricting healthcare choices.” Ohio is working hard for health freedom and welcome support from Ohio advocates.

The following states have significant leaders and contacts ready to start health freedom groups: Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, Pennsylvania, Utah, and Vermont. Call NHFC for contact information. If you are from a state not yet organized, and want to network with other individuals interested in health freedom, contact us, giving us permission to give out your name to others who contact us.

The following states have health freedom laws: California, Idaho, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and now Louisiana. ■

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*2005 National Health Freedom Coalition's 3rd Annual
**National Conference for
Health Freedom Advocates
Empowering Leaders for Health Freedom**
October 28–30, 2005, Minneapolis, Minnesota*

Keynote Speakers:

DR. CAROLYN DEAN, MD, ND
President of Friends of Freedom International
Doctor, educator, radio host
Author of *Death by Modern Medicine*

DANIEL HALEY
Former New York State Assemblyman
Author of *Politics In Healing*

DIANE MILLER, JD
Director of Legal and Public Policy
National Health Freedom Coalition

Plus: How to Pass Health Freedom Laws in Your State, Global Health Freedom Assembly with National and International Leaders on Codex and DSHEA
Jim Turner, David Hinde, Rob Verkirk,
Scott Tipps, James Gormley, Clinton Miller,
Tim Bolen, Trueman Tuck, Suzanne Harris

for more information
email jerrijohn@aol.com or call 651 688 6515

CODEX—Do We Need to Worry?

by Diane M. Miller JD

Many people are contacting NHFC, asking why Americans should be worried about the new Codex Vitamin and Mineral Guidelines adopted in Rome on July 4th. Amazingly, the impression some nutritional spokespersons are giving to the public is that there is nothing to worry about in the U.S.

Product companies are being reassured that: “*American consumers still have full access...*”; “*consumer access to dietary supplements in the US is not in danger...*”; and “*The adoption of final Codex Supplement Guidelines... does not threaten the freedom to access dietary supplements and information about supplements that are guaranteed in the US...*”

NHFC encourages health freedom advocates to look at the situation from the perspective of the global community and as members of a changing world. The above comments, although potentially technically true for now, could misrepresent the gravity of the danger we are now facing regarding the preservation of our domestic laws, including our supplement laws. Like a person huddling in the basement during a tornado thinking they are safe, when they emerge they may find complete devastation. If the global community continues to attempt to restrict access to dietary supplements by setting maximum upper limits and mandatory risk assessments like drugs, then we are realistically located in the eye of a devastating storm and the reassurances that we are safe are unrealistic.

The world is moving towards a global economy. Well-intentioned people, and some maybe not so well intentioned, are at global tables making agreements that impact many internal domestic laws. They are not only making agreements that countries could eventually adopt into law, but they are setting global policies and attitudes that will impact decisions of the future.

For example: The US is one of 179 countries participating in Codex. The US is the only country with a Dietary Supplement Act. In complete opposition to principles of DSHEA, which make it clear that vitamins and minerals are foods and are generally regarded as safe, the global community has now adopted a policy that views vitamins and minerals as dangerous, requiring maximum upper limits after a risk assessment. This very fundamental policy will now ripple

out globally to many contexts and documents, and will set a precedent for how vitamins and minerals are represented to consumers worldwide. As a result, consumers around the world will not have access to the dosage of vitamins and minerals that are available in the US, neither will they be educated by their own trusted country regarding the benefits of nutritional supplements. Instead, countries themselves will promote education and policies that regard vitamins and minerals as dangerous. And new member countries that do not already have laws regulating vitamins and minerals even as we speak are being encouraged by Codex members to use the Codex Vitamin and Mineral guidelines as the template for creating laws for their own countries.

In addition to global bodies such as United Nations (UN), World Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), and Codex, there are global trade agreements such as WTO, CAFTA, and NAFTA which come into play regarding products and trade. Trade agreements are important because inside their agreements they refer to international standards and guidelines such as Codex as the proper guidelines that their member countries must use when shipping products. Trade agreements are enforced by special committees to encourage compliance or by dispute resolution bodies to levy sanctions on countries.

Most trade agreements have gone beyond simple schedules for reducing tariffs and duties on products and have developed into policy-setting agreements of how countries should all get along regarding money matters. Setting policies is a powerful springboard for moving agendas through bureaucracies. For example, one main policy goal of the WTO is the harmonization of trade practices encouraging countries to use international standards whenever possible to avoid discrimination and competition issues. The policy of harmonization has infiltrated many aspects of world trade. One wonders what these agreements would look like if their underlying public policy were to promote diversity and protect sovereignty instead of to harmonize the world trade.

Whether our membership and adoption of WTO, CAFTA, and NAFTA, will play out in a manner that challenges our DSHEA law is yet to

be seen. Some critics of Codex and world trade agreements point out that DSHEA might be challenged by an importing country as an unfair law that poses a “technical barrier to trade” because it poses unfair competition to countries that import their low-dosage Codex products to us. Others warn that international guidelines will provide political fuel in Washington to force a revision and watering down of DSHEA to a more restrictive law that is more in line with the global trade community.

Whatever the future, we cannot afford to view the situation from a purely domestic national perspective. International law and public policy impacts our daily lives and the future of our home planet. It is being adopted by individual countries more each year.

Many people are worried about “globalization” because they believe we will lose sovereignty and our historical diversity. Some people want to disband global bodies such as the United Nations and Codex. Others want to rescind agreements such as World Trade Organization, NAFTA and others. These are all important questions to ask ourselves.

While these bodies exist, health advocates need to be at the table in an effective and professional manner and at all levels, including the very beginning development stages of each public policy so as to impact the discussion on behalf of the people. It is often too late to stop the machine of huge international meetings and assemblies if we have not been all along building the relationships we need to preserve our domestic diversity and freedoms.

Right now, and immediately, we need to make a plan to make sure we are represented at international tables that set public policy and laws. If we don't we will live under whatever develops regionally and internationally without us.

Should Americans be concerned that a global body of scientists will decide maximum upper limits of vitamins and minerals for products being shipped overseas? I would say if one were committed to health freedom, consumer maximum options, and consumer health, then definitely “YES”. Individuals and corporations that have these values and insight are committing significant resources to promote the adoption of American DSHEA philosophy and concepts throughout the world. ■

NHFC's 3rd Annual National Conference for Health Freedom Advocates, 2005! A Solidarity Summit!

Please join us at the upcoming National Conference for Health Freedom Advocates, Oct 28 – 30 in Minneapolis, MN.

Hear keynote speaker Dan Haley, author of *Politics in Healing*, tell of pioneering healing therapies and the political actions that have prevented their knowledge from being experienced by the public. Listen to keynote speaker Dr. Carolyn Dean, MD, ND, the author of *Death by Modern Medicine* speak to the silencing of the people. Participate in the annual awards banquet honoring outstanding health freedom leaders, and see Kevin Miller's groundbreaking new documentary film on Codex, "We Become Silent."

The focus of this year's conference is "leadership" and keynote Diane Miller, JD, NHFC Director of Legal and Public Policy, who attended the Codex meeting in Rome, will speak on, "Leaders

Becoming Leaders, Teams Becoming Teams".

Workshops will include experienced state activists teaching about how to pass health freedom legislation in your state and how to build alliances to strengthen the movement.

Individual presentations will be made by leaders attending the conference including: attorney James Turner addressing the protection of DSHEA and promotion of DSHEA world-wide; Dr. Robert Verkirk and Solicitor David Hinde, of London describing the impact of the crucial challenge to the European Union Food Supplement Directive; presentations by Scott Tips, Counsel for National Health Federation; James Gormley of Nutrition 21; Clinton Miller, Sunshine Health Freedom Fund; Trueman Tuck, Friends of Freedom International; Tim Bolen, Jurimed, Suzanne Harris and more to be announced.

The last day of the conference will include "A Global Health Freedom Assembly - A Solidarity Summit". State, National, and International non-profit organizations that primarily focus on promoting health freedom are invited to sit in a Summit Round, with one delegate representing their organization. Participants in the Round will each be given an opportunity to introduce their organization, share their mission statements, their contributions to the health freedom movement, their upcoming goals, and a statement of solidarity.

Don't miss this opportunity to watch history unfold as the health freedom movement unites and moves forward. The health freedom movement has many leaders, many facets, many voices. We plan to stand together to make a difference!

For more information, call Jerri Johnson, 651 688 6515. ■

Registration – NHFC 3rd National Conference for Health Freedom Advocates October 28 – 30, 2005, Sheraton Hotel, Bloomington, MN

To register, go to www.nationalhealthfreedom.org to register online – or print this form and mail with payment to the NHFC office.

Last Name, First Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email (For confirmation): _____

	MEMBER*	NON-MEMBER	PriceUS\$
FULL TUITION (Does not include meals)	\$230	\$280	_____

*Member - If you are not currently a member of the NHFC, or your membership is expiring, you can renew your membership or become a first-time member now with yearly dues of \$35.00 and then receive the member rate for the 2005 conference, and member benefits, including our newsletter. Yes _____ I would like to become an NHFC member \$35/yr _____

TOTAL (US \$) _____

Tuition includes program tuition Oct 28 – 30, snacks, and Saturday Health Freedom Awards Banquet. If you are unable to attend the full conference, contact Karen Willcox, 952 476 8617, or Jerri Johnson, 651 688 6515, for special arrangements.

Check enclosed (Make checks payable to NHFC)

Or Credit Card ___ Visa ___ MasterCard ___ American Express

Card # _____ Exp Date ____/____ Three-digit code back of card _____

Print name as it appears on card: _____

Mail registration to: National Health Freedom Coalition, PMB 218 2136 Ford Parkway, St. Paul, MN 55116-1863 • fax 651 699 8306

Newsflash!



National Health Freedom Action Board is excited to have Jerri Johnson on staff as a new part-time Public Relations and Fundraising Coordinator. Jerri has donated many hours of volunteer work to NHFA and had been involved since its inception. She will coordinate communications such as the newsletter and website, as well as oversee NHFA fundraising activities. Jerri is a homopath with a practice in St. Paul, Minnesota, at the Crescenterra Health Center.



Introducing NHFC's new part-time office administrator, Karen Willcox! We are delighted to have Karen on board - she provides us with administrative support, database management, and oversees member services. Karen is married and has two children and also works part time for Minnetonka Schools as a special education paraprofessional. Karen has been interested in alternative health care for many years, and is excited to be a part of the changing face of health care in America.

Support the Health Freedom Work of NHFC!

With your financial support, the National Health Freedom Coalition can educate health freedom leaders nationwide, and work to create solid solutions that ensure your access to all of the healing arts. Together, we can protect your right to investigate every possible health choice when you are making decisions about your health.

Become a Health Freedom Champion! — Join the 1000 Health Freedom Champions Campaign

NHFC is looking for 1000 Health Freedom Champions who will commit to donating \$250 or more per year to support the work of NHFC. To become a Health Freedom Champion, send your gift of \$250 today! You will receive our newsletter, *Health Freedom News*. If you wish, a portion of your donation can include a one-year membership in NHFC.

Become a Member of NHFC!

Please join the growing number of citizens who support health freedom by becoming members of NHFC. Your membership gift of \$35 or more entitles you to receive our newsletter, *Health Freedom News*. Complete the following form and join us today!

- I WISH TO BECOME A HEALTH FREEDOM CHAMPION. You'll find enclosed my gift of \$250
- I WOULD LIKE A PORTION OF THIS GIFT TO INCLUDE a one-year membership in NHFC
- I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF NHFC with my enclosed gift of \$35.
- ADDITIONAL DONATION OF \$ _____
- I WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ON THE HEALTH FREEDOM CONFERENCE

Name: _____

Title _____ Organization/Firm _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

I wish to pay by check (Payable to NHFC, mail to PMB 218, 2136 Ford Parkway, St. Paul, MN 55116-1863)

I wish to pay by credit card (Visa, Master Card, Am Ex) Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

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NHFC Health Freedom Leadership Attend July Codex meeting in Rome

Diane Miller, Legal and Public Policy Director for National Health Freedom Coalition (NHFC) and Marylu Miller Peterson, Board Member of National Health Freedom Action (NHFA), attended the 28th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in Rome Italy July 4-9, 2005, along with 14 other health freedom leaders from 6 countries and 10 health freedom organizations. Miller and Peterson met with health freedom activists and the US Delegation to Codex, and had conversations with many delegates from around the world.

Much to many health freedom activists' surprise, Codex took up the adoption of guidelines on their agenda the very first day. The Vitamin and Mineral Draft Guidelines were reviewed and adopted almost immediately along with a number of other food guidelines. Here are quotes from Diane Miller's first press release:

"Press Release - National Health Freedom Coalition: Codex Full Commission adopts Codex Guidelines for Vitamin and Mineral Food Supplements in final form July 4, 2005, Rome Italy. by Diane Miller JD

Minutes ago the full Commission of Codex Alimentarius adopted in final form, the Codex Guidelines for Vitamin and Mineral Food Supplements. This adoption is the Step 8 adoption, the final stage of adoption for the international Codex guidelines. The Codex Vitamin and Mineral Food Supplements guidelines are now official and no longer in draft form.

The Commission, attended by over 85 of the 171 Codex countries, adopted the guidelines by consensus method. There was brief discussion before adoption taking in comments from a small number of countries and two NGOs.

Australia requested adding the word "only"...China stated that every government in making decisions about vitamins and minerals should take into account the dietary limitations of their own countries, that governments can select vitamins and minerals according to the customs and habits of their country. China also pointed out

that there should be definitions of the sources of vitamins. ...Columbia spoke up and commented that Vitamins and Minerals are intended for deficiencies and are recommended for health reasons and said that there has to be no exaggerated use of minerals...Egypt commented and offered a clarification saying that vitamin and minerals can be considered if daily needs are not being met...

National Health Federation (NHF) a worldwide consumer organization with NGO status at Codex was recognized to speak. Attorney Scott Tips of NHF stood and requested the guidelines not be adopted but rather be sent back to committee for 3 important reasons. 1) According to Codex rules a "purpose" statement must be part of all guidelines adopted and the Vitamin and Mineral guidelines did not contain a purpose. Secondly, the guidelines did not define vitamin and mineral and therefore it is unclear as to what is being regulated. And lastly, he pointed out that the Chinese comments were substantive and according to Codex rules on page 27 of the procedural manual, a substantive amendment request should be addressed at the committee level...the Chair recommended the guidelines be adopted at Stage 8 in their final form and that China submit their substantive amendment requests to the committee at their next meeting. There was no further comment or dissent from any country and the guidelines were adopted."

Peter Helgason from FOFI (Friends of Freedom International) and Diane Miller from NHFC wrote a second press release giving readers a perspective of the change in energy and climate of health freedom in this 2005 session. Networking with the many country delegates in informal settings revealed that people around the world are recognizing the health crisis of drug-based societies, and asking important questions about true health. Countries are beginning to voice questions and concerns about the health impact of their trade decisions. Here are quotes from the next press release:

Rome, July 5th, almost noon: Freedom Is Breaking Out in the Hearts, if not in the Minds, of member nations of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. By Peter Helgason of Friends of

Freedom International (FOFI) and Diane Miller of FOFI and National Health Freedom Coalition (NHFC).

Despite yesterday's set-back at Codex, health freedom leaders from around the world on-site in Rome at the 28th Codex annual meeting are witnessing a change in consciousness regarding the invaluable contribution and vital role of nutrition in the prevention and treatment of disease worldwide. According to multiple governmental national member sources who wish to remain anonymous, the agendas of the trans-national corporations are becoming increasingly clear. Nations are saying "we're here to represent our people, not publicly traded companies' corporate profits". "We are not interested in investing 25% GDP in treating nutritionally deficient induced diseases, we would rather invest 5% GDP in maintaining healthy diets for our populations."

"...Citizens of the world are urgently called to spread health freedom concepts locally in any way that they can and work together to financially support the health freedom leaders to ensure their presence at the table of these very significant global discussions. On-site in Rome are Friends of Freedom International (FOFI www.friendsoffreedominternational.com), Friends of Freedom Canada (FOF www.friendsoffreedom.com), National Health Freedom Coalition (NHFC www.national-healthfreedom.org), National Health Federation (NHF), Dr. Rath Health Foundation USA (www.drrathhealthfoundation.org), Civil Health Rights Denmark (www.mayday-info.dk), Health Supreme (www.newmediaexplorer.org/sepp), Law Loft (www.lawloft.com), Citizens for Health (CFH www.citizens.org) and a number of other health advocacy organizations from around the world."

The most prominent conclusion that NHFC leaders drew from their observation of the events of the week are that the health freedom movement must obtain a presence at all tables where policies and laws that impact consumer options in health are being discussed. The local, state, national, federal, and now international arenas are all equally important. International law and forums are extreme-

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

ly complex and costly to participate in. However we must find a way to participate, and protect and promote the concept of empowered consumers making informed decisions. NHFC recommends a funded team of health freedom activists be commissioned to work at the international level to promote our interests in true health. In addition, we recommend that the health freedom community itself develop its own Assembly to promote solidarity and strategy. We plan to begin the concept of assembly with our Solidarity Summit at the end of our 2005 Conference in St. Paul, Minnesota October 28 - 30. ■



National Health Freedom Action

The Mission:

To promote access to all health care information, services, treatments and products that the people deem beneficial for their own health and survival; to promote legislative reform of the laws impacting the right to access; and to promote the health of the people of this nation.

Board of Directors

JERRI JOHNSON,
BSN, Homeopath
MARYLU MILLER

Homeopath, Teacher
CLINTON MILLER

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The European Court ruling: the perfect compromise?

By Dr Robert Verkerk, Alliance for Natural Health

On 12 July, just three days after the end of the Codex Alimentarius Commission meeting in Rome, the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg handed down its judgment on the Alliance for Natural Health's legal challenge against the ban on 75% of forms of vitamins and minerals (mainly food forms) implicit in the EU's Food Supplements Directive. Designed to harmonise trade between the 25 Member States of Europe, while ensuring supplements were safe, the Directive was set to have devastating consequences on natural products consumed by 40% of the population in countries like the UK, Ireland, Holland and Sweden.



Dr. Robert Verkerk

the Directive had been narrowed. The bottom line: 5,000 supplements that were to be banned on 1 August in countries like the UK on now won't be banned...at least for the time being.

It seems, on reflection, that the ruling might have been a compromise gesture on the part of the Court. It ensured that the clarification of the law avoided conflicts with EU law which had been the key bones of contention

in the case brought by the ANH. At the same time, the European Institutions, notably the European Commission, the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament, were able to avoid the embarrassment of an overturned Directive. The perfect compromise?

This legal challenge is reminiscent of the story of David and Goliath—and one thing is for sure... now is not the time to sit back.

The European model is considered by many governments as the model to be applied globally, via Codex, and it is critical that any positive shaping of the EU directives and regulations will set important precedents which will benefit health freedom worldwide.

At first sight the ruling from the Court appeared to indicate that all was lost. The challenge had failed to invalidate the Directive under EU law which would have allowed an amended version to be agreed that was compatible with the law. There had been a strong likelihood that the 13 judges presiding over the case would agree to invalidate the Directive, as this was the recommendation given three months earlier by the Advocate General, senior advisor to the Court

But on studying the 25 page ruling carefully, the ANH and its legal team which includes one of Europe's leading European and competition law specialists, Paul Lasok QC, it became evident that many of the arguments that the ANH was concerned about had been clarified, and the scope of

And what does all this mean for the European consumer? This depends a lot on the European institutions' response to the ruling and their ability to interpret it properly. It also depends on how accommodating the 25 Member States of Europe will be to the principle of mutual recognition, which accepts that an approval in one country applies in its own country.

This legal challenge is reminiscent of the story of David and Goliath—and one thing is for sure... now is not the time to sit back. The European model is considered by many governments as the model to be applied globally, via Codex, and it is critical that any positive shaping of the EU directives and regulations will set important precedents which will benefit health freedom worldwide. ■

2004 NHFC Health Freedom Conference Made History!

By Diane Miller, JD, and Jerri Johnson, CCH

Last year's *National Conference for Health Freedom Advocates*, an unprecedented gathering of leaders and activists from around the world, set the stage for health freedom work to flow and grow into 2005.

NHFC founder Diane Miller described the key ingredients of tolerance and diversity, needed for freedom to exist in any area, including health. Dr. Norm Shealy, founder of the American Holistic Medical Association, portrayed his journey in finding new ways of healing for his patients.

Saturday's workshops educated state leaders on legal language for health freedom legislation, and on how to do fundraising, grass-roots mobilization, and lobbying. Attorney Jim Turner discussed CODEX, DSHEA and federal issues.

At the Awards Banquet, NHFC honored outstanding health freedom leaders: Norm Shealy, MD, founder of AHMA; Cong. Berkley Bedell, Founder of National Foundation for Alternative Medicine; Charles Hilton

and Julie Hilton, Florida CAM Law; Deborah Miller, ESQ./Arthur England, Florida Governor's Proclamation; Dan Haley, author of *Politics in Healing*; Iowa Health Freedom Coalition, Mercury-free Vaccine Law; Monica Miller, Health Freedom Laws for Licensed Professionals; and Gilo Family Foundation, Health Freedom Promotors.

Congressman Berkley Bedell described his personal experience using colostrum from a farmer for major healing, his role in founding the federal Office of Alternative Medicine, and the National Foundation for Alternative Medicine, researching cancer cures from around the globe.

Attorney David Hinde of London told of the Alliance for Natural Health's challenge to the European Union Food Supplements Directive. Then followed a historic gathering of eight freedom leaders from around the globe at the 2004 CODEX Round Table, a prelude to unprecedented communication and cooperation on global health freedom work.



Dr. Norm Shealy, Board member of NHFC, founder of AHMA, keynotes 2004 Conference

NHFC and NHFA Board members at 2004 Conference, with keynote speaker Congressman Berkley Bedell and his wife Elinor. From left: William Lee Rand, Diane Miller, Carol Vedra, Leo Cashman, Elinor Bedell, Berkley Bedell, Jerri Johnson, Marylu Miller, Bonita Yoder, Linda Peterson. Not present, Board members Clinton Miller and Norm Shealy.



Health Freedom Leaders Clinton Miller, Joan Vandergriff and Wendell Whitman. Clinton Miller, Board Member of NHFA, is nationally recognized as one of the primary leaders of the health freedom movement, a lobbyist, advocate and mentor. Joan Vandergriff N.D., world-renowned naturopath and educator, is Chairwoman of the Executive Committee of Sunshine Health Freedom Foundation (SHFF) Wendell W. Whitman M.Div., N.D., founder of Trinity College and HealthKeepers Alliance, has hosted nationwide Health Freedom Expos. The next Expos will be in Dallas, Texas, November 4-6th, , Richmond, Virginia, December 2 - 4, and Long Beach, CA Feb 24-26th, 2006.

Activists Working to Ensure Mercury-Free Vaccines

By Nancy Hokkanen

Public concern about health damage from the mercury-based vaccine sterilizer Thimerosal is increasing, despite U.S. government assurances that its increased use during the 1990s did not cause a drastic increase in autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders.

Iowa, California and Missouri have passed legislation limiting vaccine mercury, and twenty bills are pending. At the federal level, Rep. Dave Weldon, MD has introduced HR 881, which requires that by Jan 1, 2006 mercury be removed completely from all childhood and adolescent vaccines.

A new book, *Evidence of Harm* by New York Times contributor David Kirby, "explores the chilling possibility that a vaccine additive may be fueling an apparent epidemic of autism, ADD,

speech delay and other disorders in America's children." <http://www.evidenceofharm.com/>

A recent NIEHS study showed that ethylmercury from vaccines binds to brain tissue two to four times more than methylmercury found in fish. <http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/members/2005/7712/7712.pdf>

In February 2005 the Institute of Medicine issued a report sharply critical of the handling of vaccine safety data by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. Shortly thereafter a key CDC policymaker was reassigned, and the National Immunization Program was split so that the department promoting vaccines would no longer be the same one monitoring safety.

Increasing numbers of parents and physicians are using chelation treatment to remove mercury

from the bodies of children with autistic symptoms. Pioneering researcher Bernard Rimland of the Autism Research Institute has launched the "Autism Is Treatable" campaign, and his team of DAN! doctors (Defeat Autism Now!) report drastic mental and physical improvement using chelation, nutritional supplementation and other biomedical interventions. <http://www.autism.com/ari/>

For more information on mercury-induced autism:

<http://www.generationrescue.org/>

<http://www.unlockingautism.org/>

<http://www.safeminds.org/>

<http://www.nomercury.org/>

<http://www.altcorp.com/DentalInformation/index.html> ■

10



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Inside

- *Codex – Do We Need to Worry?*
- *Highlights from Codex Meeting in Rome*
- *NHFC 2005 National Conference for Health Freedom Advocates*
- *European Court Ruling: The Perfect Compromise?*
- *2004 Health Freedom Conference Made History!*