Resolution 16A

FDA Treatment of Synthetic Botanicals

2012 US Health Freedom Congress
Schaumberg, IL, June 14, 2012
Submitted by Citizens for Health

WHEREAS the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has recently begun to issue warning letters to manufacturers of dietary supplements containing DMAA, saying that synthetic copies of botanicals are not dietary ingredients;

WHEREAS synthetic constituents of botanicals have been marketed for decades, including before the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994 was enacted, and synthetic versions of various dietary ingredients are used daily by millions of Americans in dietary supplements, including vitamins C and E, beta-alanine, beta-carotene, lycopene and various amino acids;

WHEREAS the principal authors of DSHEA - Sens. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) and Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) - have denounced FDA's assertion that synthetic copies of botanicals can never be dietary ingredients, stating that FDA's position is "wholly without statutory basis, and in fact contradicts longstanding FDA policy.";

WHEREAS synthetic copies of botanicals are an essential cost-saving alternative for millions of Americans who otherwise would be unable to afford necessary vitamins and dietary supplements;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED and recommended with urgency that FDA treat synthetic copies of botanicals in the same manner as botanicals, in keeping with the intentions of the authors of the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994.

Be it resolved that the 2012 Health Freedom Congress has considered the following resolutions and hereby adopts the health freedom principles embodied in the resolutions and offers the support of the member organizations to the extent determined by each organization's governing principles. *

*This statement was adopted to apply to the set of resolutions that the 2012 Health Freedom Congress passed June 14, 2012.