Urgent Health Freedom Alert
Oppose Mandatory Adverse Event Reporting for Dietary Supplements!

An onerous bill was introduced into Congress June 21, 2006, Senate Bill 3546, called the Dietary Supplement and Nonprescription Drug Consumer Protection Act! [Introduced by Mr. Hatch (for himself, Mr. Durbin, Mr. Harkin, Mr. Enzi, and Mr. Kennedy)]

The dangerously deceiving title tells it all by trying to make citizens think that there is a reason we need more protection from Dietary Supplements!

The bedrock of the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994 (DSHEA) holds that dietary supplements are nutrient foods and do not pose a significant risk of harm to the public and should be regulated as such. The premise that foods are safe and that the burden of proof should remain on the government before infringing on the free trade and marketing of dietary supplements is the foundation of DSHEA and is continually being challenged by opposing parties.

The new bill is over-regulation and an attempt to encroach upon citizen freedoms to access foods that have health benefits. The bill requests that DSHEA be amended to include:

1. Mandating that all manufacturers, packers, or distributors of dietary supplements whose name appears on the labels of a dietary supplement marketed in the US, submit to the FDA, on MedWatch forms, all reports received of serious adverse events associated with the dietary supplement.

2. Records of reports and medical information be maintained and available for inspection for 6 years.

3. No state would be able to make or continue to have in effect any state law that is not identical to the federal laws on adverse event reporting.

The bill would strike a blow to the fundamental principles of DSHEA. Mandatory reporting pre-supposes a false belief that dietary supplements are different and less safe than food. This bill is a blatant attempt to try and get more control over supplements, to over-regulate them, and convince people that dietary supplement nutrients need to be treated like over the counter drugs.

When a government regulates private citizens, manufacturers, distributors, packers, they need a basis for their regulation and without that basis government cannot make laws that affect freedoms

The role of government in our lives and the making of regulatory laws must be strictly scrutinized when it affects our fundamental freedom to access information and products that we use for our survival. This bill is an attempt to move dietary supplements into a drug-like regulatory status and this is completely unacceptable to the American people.

This message was drafted by Diane Miller, Legal and Public Policy Director for National Health Freedom Action (NHFA) Working to ensure that all people have access to all healing and health care information and options. www.nationalhealthfreedom.org

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