

*****URGENT*****

Your response is required by September 13, 2002

**Please sign and mail this letter to the FDA.
You can also help by copying and widely distributing this letter.
Thank you for helping protect our health freedoms.**

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FDA Commissioner
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1061 (HFA-305)
Rockville, MD 20852

citizens.org/FDAAction.htm
email address ↗

RE: FDA Docket No. 02N-0209

Dear Commissioner,

I am concerned about the FDA's record of withholding important information about the uses and benefits of natural dietary supplements and all other emerging healthcare alternatives from consumers. In three separate court cases, the FDA's policies have been found unconstitutional and in violation of our basic First Amendment Rights to free speech.

Record numbers of consumers are looking for alternative avenues to reduce long-term health concerns and to decrease costs associated with conventional medicine. The natural supplement and alternative medicine community have responded to this need — often against relentless controversy and burdensome controls. The FDA's history of repressing information about potential health benefits of dietary supplements and other emerging health care alternatives has done a great disservice to millions of Americans dedicated to their health.

As a person who subscribes to the principles in the American Bill of Rights:

I insist that the FDA follow the directions of the United States Courts and stop preventing the dissemination of truthful information about dietary supplements and other products and services that help improve health;

I urge the FDA to adopt regulations in accordance with court rulings that permit the dissemination of all information about health including truthful preliminary or emerging health information on product labels and in product labeling; and

I demand that the FDA stop the prosecution of individuals for the dissemination of truthful information about the benefits and risks of products and services that affect my or any person's health.

Sincerely,

Signature: July Brasher Date: 9-10-02

Address: 4295 Canyon Trail #2
Cottonwood, AZ 86326

02N-0209

C61

"Write to Know" Campaign: Background Information

Citizens For Health launched the Consumer "Write to Know" Campaign opposing FDA's recently proposed labeling regulations for dietary supplements. These regulations would limit consumers' access to information regarding the uses of supplements at a time when interest in them is more far-reaching than ever before.

The proposed regulations attempt to define acceptable structure/function statements allowed on dietary supplement labels by the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994 (DSHEA). (See attached background on DSHEA and Citizens' role.) With consumer interest in supplements, herbs and other related products crossing age, racial, economic and educational divisions, what consumers have made clear they want most is access to more information, not less.

Citizens is working to inform consumers of their opportunity to insist that their right to product information be maintained. Government agencies do respond to consumer pressure, as evidenced by the recent organic issue with the USDA.

Citizens' goal "Write to Know" Campaign generated 175,000 consumer comments opposing these regulations by the end of the public comment period on September 25, 1998. This campaign follows on the heels of Citizens' successful "Keep 'Organic' Organic" Campaign which helped generate 300,000 comments to the USDA demanding the agency rewrite its proposed organic regulations.

FDA's proposed labeling regulations, in an effort to narrow what can be said about supplements versus what can be said about drugs, have redefined disease to say that any deviation of the body from a "natural" state would be considered a "disease."

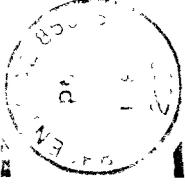
If these proposed regulations become law consumers will lose valuable information about vitamins, minerals and herbs:

- aging, pregnancy and menopause will be defined as diseases--and manufacturers of dietary supplements won't be able to tell consumers how their products can help or what new scientific research has been linked to supplements that address these "natural" states.
- FDA will be able to prevent consumers from getting information on how to use vitamins, minerals and herbs to prevent disease.
- FDA will be able to restrict access to vitamins, minerals and herbs based on how consumers "intend" to use products. For instance, if a consumer uses a supplement to lower cholesterol even if the label makes no such claim, then FDA could move to reclassify that supplement as a drug.

Judy K. Brasher

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