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February 24, 1999

Dear Representative Fattah:

On March 16, the United Nations will meet to decide whether I will be required to obtain a doctor's prescription before I can take dietary supplements containing ephedra. I strongly oppose this action. Nobody should be able to take away my legal right to buy these supplements on my own without a doctor's prescription as allowed by the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994 (DSHEA).

The notice of the recommendation the UN is voting on was published by the Food and Drug Administration in the January 11, 1999 Federal Register, Docket No. 98N-0148.

Very soon the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, Donna Shalala, will decide how the United States will vote at the UN meeting. Please contact her right away to say that you want the US to vote NO at the UN.

I feel people have to take personal responsibility for taking correct dosages of over the counter medicine/herbs. The people who took ephedra for weight loss took more than the recommended dosage and had medical complications. This could happen with aspirin. Are we going to require a doctor's prescription for aspirin now???? Please oppose the restriction of herbal remedies.

Sincerely,



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cc: FDA Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
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