Dockets Management Branch 9727 '00 JAN 19 P5:10 1/10/2000
FDA
1500 Fishers Ave
Rockville, MD 02857

Re: Docket # 98N-0044

I am writing to respond to your consideration of regulation for herbal products. Certainly I support requiring accurate labeling, however I am concerned about any regulation that would restrict the public's access to herbal product I oppose any regulation that would require a physica order for any herb. My reason is that most MD's have absolutely no clue about any herbal product, with the exception of St. John's Wort. They are therefore not qualified to prescribe it. What will happen if prescriptions become required is patients wanting a particular herb will go to their doctor, tell her or him what they want. Because they have no training or information, most doctors have no basis for an assessment of the herb's suitability for their patient. They do know, however, that the dont want to lose a patient in this consumer oriented era of medicine, so they will give the patient what they want. The primary outcome will be increased health care costs for MD visits that give the patient no protection because doctors aren't trained in this area. Sincerely,

Lorrie Herzberg

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