July 25, 2005

We need your help to put the brakes on a bad bill in the U.S. House of Representatives. H.R. 3156, otherwise known as the Dietary Supplement Access and Awareness Act, would give the FDA authority to ban virtually any herb or specialty product from the market if it failed to pass an arbitrary risk/benefit analysis.

H.R. 3156 threatens to fundamentally alter DSHEA (the Dietary Supplement Health & Education Act.) DSHEA allows you to purchase dietary supplements while giving the Food and Drug Administration authority to remove unsafe products from the market.

H.R. 3156 would hold dietary supplements to a higher standard than riskier food additives and over-the-counter drugs. It proposes onerous and unnecessary reporting requirements that will increase the cost of your medicinal herbs without providing a safer product. It also establishes a troubling risk analysis process that could remove any dietary supplement even if there is no proof of actual harm.

According to the language of H.R. 3156, an herb should be removed from the market if there is any chance of a so-called risk unless "sufficient" health benefits are proved to the FDA's satisfaction. This approach ignores the bio-individuality of individuals and is an impossible standard for most supplement manufacturers to meet; the science in this area receives less than 1% of U.S. research funding.

This bill is unacceptable and if allowed to progress will severely undermine your health rights. Take action today! And tell your friends.
Together, we can put the brakes on this bill that is bad for health, bad for you, and bad for the nation's pocketbook.

Please go to the following link to ask your Congressperson to vote NO on this bill:
http://www.healthactioncenter.org/action/index.asp?step=2&item=27248

Thank you.