

HR 3156 Opposition Letter

The Honorable (Representative First and Last Name)

Dear Representative (Last Name);

As one of the 60 million consumers of dietary supplements, I am writing in opposition to H.R.3156, the so-called "Dietary Supplement Access and Awareness Act." This bill would restrict access to a broad range of supplements, some of which I now use and others I might want to use in the future.

Under current DSHEA law and regulation, a supplement can be comprised of one or any combination of the following: a vitamin; a mineral; an herb or other botanical; an amino acid; a concentrate, metabolite, constituent or extract; and/or a dietary substance for use by man to supplement the diet. H.R. 3156 would remove *all* of these supplements from coverage under DSHEA except for vitamins and minerals only. All other supplements (e.g., amino acids and herbs) would be subjected to unnecessary FDA drug-like restrictions and oversight. H.R. 3156 completely undermines the intent of Congress when it enacted DSHEA and treats supplements with their remarkable record of safety as if they were dangerous drugs. This is overregulation!

The FDA already has enough power to regulate supplements. Among other things, it has the authority to regulate all aspects of manufacturing, marketing, distribution, and adverse event reporting for dietary supplements under DSHEA. All dietary supplements, not just some, should continue to be regulated like foods and not like drugs. In fact, the FDA itself has testified before Congress that it does not need the changes proposed in this legislation to protect American dietary supplement consumers.

Please do the right thing and oppose this misguided legislation. The FDA should *not* be given the arbitrary authority to take away my dietary supplements and infringe upon my common sense and ability to make informed choices affecting my personal health and well-being.

Sincerely yours,
