

LETTER IN OPPOSITION TO H.R. 3377

Dear Congressman/woman:

As one of the over two million Americans who want to include dietary supplements as part of their own health care choices, I am writing in opposition to H.R.3377, the 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.

The Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act (DSHEA) was enacted in 1994. Under current law and regulation, a supplement must be 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. 3377 would eliminate ALL of these supplements from coverage under DSHEA, with exception for only supplements containing vitamin and/or mineral ingredients. All supplements other than these would be reclassified and subjected to newly granted FDA drug like regulatory powers. H.R. 3377 completely undermines the intent of Congress when it enacted DSHEA in 1994.

All dietary supplements, not just some, should continue to be regulated more like foods and not like prescription drugs. The FDA already has broad legal authority to regulate all aspects of manufacturing, marketing and distribution of dietary supplements under DSHEA. 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 health and well being.

I urge you to oppose this misguided legislation and would like to know what your position is on it.

Sincerely,