

SAVE OUR SUPPLEMENTS! NO TO CAFTA/FTAA! US Dietary Supplement Laws Threatened By Globalization!

Consumer access to dietary supplements in the USA is being threatened by illegal FDA actions at the UN Codex Alimentarius Commission where the FDA has been working hard to create a mindlessly restrictive global trade standard for vitamins and minerals.

At the 28th General Session of the UN's Codex Alimentarius Commission between July 4-9th 2005, barring a miracle, a very restrictive global trade standard for vitamins and minerals will be ratified. Codex standards can be imposed on the USA via membership in the WTO and via regional harmonization through an expansion of NAFTA via CAFTA (Central American Free Trade Agreement) and FTAA (Free Trade Area of the Americas).

These trade agreements threaten to force the USA into a hemispheric equivalent to the European Union.

WHY THIS IS NOT GOOD:

In the UK, despite over a million signatures on petitions gathered in British health food stores opposing harmonization of UK vitamin law to a mindlessly restrictive EU Food Supplement Directive, the UK government told consumers "we don't care HOW MANY signatures you get on your petition, the UK is a member of the EU, and we're harmonizing to EU law, whether you like it or not!!!"

The SAME THING will happen in the US (and Canada) unless we KILL CAFTA which is scheduled for a FAST TRACK VOTE in MAY. CAFTA would plunge us down the slippery slope to the FTAA which threatens to harmonize (make the same) all laws from the Artic Circle to Tierra Del Fuego.

More than just our dietary supplement laws are being threatened here. CAFTA and FTAA threaten the destruction of thousands of American jobs as they'd be outsourced to the third world where there is much cheaper labor just as happened via NAFTA, only this would be MUCH WORSE.

CAFTA/FTAA threaten to totally DESTROY our country, this is a direct attack on our sovereignty, but we CAN STOP IT!!

WHAT TO DO:

Send the form letter against CAFTA to your Senators and Congressmen from these two websites: <http://www.stoptheftaa.org/> and <http://www.citizen.org/trade/cafta/>

You can learn much more about this threat at both of these sites, which between them cover the whole political spectrum. To learn more about the Codex vitamin issue per se, visit <http://www.iahf.com> where you can also sign up for the email distribution list to learn more about this issue and how to fight back.

Also see this article: [Who Says Whatever Happens at Codex Doesn't Affect US Law and Why Do They Say It?](#)

Info courtesy John C. Hammell, Legislative Advocate, President, International Advocates for Health Freedom <http://www.iahf.com>

DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS AND HEALTH FREEDOM by Rep. Ron Paul, MD

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Millions of Americans take dietary supplements every day, and the numbers are growing as the Baby Boom generation ages. More and more Americans understandably are frustrated with our government-controlled health care system. They have concluded that vitamins, minerals, and other supplements might help them stay healthy and less dependent on the system. They use supplements because they can buy them freely at stores and research them freely on the Internet, without government interference in the form of doctors, prescriptions, HMOs, and licenses. In other words, they use supplements because they are largely free to make their own choices, in stark contrast to the conventional medical system.

But we live in an era of unbridled government regulation of both our personal lives and the economy, and Food and Drug administration bureaucrats burn to regulate supplements in the same manner as prescription drugs.

The health nannies insist that many dietary supplements are untested and unproven, and therefore dangerous. But the track record for FDA-approved drugs hardly inspires confidence. In fact, far more Americans have died using approved pharmaceuticals than supplements. Not every dietary supplement performs as claimed, but neither does every FDA drug.

The FDA simply gives people a false sense of security, while crowding out private watchdog groups that might provide truly disinterested consumer information. It fosters a complacent attitude and a lack of personal responsibility among people who assume a government stamp of approval means a drug must be safe, and that they need not study a drug before taking it.

The FDA, like all federal agencies, ultimately uses its regulatory powers in political ways. Certain industries and companies are rewarded, and others are punished. No regulatory agency is immune from politics, which is why the FDA should not be trusted with power over our intimate health care decisions.

The real issue is not whether supplements really work, or whether FDA drugs really are safe. The real issue is: Who decides, the individual or the state? This is the central question in almost every political issue. In free societies, individuals decide what medical treatments or health supplements are appropriate for them.

Over the past decade the American people have made it clear they do not want the federal government to interfere with their access to dietary supplements. In 1994, Congress bowed to overwhelming public pressure and passed the Dietary Supplements and Health and Education Act, which liberalized the rules regarding the regulation of dietary supplements. Congressional offices received a record number of comments in favor of the Act, which demonstrates how strongly Americans feel about health freedom.

The FDA simply has thumbed its nose at Congress and ignored the new rules in many instances, by attempting to suppress information about health supplements. But in 1999 a federal appellate court affirmed that the American people have a First Amendment right to such information without interference from the FDA. However, members of Congress have had to intervene with the FDA on several occasions to ensure that they followed the court order.

My regular listeners already know about another looming threat to dietary supplement freedom. The Codex Alimentarius Commission, an offshoot of the United Nations, is working to "harmonize" food and supplement rules between all nations of the world. Under Codex rules, even basic vitamins and minerals will require a doctor's prescription. As Europe moves ever closer to adopting Codex standards, it becomes more likely that the World Trade Organization will attempt to force those standards on the United States. This is yet another example of how the WTO threatens American sovereignty. By cooperating with Codex, the FDA is blatantly ignoring the will of Congress and the American people.

Dr. Ron Paul is a Republican member of Congress from Texas.

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