

Dear Senator _____:

I am writing to express my opposition to S.B. 3546, the "Dietary Supplement and Nonprescription Drug Consumer Protection Act," a bill that would obligate supplement manufacturers, packers and distributors to notify the FDA of serious adverse event reports (AERs) associated with the use of a dietary supplement.

It is my firmly held belief that the safety of nutritional supplements is more than adequately addressed by the 1994 Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act (DSHEA), a well-drafted piece of legislation that gives the FDA the power to remove from the market any dietary supplement that "presents a significant or unreasonable risk of injury." As such, and as a consumer of nutritional supplements, I am convinced that the FDA does not need any further legislation to ensure the continued safety of dietary supplements.

Indeed, the enviable safety record of dietary supplements proves that they are already one of the safest, if not *the safest*, categories of products on the market. Ordinary food, for example, is far more dangerous than dietary supplements and causes 5,000 deaths and more than 80 million hospitalizations each year in the US, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Similarly, the side effects of prescription drugs are the fourth leading cause of death in the US and result in 2.2 million hospitalizations every year. (*JAMA, April 15, 1996*)

Several aspects of S.B. 3546 especially concern me. These include:

- the bill's use of the phrase "associated with" rather than the words "caused by," which could easily result in establishing guilt by association;
- support of this legislation by the NNFA and other organizations representing the interests of pharmaceutical manufacturers and not only the nutritional supplement industry and natural health consumers;
- the fact that the bill treats nutritional supplements like OTC drug products. All nutritional supplements are food components and as such should be treated totally separate from OTC medications, which contain synthetic chemical molecules that are toxic to the body.

S.B. 3546 could potentially destroy the availability of effective dietary supplements and impair the health of millions of American consumers, many of whom do not have health insurance and who benefit from the daily use of vitamins and other essential nutrients.

I am therefore requesting that as my representative you do not support this dangerous assault on my health freedom, and I strongly demand that you vote against S.B. 3546!

Thank you for representing my concerns. I look forward to learning your position on this most serious matter.

Respectfully yours,

Name (Print) Signature

Address City State

Zip

E-mail address Date

www.senate.gov

Capital switchboard # 202-225-3121

www.house.gov

This letter has been launched by the Dr. Rath Health Foundation, USA, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving health on a global scale through research, education and the defense of patients' rights to natural health.

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