

NHA/WASHINGTON

update*

Get Congress Back on Track

Correcting Dick Durbin & Co. is good for our health and our country.

Have you noticed how ineffectual our Congress seems lately? This past year has seen escalating dissent that culminated in a total government shutdown. Factor in that Congress only meets for 140 days out of the year, and it's easy to see why there is growing frustration with our leadership. It seems a tipping point is near, where we will demand our leaders stop with their nonsense and get back to working for us.

Considering the complete Congressional failure that led to the shutdown, Senator Dick Durbin's Dietary Supplement Labeling Act—also known as S.1425—seems even more absurd than ever. S.1425 embodies everything that is wrong about our troubled Congress: Massive challenges confront our nation, and yet here we have a senator who is choosing to spend valuable time and resources—his own, and those of Congress as a whole—scrutinizing, deconstructing and attacking, of all things, health-enhancing nutritional supplements.

Supplements Are Not the Enemy

Senator Durbin's relentless assault on healthful nutritional supplements seems more like a red herring every day. But S.1425 is more than just a harmless distraction: If Durbin's bill advances, it could strike nutritional supplements from Americans' healthy lifestyle options.

Under successful passage of S.1425,

nutritional supplement manufacturers will have to register with the FDA by submitting descriptions, ingredients and labels of every single supplement that they produce. This will create a burden for all manufacturers but will be especially devastating to the most reputable ones, who in some cases have been producing quality supple-



ments for decades. Since some of these manufacturers have thousands of different products, their resources will be crippled by S.1425's demands that every single product be registered. It could take years for these quality manufacturers to register all their supplements.

Meanwhile, fly-by-night manufacturers with no track record of quality who only sell one supplement will be able to submit everything they need to satisfy S.1425 in a matter of days. In effect, the best manufacturers will be punished by the FDA for their large inventory of quality products, while makers with smaller inventories and

shorter track records will be rewarded.

While leading manufacturers struggle to register thousands of different products, their productivity will suffer. As resources falter, they may simply give up on developing innovative new supplements. After all, under S.1425, a new supplement would require extensive, time-consuming paperwork before even reaching store shelves. Breakthrough supplements with the potential to dramatically enhance consumers' quality of life might never see the light of day. As remaining products dwindle in number and variety, supplement prices will skyrocket.

Let's Get Back On Track!

At times like these, it helps to invoke Abraham Lincoln's famous quote: "Government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." Lincoln reminds us that "we the people" determine the course of our leadership. If you're fed up and frustrated, send a clear message to Congress in general and to Dick Durbin in particular: Stop picking on nutritional supplements, keep your hands off our health freedom and get your act together!

Remind Congress that they work for us, and are supposed to find solutions to our problems. As it stands, Durbin is trying to create a problem out of a solution, because supplements have been shown to be overwhelmingly safe and effective at promoting health. Please visit www.nha2013.com for more information on how we can work together to get Congress back on track in 2014! ♦

*This editorial is a public service announcement sponsored by the Nutritional Health Alliance (NHA).