

CRN / AHPA Day on the Hill 2017 “BASICS and ASKS”

- **Co-sponsor the Health Savings Act (HR 1175 / S 403), introduced by Rep. Erik Paulsen of Minnesota and Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah**
 - Tax-Free Health Accounts like Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) and Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs) provide consumers with incentives to make smarter decisions and to take greater control over their healthcare. With the rising costs of healthcare, consumers should be encouraged to use products and services that are cost-effective and that focus on prevention and wellness. Tax policies should incentivize the use of dietary supplements containing such beneficial nutrients as calcium, vitamin D, omega-3 fatty acids, a multivitamin with folic acid and more. Consumers benefit when the government recognizes the substantial health benefits of dietary supplements products. Expanding the coverage of HSAs and FSAs to include those products will provide economic incentives for consumers to practice preventative healthcare.

- **Support inclusion of a multivitamin in SNAP**
 - The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program (SNAP), formerly the food stamp program, provides food for millions of low-income Americans in times of emergency and economic hardship. It is estimated that 1 in 7 Americans rely on this important program. The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) safeguards the health of this at-risk population group. The latter provides nutritious foods, nutrition and breastfeeding education, and healthcare access in order to safeguard low-income women, infants and children dealing with nutrition related health problems. Currently, SNAP and WIC benefits can be used to purchase foods with little or no nutritive value, but not a multivitamin. Nutritional supplements, like the multivitamin, are especially relevant and important to low-income individuals as a means to enhance nutrition, improve health, prevent disease, enhance quality of life, increase individual productivity, and slow the increase in our nation’s rising health care costs.

- **Encourage adequate funding for FDA's Office of Dietary Supplement Programs**
 - No one else does what the FDA does. There is no back-up if the agency isn’t there. FDA oversees nearly 25% of all consumer spending. Adequate FDA funding is needed to catch up with globalization and the increasing complexity of science. And FDA's Office of Dietary Supplement Programs (ODSP) would provide appropriate regulatory attention to the growing industry and increase FDA’s enforcement activities and priorities.

- **Promote finished product registry for dietary supplements**
 - An industry-wide, online dietary supplement product registry, launched in April 2017, is the result of industry efforts to separate legitimate manufacturers marketing healthful products from the lawbreakers, fly-by-nighters selling quick fixes and illegal drugs

wrapped with a supplement label. The registry will initially serve the regulators and the retail community, with the ultimate goal of providing industry accountability to consumers, as well. It addresses transparency, ingredient verification, and GMP compliance. The product registry contains multiple tiers of product information—some public-facing, which will be accessible to anyone and permits participating manufacturers/marketers to add their products at no charge; and an add-on component which provides more in-depth information about the products to specified audiences such as regulators and retailers. The dietary supplement industry is primed to work more closely together and with regulators to help solve the problems that have attracted increasing public scrutiny and believes this initiative is a positive step in that direction.

➤ **Promote membership with bicameral, bipartisan Dietary Supplement Caucus**

- Founded in 2006, the DSC provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and information on dietary supplements – directing attention to the role of dietary supplements in health promotion and disease prevention. Encourage staff to attend the DSC briefing being held at 12noon in 2247 Rayburn. Christie Rampone, world soccer star, will discuss the importance of nutritional supplements in finding and maintaining peak performance in sport, health and fitness—and how they played role in her life, both personally and professionally.

➤ **Promote Guidance on Good Agricultural Collection Practices (GACP)**

- Ensuring the continued availability of high-quality herbal ingredients in an increasingly complex global supply chain is a top priority for the herbal supplement industry. This recently-developed, free guidance helps ensure that botanical raw materials used in consumer products are accurately identified, are free from contaminants that may present a public health risk, and fully conform to all quality characteristics for which they are represented. This industry initiative provides small and large-scale growers, harvesters, and processors with a flexible template to establish standard operating procedures for every level in the supply chain to ensure the production of high quality herbal raw materials. The guidance and accompanying assessment program currently being developed provide comprehensive best practices for every step that could impact the quality and cleanliness of herbal ingredients.

➤ **Support Botanical Sciences and Native Plant Materials, Research, Restoration, and Promotion Act (H.R. 1054)**

- The botanical sciences are critical to scientific discovery and innovation, and the development of responsible agricultural and harvest practices. Native plant materials are used in a range of products including dietary supplements and botanical drugs. The harvest and collection of these plant materials brings jobs and revenue to many communities where both are scarce.