



Council for Responsible Nutrition

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February 10, 2016

The Honorable Erik Paulsen
U.S. House of Representatives
127 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: H.R. 4469 – Health Savings Act of 2016

Dear Congressman Paulsen:

On behalf of the Council for Responsible Nutrition (CRN)¹ and its members, I would like to applaud the introduction of H.R. 4469, the Health Savings Act of 2016, and your commitment toward strengthening and expanding Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) for American citizens. The work that you and your colleagues have devoted to this endeavor is highly commendable and CRN thanks you for your efforts in support of this legislation.

As you are aware, HSAs provide consumers with incentives to make smarter decisions regarding their health and well-being 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 play a key role in prevention and wellness.

There is a growing body of scientific research that demonstrates the benefits of dietary supplements. The Internal Revenue Code defines “medical care” as expenses “for the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of disease or for the purpose of affecting any structure or function of the body.” Dietary supplements that qualify to make health claims approved by the FDA fit easily into this definition and therefore should be recognized under the tax code as allowable deductible medical expenses.

More than 150 million Americans use dietary supplements as a cost-effective means to take an active role in managing their own health, and these consumers demand improved access to quality, affordable healthcare. CRN strongly support the inclusion of qualified dietary supplements in the definition of “medical care” that allows consumers to use their pre-tax dollars for these purchases. We hope Congress will give this legislation expedient and thoughtful consideration on its way to passage.

¹ The Council for Responsible Nutrition (CRN), founded in 1973, is a Washington, D.C.-based trade association representing 150+ dietary supplement and functional food manufacturers, ingredient suppliers, and companies providing services to those manufacturers and suppliers. In addition to complying with a host of federal and state regulations governing dietary supplements and food in the areas of manufacturing, marketing, quality control and safety, our manufacturer and supplier members also agree to adhere to additional voluntary guidelines as well as to CRN’s Code of Ethics. Visit www.crnusa.org. Follow us on Twitter @crn_supplements and @wannabewell and on Facebook.

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Page 2

Please don't hesitate to contact me at SMister@crnusa.org, 202-204-7676, or Mike Greene at MGreene@crnusa.org, 202-204-7690, if CRN may be of any assistance in your endeavors.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Mister". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Steve Mister
President and CEO