

# CRN / AHPA Day on the Hill 2018 “BASICS and ASKS”

## ➤ **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.

## ➤ **Co-sponsor the SARMs Control Act (S 2742), introduced by Sens. Orrin Hatch of Utah and Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island**

- SARMs are unapproved, illegal and dangerous compounds; with characteristics similar to anabolic steroids, and have no business being added to dietary supplement products. SARMs substances have been found in a number of adulterated products masquerading as dietary supplements. The SARMs Control Act gives the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) additional authority to identify and quickly respond to SARMs substances being illegally marketed as dietary supplements. The legislation amends the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) and lists SARMs substances as Schedule III and lists nine chemical compounds as SARMs under this definition. It provides the Attorney General the authority to issue both temporary and permanent scheduling orders on SARMs compounds. And, it would amend the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act giving the Department of Agriculture the power to notify the Drug Enforcement Administration of a dietary supplement that could potentially include SARMs and provide necessary information.

## ➤ **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 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 Members Room (rooms 160-162) of Jefferson Building (LOC). Dr. Jeffrey

Blumberg, nationally recognized scientist, author and speaker, will provide a scientific perspective on the current understanding of “hidden hunger” in the US and outline policy suggestions to encourage improved healthcare practices.

- **Promote finished product registry for dietary supplements, Supplement OWL**
  - 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 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.
- **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.