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**Sent:** Friday, August 16, 2002 11:06 PM  
**To:** undisclosed-recipients;  
**Subject:** Fw: [FBI News] CODEX

02-022N  
02-022N-303  
Boyd J. Landry



ACTION ALERT  
Codex proposals.d...

Dear Friends,

Dr. Marcia Smith has sent the following. If you value your freedom to choose your own nutritional supplements, please read this and write.

Dear Friend,

I am writing you today to ask for your help in spreading the information in this e-mail and the attached explanation of the upcoming meeting concerning the CODEX Committee. Please forward this e-mail to as many people as possible and ask them to write the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) copying the President of the United States, their two United Senators, and their individual United States Representative.

In the U.S. Draft Positions for the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses, there is a very troublesome item in the agenda item No. 6, Proposed Draft Guidelines for Vitamin and Mineral Supplements (at step 4). It is a U.S. proposed draft position on labeling, item 5.9, which states: "We recommend the following revision: 'All labels should bear a statement that a supplement should be taken on the advice of a nutritionist, a dietician, or a medical doctor'"

This proposed label should be eliminated from any U.S. position paper.

Please respond to the FDA by August 23, 2002.

Ask the FDA to delete item 5.9 of agenda item No. 6 in the draft guidelines for vitamin and mineral supplements. Tell them that every citizen is the real gatekeeper for truthful and non-misleading information about nutrition, and that item 5.9 of the labeling proposal is regressive, misleading, and not in the best interest of the U.S. consumer. Also tell them that item 5.9 is in violation of the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994 (DSHEA).

Comments on the codex proposed positions may be sent electronically to:

Nancy.crane@cfsan.fda.gov

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

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## **ACTION ALERT:**

### **A Troublesome Item in the U.S. Codex draft Position Document**

**Please Note and respond,**

In the U.S. Draft Positions for the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses, 24<sup>th</sup> Session, As of July 2002, the preparatory document for the Codex meeting in Bonn, Germany on November 4-8, 2002, there is a very troublesome item in the agenda item No. 6, Proposed Draft Guidelines for Vitamin and Mineral Supplements (at step 4). It is a U.S. proposed draft position on labeling, **item 5.9**, which states: “We recommend the following revision: ‘**All labels should bear a statement that a supplement should be taken on an advice of a nutritionist, a dietician, or a medical doctor**’”

**This proposed label ought to be eliminated from any U.S. position paper for substantial reason.**

In the General Comments of the U.S. Draft Position, it states: “The United States supports consumer choice and access to dietary supplements that are safe and are labeled in a truthful and non-misleading manner”.

To label food supplements in a manner to lead the consumer to believe that one should only depend on the advice of a medical doctor, dietician, or nutritionist to be able to make a choice of nutritional supplementation is a misleading statement for substantive reason.

A supermajority of medical doctors have little or no training, experience, or interest in nutrition or nutritional supplementation. Dieticians and nutritionists are less so, but in far less abundance in the healthcare workplace. The “healthcare” mode of healing and practice is a small subset compared to the “medical care” provider. To make these groups of practitioners gatekeepers for a field, nutritional supplementation, that is not a priority or emphasis of their formal education and training does not make real or logical sense.

Most health practitioners who become advocates of food supplementation do so from developing personal interest in the subject, often after seeing good clinical outcomes with nutritional supplementation in therapeutics.

What is called the “medical model” of nutrition is often different than nutritional intervention from a wider perspective beyond knowledge of biochemistry and physiology, taking into perspective the quality of food on the market, the nature of chemical agriculture, environmental contamination that affects health, the human constitution, and the expanding incidence of various pathophysiologic predispositions for disease. This is not taught in medical schools or in graduate residency programs. It is knowledge sought out by the motivated, interested healthcare provider.

The above labeling proposal should be eliminated because it is in violation of U.S. law, the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994, DSHEA, Public Law 103-417, and is in violation of national U.S. appeals court case law, *Pearson v. Shalala*,

**which provide for truthful and non-misleading third party literature and labeled health statements for food supplements. These are the legally provided compensation for the lack of formal education training in nutrition of medical doctors and other healthcare providers.** It is these legally provided avenues of education and information provided by the first amendment of the U.S. constitution that can eventually motivate the 'learned professions' to include more nutrition in their education and training.

It makes little sense to take up label space to tell people to seek advice of someone with little education on the subject, when the label space may be better utilized by offering science based information about the contents of the product.

We are in an emerging era where people are urged to take responsibility for their health and wellbeing. The effective way to do this in the healthcare arena is to empower people with truthful and non-misleading information on nutrition, health, and disease prevention. This motivates people to the very limits of their personal intellectual and educational capacities to improve their health and lives via nutrition. An ounce of prevention is worth ten pounds of "cure". Building better protoplasm from better nutrition is more desirable than more expensive side effects of drugs.

**Please respond to the Food and Drug administration by August 23, 2002.**

**Please ask them to delete item 5.9 of agenda item No. 6 in the draft guidelines for vitamin and mineral supplements. Tell them that every citizen is the real gatekeeper for truthful and non-misleading information about nutrition.**

**Comments on the codex proposed positions may be sent electronically to:  
nancy.crane@cfsan.fda.gov**

**Let us not harmonize international food and supplement labeling to inadequate labeling. United States law provides the best availability of information. That should be our example and gift to the world. Item 5.9 of the labeling proposal is regressive and misleading.**