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Crane, Nancy T

From: Susan Heckt [mannasue@sherbtl.net]
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2002 8:32 PM
To: Crane, Nancy T
Subject: Comments on the CODEX proposed positions.

02-022N
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Susan Heckt

To Whom this May Concern :

I am very concerned about the U.S. Draft Positions for the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses. I would like to ask the FDA to delete item 5.9 of agenda item No. 6 in the draft guidelines for vitamin and mineral supplements.

As a trained dietitian with a Masters in Public Health, I have seen many changes over the years, some of which have proved my profession wrong in what we were teaching, while citizens who were acting responsibly about their health had more truth, but were not believed because they were not "educated". Also, most physicians have had little or no training in nutrition. Every citizen is the real gatekeeper for truthful and non-misleading information about nutrition. Item 5.9 of the labeling proposal is regressive, misleading, and not in the best interest of the U.S. consumer. This country was based on freedom of choice. Also, item 5.9 is in violation of the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994 (DSHEA). It's time we "professionals" get off of our high horse attitudes, thinking we need to make the decisions for others because we perceive them as "less educated." I think we need to give the American public the freedom to choose, even as I am one of those people and would like to have the right to choose. This proposed label should be eliminated from any U.S. position paper!

Sincerely,
Susan Heckt, RD, MPH