

Crane, Nancy T

From: Salma Shamy [planetwhat@hotmail.com]

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Sent: Friday, August 01, 2003 2:35 PM

To: Crane, Nancy T

Subject: Re: Comment on FDA Draft Proposal to Codex CCNFSDU on Dietary Supplements

To: Beth Yetley, FDA c/o Nancy Crane, FDA

Re: Comment on FDA Draft Proposal to Codex CCNFSDU on Dietary Supplements

Dear Dr. Yetley:

This may seem like a form letter to you but it is a life and death issue for me. You see, without supplements I would have remained bedridden and useless to society and to my family. I was so malnourished as a result of suffering from celiac disease that I was sick for a whole year straight, until I found a nutritionist who helped me figure out why I was withering away and gave me guidance about using supplements to help my body revive from it's years of slow starvation. I have a young child. I still don't absorb my food as effectively as most "normal" people and without these supplements the quality of my life will diminish to such an extent that my son will miss out on what a mother can provide. It is really non of the governments business whether I buy vitamins or not, that is up to me within the privacy of my own home. So that is why I am writing this letter. Thankfully, as Americans we don't live in a dictatorship or under communism, so I am sure you understand why freedom to choose to take or not take vitamins at therapeutic dosages (not just RDA) without a doctor (most who don't even know about all the research out there about the value of these nutrients) is my right as a citizen. It is a matter of national security, actually, that we protect the rights and health of our citizens.

The FDA proposed language, item 5.9, is an obvious attempt to "medicalize" and restrict safe dietary supplements. By recommending that "All labels should bear a statement that a supplement should be taken on an advice of a nutritionist, a dietician, or a medical doctor," the FDA is setting us up to "harmonize" with restrictive international standards and ignoring the fact that in America, supplements are classified as foods and consumers have the right to be educated on their benefits.

I, therefore, insist that you strike the above proposed revision in item 5.9 and replace it with the following language "we recommend the following revision 'All labels should bear scientific structure function health claims similar to those provided for under the American Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994 to directly assist consumers in making positive health decisions for themselves and their families at the point of sale.'" I demand the discontinuance of all attempts to create an international standard for vitamins and minerals at Codex, so that this matter may be left up to national authorities to decide.

Dr. Yetley, the FDA lost the Pearson court decision on First Amendment grounds and was forced to allow health claims on labels pertaining to folic acid and the prevention of neural tube defects. This is as it should be. Americans do not want to be restricted by international standards for vitamins and minerals and we do not want you to continue trying to circumvent US law while you are in Germany

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representing the USA at Codex meetings. Please do not violate the spirit of DSHEA in an international forum.

I am copying this letter to my Senators and Congressmen and asking them to oppose all efforts to erode US sovereignty via FTAA. We will not tolerate being subjected to anything similar to the EU's attempt to ban consumer access to dietary supplements (Pearson v Thomson, www.emord.com).

Sincerely,

Salma Shamy

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