



NEWS RELEASE

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Nutritional Supplement Access Preserved in AZ Natural Products Association and the American Herbal Products Association Protect Proper Rules for Safe, Legal, Natural Products

WASHINGTON, DC – A proposal that would have drastically limited access to safe, legal and popular products for Arizonans was changed recently thanks to the Natural Products Association (NPA) and the American Herbal Products Association (AHPA), who worked with the Arizona Board of Pharmacy and other state policymakers on the issue. The proposal under consideration would have required companies to obtain a permit to market nutritional supplements like a “drug” and be subject to some of the requirements for nonprescription drugs in that state. Unlike nonprescription drugs, natural supplement products are regulated as foods and are regulated differently by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

“Natural products and supplements are safe and under strict regulation by the federal government, and because of that the U.S. enjoys the safest food supply in the world. Supplements are not drugs and should not be regulated like drugs, because it would raise costs and block access to the products consumers want. We commend the Arizona Board of Pharmacy and other officials for working with us to help Arizonans,” said Daniel Fabricant, President and CEO of NPA.

“The state permit requirements as originally proposed would have been inconsistent with longstanding and extensive Federal dietary supplement regulations and would have put companies selling supplements in Arizona in an unreasonable position,” said AHPA President Michael McGuffin. “AHPA thanks the Board for recognizing that supplements that make claims that are lawful under Federal regulation are not nonprescription drugs and cannot be regulated as drugs in Arizona.”

During a December 5, 2018 meeting the AZ Board of Pharmacy began the process to eliminate the language from the Arizona Administrative Code and restricting the Arizona Board of Pharmacy’s jurisdiction over dietary supplements. Disease claims made by dietary supplement products will remain under the jurisdiction of the FDA and the FTC, and both NPA and AHPA support prompt and consistent enforcement by these Federal agencies against marketers who make unlawful disease claims.

Changes to the Arizona Administrative code require a period of public notice and NPA and AHPA plan to submit comments.

Media Contact

Natural Products Association

Justin Bartolomeo

202-789-4365

Jbartolomeo@hdmk.org

Media Contact

Haley Chitty

American Herbal Products Association

301-588-1171 x104

HChitty@ahpa.org

Natural Products Association

The **Natural Products Association (NPA)** is *the* trade association representing the entire natural products industry. We advocate for our members who supply, manufacture and sell natural ingredients or products for consumers. The Natural Products Association promotes good manufacturing practices as part of the growth and success of the industry. Founded in 1936, NPA represents approximately 1,000 members accounting for more than 10,000 locations of retailers, manufacturers, wholesalers and distributors of natural products, including foods, dietary supplements and health/beauty aids. Visit www.npanational.org.

The **American Herbal Products Association (AHPA)** is the national trade association and voice of the herbal and botanical products industry. AHPA is comprised of more than 300 domestic and foreign companies doing business as growers, processors, manufacturers, and marketers of herbs and herbal products, including foods, dietary supplements, cosmetics, and non-prescription drugs. Founded in 1982, AHPA's mission is to promote the responsible commerce of herbal products. Website: www.ahpa.org.