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Opening Statement
Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health

Markup of H.R. 4771, Designer Anabolic Steroid Control Act; H.R. 4250, Sunscreen Innovation Act; H.R. 4701, Vector-Borne Disease Research Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014; H.R. 594, Paul D. Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance, Research and Education Amendments of 2014; H.R. 669, Sudden Unexpected Death and Data Enhancement and Awareness Act; and, H.R. 4290, Wakefield Act of 2014.

June 19, 2014

The Subcommittee will come to order.

The Chair will recognize himself for an opening statement.

Today, we are considering six important, bipartisan bills, but, for the sake of time, I will focus my remarks on H.R. 4771, the Designer Anabolic Steroid Control Act (DASCA), which I introduced with Ranking Member Pallone.

Today, online, in gyms, and even in retail stores, consumers are oftentimes unknowingly purchasing products labeled as dietary supplements that are actually designer anabolic steroids.

Anabolic steroids are synthetic forms of testosterone that can be extremely dangerous and are Class III controlled substances on the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) schedule.

To skirt the law, however, a number of bad actors are altering the chemical structure of such substances and promoting these designer products for their anabolic effects.

DEA needs the tools and authority to protect consumers from these dangerous products, keep up with these criminals, and punish them accordingly.

H.R. 4771 does just that by:

- Immediately placing 27 known designer anabolic steroids on the list of controlled substances;
- Granting the DEA authority to temporarily schedule new designer steroids on the controlled substances list so that if bad actors develop new variations, these products can be removed from the market immediately while permanent orders are being prepared; and
- Creating new penalties for importing, manufacturing, or distributing these deceptive and dangerous products.

DASCA is supported by the American Herbal Products Association (AHPA), the Consumer Healthcare Products Association (CHPA), the Council for Responsible Nutrition (CRN), the Natural Products Association (NPA), and the United Natural Products Alliance (UNPA).

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Thank you.