



June 20, 2014

The Honorable Joe Pitts  
U.S. House of Representatives  
420 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.  
U.S. House of Representatives  
237 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Designer Anabolic Steroid Control Act (DASCA) H.R. 4771**

Dear Congressmen Pitts and Pallone:

On behalf of the trade associations of the dietary supplement industry – the American Herbal Products Association, Consumer Healthcare Products Association, Council for Responsible Nutrition, Natural Products Association and the United Natural Products Alliance – we are writing to express our collective support for the Designer Anabolic Steroid Control Act (DASCA) H.R. 4771. We want to thank you both for your commitment to providing the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) with new authority to place designer anabolic steroids on the Controlled Substance Schedules more expeditiously, and for providing DEA with new tools to identify and quickly respond when new designer anabolic steroids – illegal drugs – are falsely marketed as dietary supplements.

DASCA empowers DEA to identify and address products containing ingredients that are “substantially similar” to existing anabolic steroids and that have been illegally marketed to promote “muscle growth or other testosterone-like effects.” The responsible dietary supplement industry stakeholders have consistently supported congressional and regulatory efforts to enact and enforce laws that help eliminate illegal products containing unapproved drugs masquerading as dietary supplements, and to prosecute the criminals who manufacture and sell them.

It is our hope that the committee will give the legislation expedient and thoughtful consideration on its way to passage by the full House of Representatives. We are eager to work with your offices to ensure that the Energy and Commerce Committee understands the concerns of

consumers and the dietary supplement industry that have led to this bill. DAsCA is a strong step forward, adding teeth to prevention and enforcement efforts in the battle against steroid abuse.

The dietary supplement industry stands ready to work with you and all of Congress to deliver a strong bill to the President.

Sincerely,



Michael McGuffin  
President  
American Herbal Products Association



Scott Melville  
President & CEO  
Consumer Healthcare Products Association



Steve Mister  
President & CEO  
Council for Responsible Nutrition



Daniel Fabricant, Ph.D.  
Executive Director & CEO  
Natural Products Association



Loren Israelsen  
President  
United Natural Products Alliance



1773 T St, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20009

(202) 223-0101, Fax (202) 223-0250

NPAinfo.org

June 18, 2014

The Honorable Joe Pitts  
U.S. House of Representatives  
420 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.  
U.S. House of Representatives  
237 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Congressmen Pitts and Pallone,

I write today on behalf of the Natural Products Association (NPA) to thank you for introducing the Designer Anabolic Steroid Control Act (DASCA). As the leading representative of the dietary supplement industry with over 1,900 members, including suppliers and retailers of vitamins and other dietary supplements, NPA works to ensure that consumers have access to safe dietary supplements, and we believe that this bill will make the market safer by empowering DEA with new authorities to identify and address ingredients that are substantially similar to anabolic steroids. These products are not dietary supplements because they are regulated as unapproved drugs.

Our support for this bill demonstrates NPA's commitment to removing anabolic steroids, which are not dietary ingredients, from the market. NPA has worked in conjunction with the FDA to bring attention to spiked products masquerading as dietary supplements. In the absence of this bill, consumers, who believe they are purchasing "legal" supplements for muscle growth, could be ingesting products containing ingredients with testosterone-like activity, leading to the same morbidities associated with long term steroid use. This bill helps protect consumers, by removing harms because newer anabolic steroid ingredients introduced to the market will be identified on the product label as being unapproved drugs. The bill also provides new authorities to expeditiously address novel and next-generation anabolic steroids introduced to the market illegally under the dietary supplement banner.

Even with the passage of the Anabolic Steroid Control Act of 2004, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has removed very few substances through their scheduling process. The Administration has to follow a strict set of testing standards to schedule a substance before removing it from the market. This process can take up to three years to complete; however, the products remain



1773 T St, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20009  
(202) 223-0101, Fax (202) 223-0250  
NPAinfo.org

on the market while this process runs its course. This bill gives the DEA the power to temporarily remove products from the market while testing is completed, giving them the ability to stay ahead of the individuals who are creating these designer drugs.

Thank you for introducing this important legislation and your tireless work on behalf of the dietary supplement industry.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Fabricant".

Daniel Fabricant, Ph.D.  
Executive Director and CEO, Natural Products Association