

nation can work together to tackle this problem on a national level as well as locally in our schools and communities.

These students, and their committed campus coordinators, stand as shining examples of the type of determination, vision and energy we as concerned adults, parents, and community members must exhibit in order to eradicate the epidemic of youth violence. As I reflect upon my interactions with this cadre of distinguished leaders, I cannot help but marvel at the spirit of cooperation and commitment they had between them. I firmly believe that if we, in this great deliberative body, applied the same level of cooperation and commitment to confronting the issue of youth violence that these six students displayed, we would finally put principle over politics and solve this problem. I say, let them stand as a source of inspiration and encouragement for us all.

DIETARY SUPPLEMENT FAIRNESS
IN LABELING AND ADVERTISING
ACT

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Dietary Supplement Fairness in Labeling and Advertising Act. When Congress enacted the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994 (DSHEA), Congress intended to insure that all Americans had access to factual and adequate information about vitamins, minerals, and other dietary supplements so that they can make informed decisions about their health and well-being.

There is an increasing amount of scientific data demonstrating the benefits of good nutrition, education, and appropriate use of dietary supplements to promote long-term health. Additionally, preventive practices, including the safe consumption of dietary supplements will play a role in significantly reducing health-care expenditures in this country. At a time when we are looking at a doubling of our health care expenditures by 2007, it is very important to find cost-saving measures such as the use of dietary supplements.

The Government continues to provide funding to Agencies such as the National Institutes of Health, which includes the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine and the Office of Dietary Supplements, as well as the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Science Foundation to conduct research in nutritional approaches to improving health status and in the prevention, treatment, and cure of diseases.

Over 100 million people safely use dietary supplements every day in the United States. The bill that I am introducing today will allow the public access to solid scientific research information about the safe and proper use of dietary supplements. It would amend the Federal Trade Commission Act (FTC) so that that information on the scientific studies, including clinical trials, be made available to consumers without the FTC charging the manufacturer with improper advertising.

The FTC does not allow the same information in advertising of dietary supplements that is allowed in labeling of the same products.

Dietary supplement manufacturers are currently allowed to make some statements in the labeling regarding the benefits of calcium, vitamin C, and other common supplements that have been studied extensively. However, the FTC makes it very difficult for this useful information to be used in the advertising. This makes no sense. The information that the FDA allows as part of the labeling of a dietary supplement should also be allowed in advertising the same supplement, yet the FTC is seeking to regulate the advertising of dietary supplements by denying to consumers the very information that the DSHEA required the FDA to allow be used. This dual and contradictory set of regulations undermines the intent of Congress.

DSHEA required the FDA to promulgate reasonable guidelines to regulate the content of dietary supplement labels. The goal of this requirement is to insure that the labels give consumers necessary information for decision making in supplement selection and usage, without making claims regarding medical or disease benefits.

Additionally, the bill will instruct the FDA to withdraw the notice of proposed rulemaking published in the Federal Register of April 28, 1998, which attempts to regulate the types of statements made concerning the effects of dietary supplements on the structure and function of the body. In the Government Reform Committee, we conducted a hearing in March in which we discussed this very issue. The FDA proposed rulemaking is in direct conflict with the intent of Congress in DSHEA. Pregnancy and Aging are not disease states, but under the proposed FDA rulemaking their redefining of "disease" would designate them as such. Furthermore, it was never Congress' intent that citations from credible scientific publications not be allowed in providing accurate information in labeling of dietary supplements.

In passing this legislation, Americans will gain access to better information about the research in dietary supplements. Additionally, there will be access to fair and adequate reviews of claims. This bill prescribes a method by which the FTC must act prior to filing a complaint that initiates any administrative or judicial proceeding alleging noncompliance by an advertiser. The FTC would be required to provide a full and fair opportunity for advertisers to consult with the Commission's scientific experts and allow for an open exchange of ideas and information to insure that decisions are based on concrete, substantial scientific evidence. This is the development of an efficient and effective government practice during a time where our society has become far too litigious, I support strengthening the review process, prior to filling any claims or complaints.

I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor the Dietary Supplement Fairness in Labeling and Advertising Act. It would insure that all Americans have access to factual information about vitamins and other dietary supplements so they can make informed decisions about their health and well-being, while continuing to provide adequate safeguards to protect the public good.

A TRIBUTE TO BETTY GARDNER

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Betty Gardner, who is retiring this month from her position as President and CEO of the Kings Federal Credit Union in Kings County, California.

During her tenure, Ms. Gardner has overseen a period of tremendous growth for the Kings Federal Credit Union. In 1960, she began serving credit union members from her home, slowly building the credit union's customer base. Nearly forty years later, the credit union's membership has expanded to 11,000 members, serving more than 180 select employer groups. In the small rural communities of Kings County, the credit union has played a vital role in providing project financing and financial services for people who might not otherwise have access to those services.

In addition to her leadership of the Kings Federal Credit Union, Ms. Gardner has been active in professional associations for the credit union industry. In 1990-91, Ms. Gardner served as chairman of the California Credit Union League, working to improve the league's voting procedures.

Her advocacy for and interest in the credit union industry also led her to travel on behalf of the industry. In October 1992 for example, she spent five days in Gdansk, Poland, visiting new credit unions and assisting the Polish Credit Union Foundation in their development of new operations.

Ms. Gardner has been honored by the California Credit Union League with a number of awards, including the 1994 Distinguished Service Award, and the 1998 Leo H. Shapiro Lifetime Achievement Award.

She has also been actively engaged in the community, participating in Soroptimist International, the Hanford Chamber of Commerce, the Sacred Heart Hospital Board of Directors, the Business Development Committee, the American Cancer Society, and serving as a former chair of the Hanford Parks and Recreation Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Betty Gardner for contributions to the credit union industry and to the larger community of Kings County. We send our sincere congratulations and wish her well on her retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HELEN CHENOWETH-HAGE

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, on November 8 and 9, I missed several rollcall votes on account of minor illness. Had I had been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 574 (H. Res. 94), "yea" on rollcall vote 575 (H.R. 2904), "yea" on rollcall vote 576 (H. Res. 344), "yea" on rollcall vote 580 (H. Con. Res. 223), and "yea" on rollcall vote 581 (H.R. 1554).