



February 22, 2016

The Honorable Erik Paulsen
Committee on Ways and Means
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Paulsen:

As you know, the American Herbal Products Association, the Consumer Healthcare Products Association, the Council for Responsible Nutrition, the Natural Products Association, and the United Natural Products Alliance together are the trade associations representing the dietary supplement industry in the United States. We want to commend you for your recent introduction of *The Health Savings Act of 2016* (H.R. 4469), indicate our strong support for the legislation, and urge that this bill be moved as expeditiously as possible through the House.

In the United States, more than 150 million consumers use dietary supplements each year as a cost-effective way to take an active role in managing their healthcare. Research shows that consumers who take dietary supplements are also likely to engage in other health-promoting activities such as eating a well-balanced diet, exercising often, visiting the doctor regularly and getting adequate sleep. Putting consumers in charge of their health choices and allowing them to make informed decisions about their healthcare makes good policy sense. This is exactly what your bill would do. By allowing dietary supplement expenditures as part of flexible spending accounts such as Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) and Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs), H.R. 4469 would incentivize healthy behaviors and consumer choice.

Let us also note on behalf of one signatory, the Consumer Healthcare Products Association, that the provision in your bill restoring HSA and FSA coverage for over-the-counter pharmaceuticals is also an important provision in H.R. 4469, which could save literally billions of dollars in annual health care expenditures by reducing doctor visits, saving people time off from work, and reducing pharmaceutical costs.

We have each reviewed H.R. 4469 and are in agreement that its enactment would be an important milestone in our country's journey to help Americans lead healthier lives. The dietary supplement industry supports this important legislation. Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

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