

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 510
(A-24)

Introduced by: New Jersey

Subject: Study to investigate the validity of claims made by the manufacturers of OTC Vitamins, Supplements and "Natural Cures"

Referred to: Reference Committee E

- 1 Whereas, over 50 billion dollars are spent every year by vulnerable patients on advertised OTC
2 vitamins, supplements, and natural health cures; and
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4 Whereas, cures are reported for diseases and conditions such as Diabetes, Hypertension, Liver
5 Disease, Prostate, ED, Neuropathy, Arthritis, Loss of Memory, Weight loss, and even Vision
6 Problems; and
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8 Whereas, it is illegal to make false claims on the efficacy of medications, vitamins, supplements,
9 and "natural remedies"; and
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11 Whereas, patients are advised that they can throw away their prescribed medications; and
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13 Whereas, they accuse the pharmaceutical industry of a conspiracy to protect their profits while
14 hiding the truth about these "Natural" cures; and
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16 Whereas, discontinuing medication without involvement of their Physician or Health Care
17 Provider could be deleterious to the patient's health; and
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19 Whereas, in the advertisements, there are no peer reviewed scientific evidence is provided, only
20 inferences to scientific studies done at a "prestigious" university or a scientific breakthrough
21 discovered by a well know celebrity; and
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23 Whereas, the FDA is overwhelmed with the number of these products which seem to appear
24 daily; therefore be it
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26 RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association study the growing problem of
27 advertisements on OTC Vitamins, Supplements, and "Natural Cures" that claim health benefits
28 and cures. With report back at A-25 (Directive to Take Action); and be it further
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30 RESOLVED, that our AMA collaborate with all the specialties which are affected by these claims
31 and gather scientific evidence showing benefits and false claims (Directive to Take Action); and
32 be it further
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34 RESOLVED, that our AMA request that the FDA exercise its full scope of authority to protect our
35 patients by removing all the advertisements containing false claims of medical cures. (Directive
36 to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Minimal - less than \$1,000

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