



## Council for Responsible Nutrition

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September 8, 2010

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
United States Senate  
309 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Judd Gregg  
United States Senate  
201 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

### **RE: S 510 – FDA Food Safety Modernization Act**

Dear Senators Durbin and Gregg:

On behalf of the Council for Responsible Nutrition (CRN)<sup>1</sup> and its members, I would like to reaffirm our support of S 510, the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FDAFSMA) – legislation to improve the nation’s food supply. The work that you and your colleagues have devoted to the Senate’s food safety is commendable and, again, CRN stands firmly in support of the Senate bipartisan food safety bill.

To date, this legislation represents what may be the best opportunity to lead a national, if not global, agreement on food-borne illness protection. The legislation will require annual registration of food manufacturing facilities. It will also give FDA new authority to mandate food recalls and require companies to develop food safety plans to address high risk junctures in manufacturing where avoidable contamination might occur.

The dietary supplement industry, which is regulated as a category of food under the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, has a strong commitment to ensuring that consumers have access to high quality and safe dietary supplement products. Over the past few years, new

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<sup>1</sup> The Council for Responsible Nutrition (CRN), founded in 1973 and based in Washington, D.C., is the leading trade association representing dietary supplement manufacturers and ingredient suppliers. CRN companies produce a large portion of the dietary supplements marketed in the United States and globally. Our member companies manufacture popular national brands as well as the store brands marketed by major supermarkets, drug store and discount chains. These products also include those marketed through natural food stores and mainstream direct selling companies. In addition to complying with a host of federal and state regulations governing dietary supplements in the areas of manufacturing, marketing, quality control and safety, our 70+ manufacturer and supplier members also agree to adhere to additional voluntary guidelines as well as CRN’s Code of Ethics.

regulations and laws, including the release of the good manufacturing practices (GMPs) specific to dietary supplements, which ensure that dietary supplement products are made to high quality standards, have brought renewed focus to maintaining consumer confidence in the quality of dietary supplements. GMPs are now in effect for the vast majority of the dietary supplement industry, with many large manufacturers having already been inspected and passing these inspections. Similarly, the serious adverse event reporting (AER) law, which requires manufacturers to report all serious adverse events to FDA, has helped with post-marketing safety surveillance of dietary supplements. CRN believes these and other laws and regulations help give consumers more confidence in the dietary supplement products that they are using.

More than 150 million Americans use dietary supplements each year and CRN and its members firmly believe that the provisions included in FDAFSMA will help develop a preventive food safety system, capable of keeping consumers safe in a global marketplace. CRN hopes that adding our support to the many voices calling for enactment of reasonable food safety legislation will increase the likelihood of passage and implementation of improved food safety laws.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at [Smister@crnusa.org](mailto:Smister@crnusa.org) or 202-204-7676 if CRN may be of any assistance in your endeavors.

Best regards,



Steve Mister  
President and CEO

cc: Sen. Harry Reid  
Sen. Mitch McConnell  
Sen. Tom Harkin  
Sen. Michael Enzi  
Sen. Christopher Dodd  
Sen. Richard Burr