



**Coalition for Anabolic Steroid
Precursor and Ephedra Regulation**

2099 Pennsylvania Ave.
N.W. Suite 850, Washington, DC
20006

Phone: 202-419-2521
Fax: 202-419-2510
Email:
feedback@casper207.com

COALITION FORMED TO SUPPORT DIETARY SUPPLEMENT REGULATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Apr. 15, 2003) -- The Coalition for Anabolic Steroid Precursor and Ephedra Regulation (CASPER) announced its formation Tuesday in support of legislation regarding the regulation of dietary supplements that contain steroid precursors or ephedra.

CASPER is comprised of the nation's leading medical, public health and sport organizations, and is focused on supporting efforts to regulate products containing steroid precursors and products containing ephedra. CASPER was initially founded to support The Anabolic Steroid Precursor Control and Health Education Act (H.R. 207), which was co-sponsored by Rep. John Sweeney (R-N.Y.) and Rep. Tom Osborne (R-Neb.). A complete list of CASPER's current members can be found at the end of this release.

CASPER MEMBERS

American Academy of Pediatrics
American College of Obstetricians
and Gynecologists
American College for Sports
Medicine
American Medical Association
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association
The Endocrine Society
The Hormone Foundation
National Athletic Trainers
Association
National Collegiate Athletic
Association
National Federation of State High
Schools Association
National Football League
National High School Athletic
Coaches Association
National Junior College Athletic
Association
Pharmacy Council on Dietary
Supplements
United States Anti-Doping Agency
USA Track and Field
U.S. Olympic Committee

Steroid precursors are substances that are converted in the body into steroids which have an anabolic effect. The steroid precursors are themselves steroids. In almost all cases, the substances formed in the body from steroid precursors that are responsible for their advertised actions are scheduled under the Controlled Substances Act. Ephedra use in a small but significant number of otherwise healthy individuals has been associated with heart attack, stroke, and psychoses. In specific circumstances, it has been associated with death. The increased use of these substances increases the risk that otherwise healthy individuals will have an adverse medical event.

"The Coalition for Anabolic Steroid Precursor and Ephedra Regulation was formed to coordinate the efforts of the top U.S. medical, public health and sport organizations with an end result of changing the laws and regulations regarding the exclusion of steroid precursors and ephedra in dietary supplements," said Shawn Smeallie, CASPER Executive Director.

The Anabolic Steroid Precursor Control and Health Education Act was co-sponsored by congressmen John Sweeney (R-N.Y.) and Tom Osborne (R-Neb.) in October 2002. It was reintroduced in January 2003 as H.R. 207. The proposed bill would apply to substances that, once ingested, metabolize in the body into anabolic steroids.

Currently, these anabolic steroid precursors are being marketed as anabolic-equivalent "dietary supplements" that promise to magically build muscle. The manufacturers of these products are not required to perform any safety testing prior to releasing these potentially dangerous steroid equivalents. To correct this situation, Rep. Sweeney and Rep. Osborne moved quickly to draft the new legislation reclassifying anabolic steroid precursors as controlled substances.

"The use of these dangerous supplements has become a serious health issue for the American public as a whole," said Rep. Sweeney. "We cannot allow their abuse to simultaneously ruin the health of those who have been duped into using them for everything from the promise of quick-fix weight loss to that of a magic muscle powder, as well as degrade the competitive spirit of athletic competition."

"I'm pleased with the creation of CASPER and its mission. It works to spread the word about important efforts and legislation geared to protect young athletes and non-athletes," Rep. Osborne said. "We need to make sure that steroid precursor manufacturers are no longer able to exploit teenagers, athletes and unsuspecting consumers by selling them untested, unregulated steroid equivalents, labeled 'dietary supplements.'"

CASPER will also rely on the grassroots efforts of its member organizations and the U.S. public to ensure that members of the U.S. Congress and Senate are aware of their concerns regarding the health dangers of dietary supplements.

The coalition continues to look to adding other medical, public health and athletic organizations to strengthen and extend CASPER's reach and voice.

Members of CASPER (as of April 15, 2003)

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)
American College for Sports Medicine (ACSM)
American Medical Association (AMA)
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association (BCBSA)
The Endocrine Society
The Hormone Foundation
National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA)
National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)
National Federation of State High Schools Association (NFHS)
National Football League (NFL)
National High School Athletic Coaches Association
National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA)
Pharmacy Council on Dietary Supplements
United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA)
USA Track and Field (USATF)
U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC)

FOR MEDIA ONLY: For additional information, please contact CASPER at feedback@casper207.com or visit the CASPER web site at www.casper207.com

Myth and Fact Document Regarding H.R. 207

1. **Claim:** Once H.R. 207 is passed, many over-the-counter supplements will no longer be available and will be immediately "outlawed" making possession of those supplements a criminal offense.

 - **Truth:** H.R. 207 does not make any substance or supplement unavailable. First, the passing of the Bill does not cause any substance to be immediately scheduled. Instead the Attorney General must take the affirmative step of scheduling the drug. Second, even if a substance such as androstenedione is scheduled by the Attorney General pursuant to H.R. 207 it will still be available by prescription.
2. **Claim:** If H.R. 207 is passed the only way you can possess scheduled steroid precursors is if you have special registration by the DEA (generally only given to doctors or to those belonging to established pre-approved research organizations)

 - **Truth:** Anyone with a prescription will be able to obtain and possess any scheduled steroid precursors just like any other prescribed substance. The scheduled substances simply will no longer be available for over-the-counter purchase.
3. **Claim:** H.R. 207 is sidestepping the purpose of DSHEA (Dietary Supplements Health and Education Act of 1994).

 - **Truth:**
 - The intent of DSHEA was not to allow supplement companies to create and sell a class of steroid equivalents. These steroid precursor manufacturers are exploiting loopholes in the drafting of DHSEA and the Controlled Substances Act to flood the "nutrition" stores with untested, unsafe steroid precursors
4. **Claim:** The policy goals of this Bill could be met by just requiring a minimum age of 18 to purchase the products.

 - **Truth:** Due to loopholes in DSHEA and the Controlled Substances Act, steroid precursor manufacturers have been able to exploit the American consumer by selling them untested, unregulated steroid equivalents. These products are sold without any testing requirements and are widely claimed, by the manufacturers, to be as powerful as steroids. The fact that these manufacturers are now willing to stop marketing these products to adolescents and children is nothing more than a disingenuous attempt to protect the billions of dollars they are making at the risk of all American consumers.
5. **Claim:** H.R. 207 is overly broad and aims to classify a wide variety of nutritional supplements as controlled substances.

 - **Truth:** This Bill is specifically tailored to allow the Attorney General to schedule only those substances that are Immediate Precursors of anabolic steroids, which have previously been scheduled on the Controlled Substances Act. The Bill defines the term "Immediate Precursor" as including a substance "which either is a metabolite of a scheduled anabolic steroid or is transformed in the body directly into a scheduled anabolic steroid or the metabolite of a scheduled anabolic steroid."

H.R. 207 would not affect the vast majority of nutritional supplements currently sold in the United States. Instead only those products containing steroid precursors that are masquerading as legitimate supplements would be eligible for scheduling under the Bill.
6. **Claim:** H.R. 207 covers products that have absolutely nothing to do with muscle growth. The Bill allows the Attorney General to classify compounds as controlled substances without determining the existence of any appropriate toxicological or pharmacological activity.

- **Truth:** H.R. 207 addresses current loopholes in the Controlled Substances Act and DSHEA, which allow steroid precursor manufacturers to sell an untested class of steroid equivalents over the counter. These products are labeled as "supplements" by the manufacturers and sold to consumers as "equally powerful" alternatives to regulated anabolic steroids. In fact, these steroid precursors are converted by the human body into anabolic steroids that already have been scheduled on the Controlled Substances Act.

The determination made by the Attorney General or his designee prior to the scheduling of any substance, will be that the substance is within the revised definition of Immediate Precursor because it is "a metabolite of a scheduled anabolic steroid or is transformed in the body directly into a scheduled anabolic steroid or the metabolite of a scheduled anabolic steroid." Whether or not, the steroid precursor itself promotes muscle growth, as claimed by the manufacturers, is irrelevant. Congress has already regulated anabolic steroids. This Bill simply amends the Controlled Substances Act to allow the Attorney General to schedule those substances that the body converts directly into anabolic steroids.

7. **Claim:** There are other administrative avenues by which harmful products may be banned. This Bill circumvents those procedures and does so without any evidence of legitimate public health concerns or dangers to American adults.

- **Truth:** As a result of unintentional loopholes in the Controlled Substances Act and DSHEA the government's ability to protect American consumers from dangerous products masquerading as "supplements" has been extremely curtailed. Currently in order to regulate a steroid precursor the DEA must conduct extensive studies at great cost to the American taxpayer. Unfortunately, the ability of the DEA to give human subjects the levels of steroid precursors taken by many consumers is restricted by ethical guidelines. Moreover, under the current system, even if the expensive and time-consuming studies resulted in a substance being scheduled, the steroid precursor manufacturer could then make minor chemical changes to the product and the entire process would have to start over.

This current system unfairly burdens American taxpayers and benefits steroid precursor manufacturers that are selling unregulated, untested products. There is no dispute that these steroid precursors are converted by the body into regulated anabolic steroids. H.R. 207 seeks to correct the current system by treating steroid precursors and the anabolic steroids they are converted into by the body equally. This solution is consistent with the current "Immediate Precursor" provision of the Controlled Substances Act, which provides for regulation of chemicals that can be converted into regulated substances. For example, this provision was previously used to schedule substances determined to be the immediate precursors of PCP.