

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**SWEENEY - OSBORNE INTRODUCE BILL AIMED AT  
CURBING STEROID "PRECURSORS"**

**Lawmakers are joined on Capitol Hill by Olympic Committee officials, NFL, NCAA reps and nations leading anti-doping advocates.**

WASHINGTON - Calling the issue a "serious public health issue" with an adverse effect on the integrity of professional and amateur athletic competition, Rep. John E. Sweeney (R-N.Y.) and Rep. Tom Osborne (R-Neb.) today introduced a bill amending the Controlled Substance Act to allow steroid "precursors" to be listed as controlled substances, thereby making over-the-counter sale of such substances illegal.

Sweeney and Osborne will hold a press conference on the Cannon Terrace at 10:30 a.m. joined by U.S. Olympian speedskater Christine Witty, United States Olympic Committee CEO Lloyd Ward, along with Dr. Bernie Griesemer, a pediatrician and specialist on supplements.

The proposed bill would apply to substances that, once ingested, metabolize in the body into anabolic steroids. With the flood of these anabolic steroid precursors currently being marketed as anabolic-equivalent "dietary supplements" that promise to magically build muscle, Rep. Sweeney and Rep. Osborne moved quickly to draft the new legislation reclassifying the precursors as controlled substances. "

Athletes participating at every level of sports competition, ranging from professional to the high school level, are being exposed to health risks all because they're being led to believe that these precursors are going to make them bigger and faster on the playing field," said Sweeney. "We need to put a stop to the proliferation and abuse of these so-called "enhancement" drugs that presume to help athletes. These drugs have the opposite effect-they pose serious health risks and they ruin the honor involved in the spirit of athletic competition."

"Our young athletes have been taught the fallacy that performance-enhancing drugs and supplements are critical to their success in athletics. No longer is one person's natural physical strength, speed or agility enough to differentiate him from his competitors. But, these substances have the same effects and dangers as steroids. And their side effects pose an even greater risk for young people than they do for their adult counterparts," said Osborne, the renowned former head football coach of the Nebraska Cornhuskers.

The United States Anti-Doping Association (USADA), which has been recognized by the U.S. Congress as the independent national anti-doping agency for Olympic sport in the United States, assisted with this legislation. USADA's mission is to protect and preserve the health of athletes, the integrity of competition, and the well being of sport through the elimination of doping.

"This legislation will help eliminate the contamination of dietary supplements, which in turn will level the playing field in sport and help protect the health of the athlete, both young and old," said Frank Shorter, chairman of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency.

Currently, in the United States there are an excess of steroid precursors being aggressively marketed as steroid equivalents by supplement manufacturers. The most popular of these steroid precursors include the andros (androstenedione and androstenediol) and the 19-nors (19-norandrostenedione and 19-norandrostenediol). Additionally, a number of variations on these basic steroid precursors have flooded the U.S. market in recent years, as supplement

manufacturers rush to cash in on the appetite of American consumers for any pill marketed with claims that it will magically build muscle.

The proposed amendment remedies this situation by expanding on concepts already contained in the Controlled Substances Act, which allow the Attorney General to add immediate precursors of controlled substances to the controlled substances list.

The manufacturers and suppliers of these products have claimed for years that they are just as effective as "real anabolic steroids." USADA believes that it is important that these steroid precursors and the steroids the body converts them into be treated equally under the law -- as potentially dangerous substances that should not be available over the counter. USADA believes that it is imperative that the proposed amendment be made to the Controlled Substances Act to stop the sale of untested and dangerous steroid equivalents to teenagers, athletes and other unsuspecting American consumers

At this time, supplement manufacturers are able to aggressively market these products as steroid equivalents without undertaking any research to determine either the effectiveness or harmful side effects of these products. The entire market for these products has been created by the claims that they are just as effective as the "real steroids."

The bill has received broad support from members of both parties in the House of Representatives. In addition to support from USADA, the National Football League (NFL), the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) have also championed the bill.

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#### **CASPR's mission**

To regulate anabolic steroid precursors in dietary supplements through legislation (Controlled Substance Act), and to educate the American general public about the health risks caused dietary supplements containing steroid precursors.

#### **CASPR's goals are to:**

- Create awareness about the health risks of dietary supplements with steroid precursors
- Help people learn more about the benefits of proper nutrition and exercise
- Encourage the public to adopt these safer products and practices.

As the largest national, non-partisan, grassroots organization leading the fight to prevent gun violence, the Brady Campaign and the Brady Center are dedicated to creating an America free from gun violence, where all Americans are safe at home, at school, at work, and in their communities. The Brady Campaign and the Brady Center believe that a safer America can be achieved without banning all guns.

CASPR proactively influences healthcare decisions by promoting healthy, healing, humane and ethical environments to positively impact the health of the public and the advancement of quality critical care.

#### ***Mission Statement***

*To help with legislation pass for the regulation of anabolic steroid precursors through HR 207.*