

of all backgrounds and ages who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is as inconceivable as it is unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence and acquiescence, political prisoners are systematically tortured because of their belief in freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Héctor Raúl Valle Hernández and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF MR. DANIEL E. GOGGINS.

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an individual whose tireless dedication to service is continuing to impact the lives of countless Alabama schoolchildren. Over his thirty-four year teaching career, Mr. Danny Goggins came to embody the true nature of a selfless public servant.

His career began by teaching history at Helena Elementary, and he rapidly rose through the ranks to become a High School principal at the young age of thirty-one. The positive and lasting impression that he made on countless people is best known in the growing town of Calera, Alabama. For over two decades, Danny Goggins served as the Principal of Calera High School in Shelby County. In fact, it was not a rare occasion for him to have awarded diplomas to the parents of some of Calera High's most recent graduates.

Mr. Goggins' teaching philosophy was based on knowing that many of his students came from hard-working families not unlike the one he was raised in, and he felt that it was his responsibility to see that Calera's children had the same opportunity to learn as students in much wealthier schools. He accomplished this difficult task by continually hiring quality teachers and by maintaining a positive learning environment. Through his efforts, Calera High School consistently produced the most improved standardized testing scores in Shelby County, and also won several state championships in mathematics and boy's basketball along the way.

He was respected by both his students and teachers because they knew him to be a fair and impartial administrator who would address issues with common sense solutions. In fact, many of his former students often see him out and make it a point to say hello or remind him about the time they had to visit his office for one reason or another. In the end however, I believe the real reason people feel compelled to speak is because they remember him for treating them fairly and as an adult, regardless of who they were. It is Mr. Goggins belief that everyone has an equal chance at success if they behave with a positive attitude and demonstrate the character needed to succeed.

Prior to his retirement in the fall of 2004, Mr. Goggins' proudest moment as an educator came when he had the personal satisfaction of awarding a diploma to his youngest son, who graduated with top honors from Calera in 2003.

Today, Danny Goggins continues to educate younger generations by serving as the Scout

Master for Boy Scout Troop 548 in Alabaster, a post he has held since 1972. It has been my pleasure to recognize a distinguished Alabamian such as Mr. Goggins, who has asked for nothing in return for service to so many.

DIETARY SUPPLEMENT ACCESS AND AWARENESS ACT (DSAA)

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, with the support of my colleagues, Rep. HENRY WAXMAN and Rep. JOHN DINGELL, I rise today to introduce the Dietary Supplement Access and Awareness Act of 2005.

This legislation presents a balanced and reasonable approach to improving the safety of dietary supplements while making sure that consumers continue to have access to them.

According to a report by the National Center for Health Statistics released last year, approximately 62% of adults use some form of alternative therapy, including herbal remedies and dietary supplements. Dietary supplement sales in the U.S. alone are \$19.8 billion. This popularity, however, alarms consumer health advocates. Current law does not require dietary supplements to prove their efficacy or safety, leaving consumers vulnerable to unexpected side-effects and other health risks.

The dilemma we face today is due to Congressional action in the early 1990s. In 1994, Congress passed the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act (DSHEA). Cited as the greatest removal of FDA jurisdiction in the history of the agency, this legislation deregulated the supplement industry. Instead of requiring manufacturers to prove that their products are safe, DSHEA required that FDA prove that the products are unsafe before it can take action against a potentially deadly product. Furthermore, under this law, manufacturers are not required to inform the FDA of any reported health problems associated with supplement use.

This means consumers and regulators may not have access to information regarding the side effects of these products. Former FDA director David Kessler wrote about DSHEA in the New England Journal of Medicine, explaining "Congress has put the FDA in the position of being able to act only after the fact and after substantial harm has already occurred."

The story of ephedra, a product that was pulled from the market only after thousands of reports of serious injuries including heart attack, stroke, and death, demonstrates that FDA does not have adequate authority to protect the public from unsafe supplements. In 2004, only after eight long years, and a Herculean effort to amass a mountain of evidence, the FDA banned the sale of ephedra products.

This past April, a ruling by a federal judge in Utah called into question the ban on ephedra citing insufficient evidence and the lack of authority to ban it without such proof. This ruling, made almost exactly one year after the FDA ban on ephedra, underscores the present difficulty with regulating dietary supplements.

Today with Rep. HENRY WAXMAN and Rep. JOHN DINGELL, I am proud to introduce the Dietary Supplement Access and Awareness Act.

This bill will address the gaps created by DSHEA through greater information exchange and accountability.

Our legislation contains commonsense provisions requiring dietary supplement manufacturers to provide the FDA with a list of their products and reports of all serious adverse events. These actions will alert the FDA to problematic dietary supplements and will give the FDA access to information it needs to take action more swiftly. If the FDA determines that a specific supplement may have serious health consequences, it can require the manufacturer to do a post-market surveillance study to ensure that the product is safe.

Our legislation engages manufacturers in determining the safety of dietary supplements. By providing their studies and other related data, manufacturers and the FDA would come together to make a comprehensive and fair decision for American consumers. It also clarifies the standard the FDA must meet in determining whether a dietary supplement poses an unreasonable risk to consumers. This bill allows the FDA to use data from clinical trials, adverse event reports and other relevant scientific information to reach an informed decision.

Our legislation gives the FDA the authority to prohibit sales of dietary supplements that may pose significant risk to minors. Many young athletes emulate the practices of their professional sport heroes, yet their developing bodies are much more susceptible to the effects of stimulants and steroid-like products such as "andro."

According to Bruce Silverglade from the Center for Science in the Public Interest, "the challenge for most consumers is to determine which supplements are beneficial and which are nothing more than 21st-century snake oil or even dangerous." That is why this legislation includes authorization of funds for physician and consumer education programs regarding adverse reactions.

Certainly, there are dietary supplements that offer benefits. Folic acid intake by women, for example, has been shown to reduce birth defects in unborn children and we are all familiar with the benefits of taking vitamin C and monitoring adequate calcium intake. Despite claims to the contrary, the Dietary Supplement Access and Awareness Act will not take away vitamins and minerals from consumers. In fact, my colleagues and I included language to specifically exempt them from this legislation. This provision should alleviate worries about the Codex Alimentarius and its guidelines for vitamin and minerals.

The FDA has its hands tied behind its back. Limited funding and manpower has left the FDA overextended and diluted its efforts to protect the public. The measures and education programs in this legislation will enable the FDA to gather solid data about the dangers some dietary supplements pose. With this information in hand, the FDA can make sensible, informed decisions and policies about dietary supplements. Consumers can have greater assurance than they currently do about the safety of the products on the market. We cannot continue to stand on the sidelines and let this serious public health threat go unchecked. The health and well being of our young people and loved ones are at risk.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Dietary Supplement Access and Awareness Act.