



*Producers of Quality  
Nonprescription Medicines and  
Dietary Supplements for Self-Care*

## **CONSUMER HEALTHCARE PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION<sup>®</sup>**

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March 5, 2003

The Honorable Henry Bonilla  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture  
United States House Of Representatives  
2458 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bonilla:

On behalf of the Consumer Healthcare Products Association (CHPA), I am writing in support of the Administration's FY 2004 budget request to add \$1 million for over-the-counter (OTC) drug programs at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). We believe that is a very modest investment that will result in tremendous cost savings to the healthcare system for years to come.

Founded in 1881, CHPA represents over 200 companies involved in the research, manufacturing, and distribution of OTC medicines and nutritional supplements. Consumers taking responsibility for their own healthcare needs with OTC medicines is an essential and cost-effective component of our healthcare system. While cost savings of using OTC drugs are well established and well-known, there is a growing awareness among consumers and healthcare professionals that OTC medicines can help prevent serious illnesses and enhance quality of life. With additional resources at FDA, OTC drugs can make an even larger contribution to the health of our nation.

CHPA supports FDA's request for an additional \$1 million in FY 04 to hire and train seven additional FTE's. These additional positions would be used to improve the OTC drug review process, develop and work toward finalizing monographs for analgesics, antiseptics, laxatives, and sunscreens. FDA would also use a part of the additional funding to develop and conduct consumer behavior research that would be used to identify and manage risks of using over-the-counter drug products.

FDA has also indicated that it wants to expedite the review of prescription-to-nonprescription (OTC) drug switch applications and take a more proactive role in the identification of switch candidates. CHPA strongly supports the appropriation of additional funds for switch activities at FDA and we strongly believe that the money should be used to improve on the long history of cooperation between the Agency and innovator drug companies. This relationship has resulted in over 70 successful switch stories wherein the Agency and industry worked together on a case-by-case, data driven

process to develop the best science to support the switch. Additional resources could also be used at the Agency to clean out the switch application “in-box” and expedite switch applications currently under review by the Agency submitted by drug sponsors.

Again, CHPA strongly supports the Administration’s request to add \$1 million for OTC programs at FDA. The additional funds will help improve the public health of our nation and result in greater cost savings to the healthcare system.

Should you have any questions or if we can provide you with any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or Kevin Kraushaar, Vice President, Government Relations at CHPA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda A. Suydam". The signature is written in a dark ink and is centered on the page.

Linda A. Suydam, DPA  
President