

Dear _____,

In a remarkable display of civic engagement, countless Canadians have reached out to their MPs over the last several months in a barrage of emails, letters, and postcards. The core of their concern lies in the regulatory shifts Health Canada is implementing on Natural Health Products (NHPs), shifts that stand to negatively affect the industry in profound ways and impact the health and wellness of Canadians who depend on these products.

I am writing you today to ask that you support the Private Member's Bill, Bill C-368, designed to repeal sections 500-504 of The Budget Implementation Act, 2023, No.1 (previously recognized as Bill C-47), which became law this past June. Bill C-368 passed Second Reading on May 29, 2024, and is now being referred to the Standing Committee on Health.

Health Canada's Current Stance on Natural Health Products

It is likely within your knowledge that Health Canada's recent initiatives are on track to seriously dismantle the natural health landscape in Canada. These initiatives encompass the introduction of hefty fees, stringent demands for evidence not appropriate for NHPs, restrictions on labelling and the dissemination of truthful product information, and the inappropriate application of Vanessa's Law to NHPs.

The implications of these actions are dire: NHP manufacturers and distributors facing closure, natural health stores unable to compete with U.S. price points, healthcare practitioners limited in their tools to practice due to fewer products on the Canadian market, and consumers facing reduced NHP access, hiked prices, and restriction in their freedom of choice in healthcare.

Why It Matters To Millions Of Canadians

NHPs are not merely supplementary for many Canadians; they are critical. They represent survival for some and a significant quality of life improvement for others managing severe health conditions. To impede access to these products is to act with negligence and endangerment. The fallout will see an inevitable surge in prices for the diminishing range of available products, with Health Canada bearing the blame for resultant job losses, poorer health and wellness, and, in tragic instances, loss of life.

Your Support For Bill C-368

This is a plea to you, as a representative of the Canadian people, to put partisan considerations aside and act in the true spirit of public service. I ask you to vote based on ethical considerations, advocating for change, and addressing this pressing issue. This appeal is grounded in the fundamental rights and freedoms of all Canadian citizens – your rights and mine – to make self-directed decisions regarding our health and bodily autonomy.

The first step toward rectifying this urgent crisis is to support Bill C-368, which seeks the repeal of sections 500-504 of the Budget Implementation Act, 2023, No. 1 (formerly Bill C-47), to ensure that no entity is penalized for the honest promotion of NHP benefits, avoiding exorbitant penalties of up to \$5,000,000 per day.

For additional details about the effects of sections 500-504 of Bill C-47, I encourage a visit to the Natural Health Product Protection Association (NHPPA) at nhppa.org/discussion-paper-health-canada-initiatives/

Can I count on you to support Bill C-368 through its parliamentary journey and to cast a vote of "yes" when the occasion arises?

Signed

Dated