

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

As a Canadian citizen invested in preserving our health freedoms, I am reaching out to convey my ongoing concern over the recent changes embedded within Bill C-47, Canada's 2023 Budget Bill. Sections 500-504 of this bill reclassify natural health products (NHPs) as therapeutic products, alongside chemical drugs. This subjects the entire industry to heightened regulation and excessive penalties, with potential fines reaching up to \$5,000,000 per day.

This change in classification significantly impacts how NHPs are managed in Canada. Treating NHPs the same as drugs threatens Canadians' rights to make informed choices for our health and well-being.

While Health Canada's Self-Care Framework (SCF) initially signalled these changes, Bill C-47 has accelerated the implementation of this shift, placing restrictive measures on NHPs that Canadians – like me – value for their unique benefits. By subjecting NHPs to the same standards as chemical drugs, this legislation risks limiting access to products that Canadians have long trusted to support their health naturally.

The Natural Health Product Protection Association (NHPPA) aptly frames the issue: "Do Canadians have sovereignty over their own bodies? Do Canadians have the right to have access to NHPs?" This question of autonomy is vital.

Since the 1990s, Canadians have expressed concerns about similar reclassification attempts, strongly opposing the idea that NHPs should be more heavily regulated. Yet, with Bill C-47, the public's demand for accessible NHPs has been disregarded.

Bill C-368 is a proposed amendment to the Food and Drugs Act that seeks to remove natural health products (NHPs) from the therapeutic products category, restoring them to their previous regulatory status. This bill is currently under study by the Standing Committee on Health as part of ongoing efforts to evaluate the impact of recent regulatory changes on Canadians' access to NHPs. Soon, you will be asked to participate in the Report Stage and vote on the Third Reading of this bill to help determine if it will proceed to review in the Senate.

I ask that you review the NHPPA's submission by Shawn Buckley to the Standing Committee on Health in support of Bill C-368. The brief argues that Bill C-368 is essential for protecting Canadians' right to access natural health products without the restrictive oversight imposed by recent changes in Bill C-47. Mr. Buckley outlines the decades-long pushback from Canadians when similar regulatory changes have been proposed. He further emphasizes that Health Canada's reclassification of NHPs as therapeutic products undermines Canadians' health sovereignty and introduces excessive regulatory powers and penalties that could harm the natural health community. You can access a copy of the brief here: <https://nhppa.org/bill-C368/HESA-2024>

I expect you to represent me by supporting Bill C-368 through the Report Stage and Third Reading.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Respectfully yours,

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Signed

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