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Bill C-224 Advances to Standing Committee on Health Following Unanimous Passage at Second Reading

Ottawa, March 23, 2026

Bill C-224, *An Act to amend the Food and Drugs Act* (natural health products), a Private Member's Bill sponsored by Blaine Calkins, MP for Ponoka—Didsbury, has successfully passed second reading in the House of Commons with unanimous support and has been referred to the Standing Committee on Health for further consideration.

This milestone reflects the strong collective efforts of Canadians who have advocated through phone calls, letters, emails, and meetings with their Members of Parliament. The unanimous vote demonstrates broad recognition across party lines of the importance of protecting access to natural health products (NHPs) for Canadians.

MP Blaine Calkins expressed gratitude for the widespread support, particularly acknowledging the Natural Health Product Protection Association (NHPPA) and other advocates whose persistent engagement helped drive this progress. A video clip of the proceedings, including MP Calkins' remarks and the full unanimous vote as called by the Speaker, is available for viewing on the NHPPA website.

What is Bill C-224?

- Bill C-224 seeks to repeal changes introduced through the 2023 Budget Implementation Act (Bill C-47) that reclassified natural health products under the "therapeutic products" framework in the **Food and Drugs Act**. These changes subjected NHPs—such as vitamins, minerals, and herbal remedies—to the same stringent regulations and enforcement measures (including potential fines of up to \$5 million per day for certain information-sharing activities) as pharmaceutical drugs.
- Bill C-224 aims to restore NHPs to their prior regulatory status, ensuring they are not treated as therapeutic products and thereby preserving Canadians' access to safe, evidence-based natural health options.

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Next Steps: Engagement with the Standing Committee on Health

The NHPPA and supporters are now launching a major spring campaign focused on the committee stage. Canadians, health professionals, and organizations are encouraged to participate by:

- Contacting members of the Standing Committee on Health through phone calls, emails, and letters to express support for repealing the 2023 changes.
- Submitting written briefs to the Committee to educate members on the vital role of NHPs in supporting health and wellness.

Detailed instructions, templates, and resources will be available shortly on the NHPPA website at: <https://nhppa.org/bill224/>.

The NHPPA invites all Canadians to stay engaged and take action. Together, we can help secure a regulatory environment that prioritizes access to natural health products for a healthier future.

About the NHPPA

The Natural Health Products Protection Association (NHPPA) is dedicated to protecting Canadians' access to natural health products and advancing legislative reforms that prioritize health freedom and choice.

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