Media Advisory: Member of Parliament to Announce Updates on Bill C-224 to Protect Canadians' Access to Natural Health Products

Ottawa — Blaine Calkins, Member of Parliament for Ponoka-Didsbury, will make a major announcement concerning the status of Bill C-224.

Event Details:

Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2026.
Time: 4:30 pm ET (Media are asked to arrive by 4:00 pm for setup).
Location: Room 135-B, West Block, 111 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario.

Participation in the question and answer portion of this event is in person or via Zoom, and is for accredited members of the Press Gallery only. Media who are not members of the Press Gallery may contact pressres2@parl.gc.ca for temporary access.

Contact: shelagh.penney.730@parl.gc.ca

Update on Bill C-224, an Act to protect access to natural health products.

In the 2023 Budget Bill (Bill C-47), a change to the *Food and Drugs Act* was made to move essential nutrients and natural remedies into the most restrictive class of drugs governed by the Act, *therapeutic products*.

Because the change was hidden in the Budget Bill, Canadians had no opportunity to voice their disagreement with a change that will further restrict our access to essential nutrients we need to survive and thrive.

The change also put Canadian Manufacturers of natural products at a disadvantage vis-à-vis their American counterparts.

Private Members Bill C-224, sponsored by MP Blaine Calkins moves natural health products back into their own category where they have been effectively regulated since 2004.

The Liberal Party supported Bill C-224, voting the Bill into Committee. In Committee the Liberals turned against the Bill and voted to remove key clauses.

In the last Parliament, there was an almost identical Bill in Committee, Bill C-368. There is wide support by Canadians for Bill C-224.

It is likely that MPs in this Parliament, and the last Parliament, have received more communications from Canadians in support of Bills C-368 and C-224, then any other Bill.

Canadians support Bill C-224 because they want the freedom to choose how they will prevent illness and address illness. Canadians want free access to essential nutrients like Vitamin C and Magnesium.

In the United States, natural health products are not regulated as drugs. It is difficult for Canadian Companies to compete with the higher regulatory burden put on them with the recent move of natural products into the *therapeutic product* category. In the midst of a trade war with the U.S., the regulatory burden on Canadian Companies should be reduced, not increased. Bill C-224 will help Canadian Companies compete.

On November 4, at 4:30 p.m. MP Blaine Calkins is having a press conference in Parliament's Press Gallery. Updates on Bill C-224 and the need for Canadians to support the Bill at the Report Stage will be discussed