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NPAinfo.org

NEWS RELEASE

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Supplements Are Important for Vast Majority of Americans Who Do Not Receive Recommended Nutrients from Diet Alone

Largest Association for Natural Products Calls on Congress to Increase Access to Vitamins and Mineral Supplements for Low-Income Children

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Supplements are important for vast majority of Americans, especially children in low-income households, who may not receive the recommended daily nutrients from diet alone. Former FDA official Daniel Fabricant is available for comment following a new report in the journal [JAMA Pediatrics](#).

“There are 13 million American children living in food-insecure households, and that’s why we need Congressional action to expand programs like WIC to cover vitamin and mineral supplements,” said Daniel Fabricant, Ph.D., President and CEO of NPA. “In an ideal world, everyone would get the nutrients they need by eating a balanced diet, but unfortunately that is not the case. This is especially true for children in low-income households who may not have access to the vitamin and mineral supplements necessary to support their health.”

Since 1978, the WIC Supplemental Food Program has served low-income, at risk pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, infants, and children up to age 5. The WIC program provides Federal grants to States for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education. The program has grown significantly in its nearly 40-years of existence, and it now serves approximately 8 million participants.

The “WIC Improvement Act”, H.R. 3529, will expand WIC to give these low-income families equal opportunity for access to low-cost, high nutrient alternatives, like multivitamins. Multivitamins are proven to have the following health benefits especially relevant to those the WIC program intends to help:

- Classic nutrient deficiency diseases (scurvy, pellagra, and iron deficiency anemia)
- Improve appetite and growth rates
- Prevent neural tube birth defects
- Protect against heart disease and stroke
- Build bone mass in the young

Americans Are Undernourished

- 13.1 million children lived in food-insecure households in 2015
- 80 percent of Americans don’t receive the daily recommended nutrients from diet alone



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- Over 50 percent of American children don't get enough vitamins D and E
- Over 25 percent of American children don't get enough calcium, magnesium or vitamin A

Schedule an Interview

To schedule an interview with Dr. Fabricant immediately, please contact Justin Bartolomeo at 202-789-4365 or jbartolomeo@hdmk.org

Daniel Fabricant is a Leading Expert in the Field of Dietary Supplement Use and Regulation

Dr. Fabricant has more than a decade of regulatory, legislative and scientific experience in the natural products industry. Prior to being named President and CEO of NPA, the nation's largest and oldest trade organization representing the natural products industry, Dr. Fabricant directed agency policy, public affairs and regulatory action regarding regulation of the dietary supplement industry for more than three years at the FDA. While with the agency, he successfully navigated the large, heavily-matrixed governmental organizational structure to bring life to a regulatory function that was non-existent for almost 20 years. Before his time at the FDA, Dr. Fabricant was vice president, global government and scientific affairs, for NPA, responsible for establishing and leading industry coalitions dealing with a range of issues. Dr. Fabricant is internationally recognized for his regulatory and governmental public health expertise and natural products research.

Natural Products Association

The **Natural Products Association (NPA)** is *the* trade association representing the entire natural products industry. We advocate for our members who supply, manufacture and sell natural ingredients or products for consumers. The Natural Products Association promotes good manufacturing practices as part of the growth and success of the industry. Founded in 1936, NPA represents approximately 1,000 members accounting for more than 10,000 locations of retailers, manufacturers, wholesalers and distributors of natural products, including foods, dietary supplements and health/beauty aids.

Natural Products Association: 440 1st Street, NW, Ste. 520, Washington, DC, 20001

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