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## NEWS RELEASE

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# NPA Requests to Be Part of New Dietary Supplement Working Group

## New Gottlieb Comments Reflect NPA's Calls for More Robust Enforcement on Dietary Supplements and Clarification on CBD

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**– The Natural Products Association (NPA) today asked to join a new Dietary Supplement Working Group after comments made this morning by Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, M.D. at the Food and Drug Law Institute (FDLI). Commissioner Gottlieb questioned the safety record of the natural products industry and promised to examine “what more the FDA can be doing within our existing authorities, including re-examining our own internal operating structure and procedures – and what new authorities might make sense.”

“While we share the commissioner’s concerns and hope FDA gets serious about bad actors who illegally sell drugs under a dietary supplement label or make false claims, we disagree with his suggestion that more or different rules are needed or that the industry’s outstanding safety record has changed,” said Daniel Fabricant, Ph.D., President and CEO of NPA. “We’ve urged FDA to get tougher on bad actors and we hope they do that, but in the meantime, they should also lead the discussion on new areas like cannabidiol (CBD) and other promising natural products, not playing catch-up.”

NPA has met eleven times with FDA or HHS in 2018: Jan. 30, Feb. 13, March 14, Apr. 20, June 20, June 27, July 11, July 19, Nov. 2, Nov. 15 (HHS) and Nov 15 (FDA).

“NPA does disagree with the Commissioner’s characterization that the supplement industry is riskier. Dietary supplements remain the only food commodity for which there is a mandatory reporting requirement for serious adverse events (SAER’s),” said Dr. Fabricant. “The latest SAER’s for supplements are still very low; consistent with prior years and still pale in comparison to prescription drugs. NPA is pleased FDA appears poised to act on our repeated calls for stronger enforcement and is eager to participate in the new working group to make sure Americans have continued access to safe, natural, and affordable supplements and natural products. NPA looks forward to working with HHS and the Agency in the future.”

SAER’s are a reliable source for tracking undesirable experiences associated with the use of FDA regulated products, including dietary supplements.

### **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. Visit [www.npanational.org](http://www.npanational.org).