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*Herbal Garden of Good and Evil: The Ongoing
Struggles of Dietary Supplement Regulation*

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Abstract by Carrie Mitchell

Herbal supplements are a major part of the dietary supplement industry. The Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act (DSHEA) revoked most of the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) power to regulate dietary supplements. The Report of the Commission on Dietary Supplement Labels includes recommendations regarding labeling guidelines and the role of the Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS). The current status of the DSHEA and of dietary supplements in the U.S. focuses on current fad supplements and the process of removal for unsafe dietary supplements from the market. The FDA lacks regulatory control over all dietary supplements. The FDA and the dietary supplement industry must examine the cosmetic industry's voluntary and cooperative regulatory programs.

The FDA and the dietary supplement industry should work together to protect Americans and keep them well informed about the benefits and risks of dietary supplements. Although they have had their differences, the FDA and the dietary supplement industry must begin working together to keep the dietary supplement market safe for consumers. It could be possible that the industry could be held responsible if someone were to fall ill as a result of consumption of the products. Once the FDA's labeling regulations for supplements take effect, consumers will be more adequately protected from the possible harms of dietary supplements. Congress should fully fund the Office of Dietary Supplements so that it can do its job. The dietary supplement industry and the FDA must work together to settle the confusion regarding dietary supplement regulation.