



The Endocrine Society and The Hormone Foundation Support FDA's Ban on Sports Supplement "Andro"

Chevy Chase, March 12, 2004 - The Endocrine Society and its patient education affiliate, The Hormone Foundation, support the recent Food and Drug Administration (FDA) ban on the sale of androstenedione, a steroid precursor commonly known as "andro." The sales ban will take effect on April 12, 2004, unless pharmaceutical companies and manufacturers can prove that it is not a danger to consumers.

In January 2004, The Endocrine Society's Government Relations Committee identified hormone abuse/misuse as a legislative priority and has taken several steps to help prevent abuse through legislative and regulatory advocacy. "Protecting our youth from the toxic and progressive effect of hormone abuse is a key goal of the Society and its outreach programs," said Dr. E. Chester Ridgway, President of The Endocrine Society.

In addition to the FDA's action, Congress is considering legislation sponsored by Senator Joe Biden (D-DE) and Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) that would end over-the-counter sales of andro, as well as a new steroid named tetrahydrogestrinone (THG) and subject them to the same prescription restrictions that apply to anabolic steroids.

The introduction of this bill (S.1780), was supported by The Coalition for Anabolic Steroid Precursor and Ephedra Regulation (CASPER), co-founded by The Endocrine Society and The Hormone Foundation along with the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA). This advocacy group, comprised of the nation's leading medical, public health and sport organizations, is focused on supporting efforts to regulate products containing steroid precursors and products containing ephedra.

"We are very pleased with the decision of the FDA and will continue to work to educate the public on this important public health concern," said Dr. Lisa Fish, Chair of The Hormone Foundation's Hormone Abuse Program.

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The Hormone Foundation, established in 1997 by The Endocrine Society as its public education affiliate, is an independent, non-profit organization, dedicated to serving as a

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resource for the public by promoting the prevention, treatment and cure of hormone-related conditions. Since 2000, the Foundation has been working to develop a national program to prevent the use of performance-enhancing drugs by adolescent. For more information visit www.hormone.org

*Founded in 1916, **The Endocrine Society** is the world's oldest, largest, and most active organization devoted to research on hormones, and the clinical practice of endocrinology. Today, The Endocrine Society's membership consists of over 11,000 scientists, physicians, educators, nurses and students in more than 80 countries. Together, these members represent all basic, applied, and clinical interests in endocrinology. The Endocrine Society is based in Chevy Chase, Maryland. To learn more about the Society, and the field of endocrinology, visit our web site at www.endo-society.org*