

Europe to Ban 100's of Herbal Remedies

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/europe-to-ban-hundreds-of-herbal-remedies-2171781.html>

Roy says this is a bad thing but a lot of it is because of failure for the herbalists to ban together to put up a united opposition. This is certainly something that we need to be wary of in the United States. I'm more of a liberal democrat personally but I'm also aware that historically the Democrats are more disposed to increased regulation which would be bad for herbal medicine while the Republicans are for less government involvement and regulation.

The facts are clear, herbs pose little or no threat to the health of people. Certain herbs on their list to be banned are there because of cases of adulteration (skullcap for instance), other's because of possible herb-drug interactions which is mostly theoretical with few or no documented cases to substantiate the fear (cascara sagrada for instance).

Herbalists and herb users need to support and form strong coalitions to counter the possibility of such repression occurring here. Historically, problems have first occurred in Europe and then some grandstanding US politician will take up the banner to defend the American public based on what has or is happening in Europe.

We are the only school who includes a one year membership in the American Herbalists Guild (AHG) <http://www.americanherbalistsguild.com/>. You should maintain your yearly membership and plan to seek professional membership status upon graduation from the school.

Another good herbal organization to be a member in is the American Botanical Council (ABC) <http://abc.herbalgram.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Homepage>

At present there exists a number of herbalists in the US who are categorically opposed to any organization, set standards for practice, licensing, etc. They feel that this will somehow impinge on their personal liberties and freedoms. The AHG has in the past, sadly suffered the brunt of some vicious criticisms and accusations by a number of our herbal friends and colleagues who, refusing to fairly look at the tenets and goals of the AHG, stand in opposition to all opposition.

Ultimately as herbal medicine continues to enter the mainstream the issue will increasingly be whether herbalists can proactively regulate themselves as a respected profession or become the victim as is occurring in Europe of uninformed government agencies.

If we want to preserve the rise of North American Herbal Medicine, we need to keep some level of engagement and coordination so our voice's are heard.

---- Unlike pharmaceutical drugs, herbal medicine poses little or no threat and offers a significant benefit to those of us who advocate and use them. It's not an either/or situation but what's going on in Europe plays into the multi-national pharmaceutical drug industry -- either promoting drugs or giving them the exclusive right to the sales and promotion of herbal medicines.