



The Subcommittee on Human Rights and Wellness

Chairman Dan Burton (R ~ IN)

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CHAIRMAN BURTON TO EXAMINE THE BENEFITS OF NATURALLY OCCURRING HORMONES IN REPLACEMENT THERAPY

Washington, D.C. – At present, approximately six million women in the United States have been administered doses of either synthetic or biologically identical (naturally occurring) estrogen in order to correct hormonal imbalances caused by menopause. In addition, a growing number of American men are treated with testosterone for similar decreases in hormonal levels due to the male aging process called andropause. Congressman Dan Burton (R-IN), Chairman of the House Government Reform Subcommittee on Human Rights & Wellness, will convene a hearing to examine the advantages of using naturally occurring hormones versus traditionally prescribed synthetic hormones when administering hormone replacement therapy.

The Subcommittee's oversight hearing, entitled **"Balancing Act: The Health Advantages of Naturally Occurring Hormones in Hormone Replacement Therapy," will be held on Thursday, July 22, 2004, in Room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building at 2:30 p.m.**

Said Chairman Burton, "It is clear that in this day and age of advanced medicine we are constantly looking at new ways to treat individuals in the most effective and beneficial manner. I believe this is going to require us to step outside the box and consider new therapies and treatments like bio-identical hormones."

Although declining concentrations of hormones in the body is entirely normal, hormone replacement therapy should not be undervalued as a highly effective medical treatment. Natural hormones have been shown to help restore balance to individual hormone levels, as well as contribute to the prevention of associated health risks such as osteoporosis, and the number one cause of death in the United States – heart disease.

Traditionally, synthetic replications of hormones such as estrogen, progestin, and testosterone have been used to treat adverse health conditions and lower the risk for these diseases. However, recently published reports have raised concerns that the health risks of synthetic hormone drugs may outweigh the benefits. Consequently, a growing number of physicians have witnessed the benefits of naturally occurring hormones, which to date have not demonstrated the same negative side effects as their synthetic counterparts.

Since naturally occurring substances cannot be patented in the United States, pharmaceutical companies must manipulate hormones with additional chemicals in order to be able to hold the

manufacturing rights to these formulas. And because pharmaceutical companies must mass-produce these synthetic hormones according to the formulations covered by patent, they are only offered in certain doses as a one-size-fits-all solution to hormonal imbalances. This has resulted in a number of American men and women receiving either too much or too little of the hormones they need to address their wellness needs, thus creating the potential for further health complications.

The Subcommittee has invited a wide range of expert witnesses to discuss the benefits and risks of both synthetic and naturally occurring hormones.

PANEL ONE WITNESSES:

Dr. Barbara Alving, M.D.

Acting Director
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
National Institutes of Health
United States Department of Health & Human Services

PANEL TWO WITNESSES:

Dr. Steven F. Hotze, M.D.

Founder
Hotze Health & Wellness Center
Katy, TX

Dr. David Brownstein, M.D.

Director
Center for Holistic Medicine
West Bloomfield, MI

Dr. Adriane Fugh-Berman

Associate Professor
Department of Physiology and Biophysics
Georgetown University Medical Center

Ms. Carol Petersen

Pharmacist
Women's International Pharmacy
Madison, WI

Ms. Vicki Reynolds

Hormone Replacement Therapy Patient
Houston, TX

This is the Subcommittee's first hearing on hormone replacement therapy. For more information, or to access hearing resource materials, please visit the Subcommittee's website at www.reform.house.gov/WHR.