

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: MICHAEL-SERPE

202-225-3452

WASHINGTON D.C. --- FOURTH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL, (D-WV), STATED THAT HE SUPPORTS LEGISLATION THAT WOULD PROHIBIT THE BAN ON THE ARTIFICIAL SWEETNER, SACCHARIN.

HR 8518, CO SPONSORED BY CONGRESSMAN RAHALL, WOULD PROHIBIT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE FROM IMPLEMENTING THE FEDERAL DRUG ADMINISTRATION'S BAN ON SACCHARIN FOR 18 MONTHS.

"TO THE MILLIONS OF AMERICANS SUFFERING FROM DIABETES, AS WELL AS THE MILLIONS MORE WHO DEPEND ON SACCHARIN FOR PROGRAMS OF WEIGHT CONTROL, THE BAN ON THE ARTIFICIAL SWEETNER WOULD CAUSE A SEVERE HARDSHIP," RAHALL SAID.

CONGRESSMAN RAHALL ALSO POINTED OUT, THAT HR 8518 WOULD CALL FOR A 18 MONTH STUDY OF SACCHARIN AND THE MEANS OF EVALUATING THE HEALTH RISKS AND BENEFITS OF FOOD ADDITIVES. "THE CANADIAN STUDY THAT WAS RELEASED IN MARCH, IS NOT CONCLUSIVE AS TO WHETHER SACCHARIN IS A HAZARD TO HUMAN HEALTH," RAHALL STATED; "THIS BILL WOULD GIVE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ADDITIONAL TIME TO STUDY THE EFFECT OF SACCHARIN AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO DETERMINE IF A BAN WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE."

RAHALL OBSERVED, "THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE INFORMED OF THE RISKS THEY MAY BE TAKING IN USING A PARTICULAR PRODUCT, BUT THEY SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DECIDE IF THOSE RISKS ARE OUTWEIGHED BY THE BENEFITS OF USING IT."

ON SEPTEMBER 15, THE SENATE PASSED S. 1750. THIS MEASURE CONTAINS THE SAME PROVISIONS OF THE HOUSE VERSION, HR 8518. THE VOTE IN THE SENATE WAS 87 TO 7.

"TEN MILLION AMERICANS ARE DIABETIC AND NEED TO CAREFULLY CONTROL THEIR INTAKE OF SUGAR. THIS LEGISLATION, IF PASSED WOULD GIVE THESE INDIVIDUALS A CHOICE," CONGRESSMAN RAHALL CONCLUDED.

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