



Nutrition Group Tells American Dietetic Association Rebut Our Allegations or Apologize

For Immediate Release

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November 16, 2011 ■ Washington, DC — Last week a coalition of concerned citizens, Registered Dietitians (RDs), certified nutritionists, and physicians launched ReallyEatRight.org, a website that hopes to shine light on the American Dietetic Association's partnership with the junk food and pharmaceutical industries and its state-by-state campaign to monopolize nutrition services. Reacting to the statements posted on the website, Dietitians in Nutrition Support—a dietetic practice group of the ADA—wrote that Really Eat Right's claims are "not only erroneous, they are ridiculous."

In response, a spokesperson for Really Eat Right, Darrell Rogers, said, "We ask the ADA look at the Really Eat Right website and find a single false claim—even one statement that is untrue or doesn't come from an unimpeachable source—or else apologize to us. Perhaps the ADA is sensitive to our additional scrutiny. After all, the organization is being investigated by Congress for failing to be transparent about their financial relationships with the pharmaceutical industry."

At issue is the ADA Facts section of the Really Eat Right campaign, which is also the site's most popular page. "We didn't expect the ADA to like what we posted, but we're not sure how the ADA can honestly say we are lying," Rogers noted. "The information about the ADA's Coke-sponsored educational program, the payments they received from junk food companies, and their strategy to regulate competition out of the marketplace—shocking as they are—all come from documents we found on the ADA's own website!" stated Rogers.

The Alliance for Natural Health USA, together with an increasing number of leading nutrition experts, health organizations, and media outlets have been voicing concern about the ADA's conflicts of interest and industry-friendly positions on nutrition policy.

Some of the serious charges from the ADA Facts page at ReallyEatRight.org:

- **FACT: The ADA receives about \$1 million a year in payments from pharmaceutical companies.** Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA) asked the ADA and other health advocacy groups for a listing of their payments from the pharmaceutical, medical device, and insurance industries. Because of his investigation, the ADA disclosed the payments they received—about \$1 million of which came from drug companies.
 - **Source:** <http://www.propublica.org/documents/item/87299-american-dietetic-association>

- **FACT: The ADA is under investigation by Congress.** Sen. Grassley also asked for the organizations’ sources of funding to be made public. Due to the ADA’s lack of financial transparency, the senator’s investigation into the ADA is ongoing.
 - **Source:** [Senator Grassley’s letter \(May 4, 2011\)](#) to ADA CEO Patricia M. Babjak stating that “no additional information regarding your organization’s industry funding has been posted on the ADA’s website.”
 - **Source:** <http://www.propublica.org/special/how-much-money-do-groups-receive-from-industry>

- **FACT: The credentialing arm of the ADA, the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR), offers continuing professional education sponsored by the Coca-Cola Company.**
 - **Source:** http://www.beverageinstitute.org/en_US/pages/webinar-childrensdietary-cpe.html
 - **Source:** [CDR’s continuing education credit unit listing](#)

The Really Eat Right campaign’s website is ReallyEatRight.org.

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