

April 18, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS and Education
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS and Education
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS and Education
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS and Education
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Harkin and Kingston and Ranking Members Moran and DeLauro:

The undersigned organizations representing healthcare providers, pharmacists, scientists, public health professionals, hospitals, and patients urge you to **appropriate the \$30 million included in the Fiscal Year 2015 President's Budget Request (PBR) for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Detect and Protect Against Antibiotic Resistance Initiative](#)**. The initiative is part of a CDC strategy to achieve measurable results in combating the public health crisis of rapidly rising antibiotic resistance. The time to act is now, while we still have an opportunity to prevent a post-antibiotic era in which we are unable to successfully treat infections or carry out many other healthcare activities (e.g. transplants and other surgeries, chemotherapy, care of preterm infants and others) currently made safe and possible by effective antibiotics.

Last fall, CDC released the report [Antibiotic Resistance Threats in the United States, 2013](#), which for the first time ranked and detailed the threats posed by antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Conservative estimates reveal that more than two million Americans suffer antibiotic resistant infections each year, which result in approximately 23,000 deaths. The actual numbers are likely far higher, as our surveillance and data collection capabilities cannot yet capture the full disease burden. The infections cost tens of billions of dollars to the U.S. health care system annually, and the problem is worsening. The CDC report recommends a four-pronged approach to address the crisis: (1.) implementing prevention strategies, (2.) increasing tracking of resistant bacteria, (3.) improving use of antibiotics, and (4.) promoting the development of new antibiotics and diagnostic tests. The CDC Detect and Protect Against Antibiotic Resistance Initiative contributes to each of these four areas.

The proposed initiative would enhance surveillance and laboratory capacity at the local, state, and national levels to speed the identification of antibiotic resistance threats. Further, the initiative would invest in the implementation of evidence-based interventions that reduce the emergence and spread of antibiotic-resistant pathogens and improve appropriate antibiotic use. The proposal also supports the discovery of new antibiotics and diagnostic tests for resistant bacteria through the development of a Resistant-Bacteria Bank that would serve as a unique centralized collection of samples of resistant

bacteria that would be made available to researchers as well as pharmaceutical, biotech and diagnostic companies.

The Detect and Protect Against Antibiotic Resistance Initiative has the potential to deliver significant, measurable results for patients. CDC projects that over five years the initiative could lead to a 50% reduction in health-care associated *Clostridium difficile* (*C. diff*), 50% decline in health-care associated carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE), 30% decline in invasive methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), 30% decline in health-care associated drug-resistant *Pseudomonas* sp., and 25% reduction in drug-resistant *Salmonella* infections. CDC estimates that the reduction in the antibiotic resistance related pathogen *C. diff* would alone prevent 150,000 hospitalizations and save 20,000 lives.

The proposed initiative would constitute a key component of a federal response to this public health crisis. We hope that you will act to provide resources necessary to save lives and improve public health.

Please contact Jonathan Nurse at jnurse@idsociety.org or (703) 299-0202 with any questions regarding our request.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Aging Research
Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics
American Academy of Pediatrics
American College of Medical Quality
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Public Health Association
American Society for Microbiology
American Thoracic Society
American Veterinary Medical Association
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
HIV Medicine Association
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Keep Antibiotics Working
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Foundation for Infectious Diseases
Natural Resources Defense Council
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
Society for Women's Health Research
Society of Critical Care Medicine
Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists
Trust for America's Health