



**National Military and Veterans Alliance**  
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July 20, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
United States Senate  
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Alexander,

On behalf of the National Military and Veterans Alliance, a nonpartisan policy and advocacy organization composed of military associations and veterans' organizations, we write to ask the HELP Committee to take up S. 185, the Promise for Antibiotics and Therapeutics for Health (PATH) Act.

Antibiotic-resistant bacteria are infecting our military, veterans and fellow citizens at an alarming rate, and in far too many cases, we do not have the drugs to treat them. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that two million infections with antibiotic-resistant bacteria occur each year in the United States and 23,000 Americans die as a result.

These dangerous bacteria pose a particular threat to the military. Soldiers who once died from their battlefield wounds are now surviving those injuries but are succumbing to potentially lethal, drug-resistant infections. In fact, more than a third of wounded warriors injured in Iraq and Afghanistan developed a bacterial or fungal infection, according to the Department of Defense.

Unfortunately, the pace of development of new antibiotics to fight these superbugs lags far behind the pace of the development of the resistance that makes them so dangerous. This is why we need the PATH Act, which, through its limited approval pathway (LPAD), will take us one step further in developing antibiotics to treat serious, life-threatening infections.

Because these antibiotic-resistant infections are rare, it is difficult for drug developers to identify and enroll enough patients to perform the traditional, expensive, large-scale clinical trials. By allowing the Food and Drug Administration to rely on smaller datasets than it does for other drugs, the pathway will reduce the large clinical trial costs and, likely, give patients faster access to life-saving treatments. A similar provision overwhelmingly passed

the House earlier this month as part of the 21st Century Cures legislation, so now is the time to capitalize on this momentum by demonstrating Senate support for the companion bill.

PATH provides several important safeguards. It requires a drug's label to include special designation from FDA indicating that the drug is intended for use only in a limited, high-risk population. It also requires that the Department of Health and Human Services monitor how these approved antibiotics are being used to preserve effectiveness and safety.

We encourage you to press forward in order to ensure that we have as complete an arsenal of drugs as we can to protect us all against these dangerous pathogens. Too many of our service members have died already because of untreatable superbugs. Without swift action more will meet the same fate.

Please know you have our continued thanks for your efforts on behalf of America's veterans, their families and future generations. We commend your commitment to this necessary legislation and urge its passage.

Sincerely,

American Logistics Association  
American Military Retirees Association  
American Military Society  
American Retirees Association  
Army Navy Union  
Korean War Veterans Foundation  
Military Order of Foreign Wars  
Military Order Purple Heart  
National Association for Uniformed Services  
National Defense Committee  
The Flag and General Officers' Network  
The Retired Enlisted Association  
Vietnam Veterans of America