



5 May 2014

The Honorable Phil Gingrey, M.D. (GA-11)
United States House of Representatives
442 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Gingrey,

On behalf of the Association of the United States Navy (AUSN), we are writing to express our support for your bill H.R. 3742, the Antibiotic Development to Advance Patient Treatment Act (ADAPT) of 2013. The bill would direct the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to establish a regulatory pathway for new antibiotics that treat serious and life threatening infections, meet a currently unmet medical need, and intended to be used in limited populations of people with no other treatment options.

American military personnel and military Veterans are dying because they have infectious disease superbugs that existing antibiotics will not kill. The impact of these new superbugs on the American population is staggering, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently estimating that 2,000,000 infections with antibiotic-resistant bacteria occur each year in the United States, and that 23,000 of our military, Veterans, and fellow citizens die as a result.

H.R. 3742 would establish a regulatory approval pathway that will expedite these dying patients access to new antibacterial medications that are specifically intended to treat serious, life-threatening infections where there exists an immediate unmet medical need. In addition, the drugs would be studied in smaller populations that would result in clinical trials being more feasible and development time being shortened. This would potentially allow for faster access to these important treatments. Since the passage and implementation of the Generating Antibiotics Incentives Now (GAIN) Act of 2012, it has played an important role in restoring antibiotic development. The ADAPT Act is an important next step in the effort to fight antibiotic-resistant infections. Providing incentives for investment and innovation, the ADAPT Act will provide the resources we need to stop the deaths of our servicemembers and citizens to antibiotic-resistant infections.

Thank you for your initiative in introducing legislation which seeks to help our military and veterans community through improved measures in the healthcare and medical treatment. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 703-548-5800.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony A. Wallis".

Anthony A. Wallis
Legislative Director, AUSN