

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo  
U.S. House of Representatives  
272 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brett Guthrie  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2434 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2107 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1035 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

September 9, 2021

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members of the Energy and Commerce, Full Committee and Health Subcommittee:

The undersigned organizations, representing clinicians, scientists, patients, public health, animal agriculture and the pharmaceutical and diagnostics industries appreciate your leadership on public policy priorities affecting the nation's health, and we urge you to convene a hearing on the worsening crisis of antimicrobial resistance (AMR); potential economic solutions to address the current market challenges that impact antimicrobial drug development; and policies to strengthen infection prevention, antimicrobial stewardship, surveillance and research.

Antibiotic resistance is one of the greatest public health threats of our time. Drug-resistant infections sicken at least 2.8 million people and kill at least 35,000 people in the United States each year. Antibiotic resistance accounts for direct health care costs of at least \$20 billion. Globally, over 700,000 people die each year, imposing economic and health systems costs as high as \$1.2 trillion. If we do not act now, antibiotic resistant infections will be the leading cause of death by 2050 and could cost the world \$100 trillion.

Strengthening our ability to combat AMR is also central to our nation's public health and pandemic preparedness. Secondary resistant infections have challenged our COVID-19 response and increased mortality among patients commonly affected by secondary bacterial infections. High levels of antibiotic overuse among COVID-19 patients, particularly earlier in the pandemic, may have driven the development of new resistance threats which we have not yet identified and for which we are unprepared. Innovation to advance the rapid development of new antimicrobials is critical to address the AMR threat and secure the nation's biopreparedness against an uncertain future, and solutions must be included in any efforts to strengthen our public health infrastructure and preparedness efforts.

Unfortunately, the pipeline of new and innovative antimicrobials in development worldwide is woefully insufficient to meet patient needs. Small companies that are responsible for nearly all current antibiotic innovation are struggling to sustain operations. Factors unique to antibiotics,

including the need to use these drugs sparingly, make it challenging for companies to earn a reasonable return on investment. As a result, many companies have either closed their antibiotics research programs voluntarily or gone bankrupt. New incentives, particularly those that address post-market challenges through stable, upfront revenue commitments, are urgently needed to spur antibiotic research and development (R&D), revitalize the pipeline, and ultimately curb the spread of AMR.

As you may know, in October 2020 the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released the new National Action Plan for Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria (CARB) 2021-2025. This plan contains many important goals and objectives, but notably lacks recommendations surrounding the type of novel financing mechanism necessary to sustain antibiotic R&D. The plan also aims to build on progress to strengthen antibiotic stewardship, infection prevention, surveillance and research, as key gaps persist in all these areas. In particular, antibiotic stewardship programs, now required in hospitals and long-term care facilities, remain sorely under resourced and have been forced to pivot activities during the pandemic to lead administration of COVID-19 therapies. A thorough review of our national progress in combating AMR and an assessment of emerging and persistent needs will be important to ensure accountability and make continued meaningful headway.

Your committee is uniquely well positioned to deepen public awareness and dialogue around the crisis of antimicrobial resistance and to advance constructive solutions, including the Doyle-Ferguson-Bennet-Young PASTEUR Act (H.R. 3932 / S. 2076), and we strongly urge you to consider holding a hearing on these issues in the fall. We thank you for your attention and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Accelerate Diagnostics, Inc.

Alliance for Aging Research

American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

American Association of Bovine Practitioners

American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners

American Public Health Association

American Society for Microbiology

American Society of Plastic Surgeons

American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene

Amputee Coalition

Antimicrobial Innovation Alliance

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology

Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC)

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Biocom

bioMerieux, Inc.

BioNJ

Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO)

California Life Sciences

Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics & Policy

Peter W. Choo, MD, DrPH, MBA affiliated with Mass Medical Angels

Clarametyx Biosciences, Inc.

Coalition for Improving Sepsis and Antibiotic Practices (CISAP)

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

The Emory Antibiotic Resistance Center

FasterCures, a center of the Milken Institute

Genentech, Inc., a member of the Roche Group

The Gerontological Society of America

Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC)

HealthyWomen

HIV Medicine Association

Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA)

The Joint Commission

Life Sciences Pennsylvania

Lymphoma Research Foundation

Making-a-Difference in Infectious Diseases

Merck & Co.

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

NTM Info & Research, Inc.

Novo Holdings

ONCORD, Inc.

Professor Kevin Outterson, Boston University

The Partnership to Fight Infectious Diseases

The Peggy Lillis Foundation

The Pew Charitable Trusts

Qpex Biopharma, Inc.

Research!America

Sepsis Alliance

The Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists (SIDP)

Spero Therapeutics, Inc.

The Stuart B. Levy Center for Integrated Management of Antimicrobial Resistance at Tufts (Levy CIMAR)

TB Alliance

Trust For America's Health

Venatorx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Vizient, Inc.