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September 21, 2023

The Honorable Roger Marshall, MD  
U.S. Senate  
479A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ben Ray Luján  
U.S. Senate  
498 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: Support for the *Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria (PACCARB) Act (S. 2434)***

Dear Senators Marshall and Luján:

I write on behalf of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI) to express support for the ***Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria (PACCARB) Act (S. 2434)***. We appreciate that your legislation would continue important federal investments in the PACCARB to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and promote antibiotic stewardship into the future.

Established in 1943, the AAAAI is a professional organization with more than 7,000 members in the United States, Canada and 72 other countries. This membership includes board certified allergist/immunologists, other medical specialists, allied health and related healthcare professionals – all with a special interest in the research and treatment of patients with allergic and immunological diseases.

The growing threat of AMR, which combined with the dwindling pipeline of novel antibiotic research, requires policies that prevent inappropriate use of antibiotics. One of the primary ways to combat this threat begins with penicillin – the most commonly reported drug allergy. According to the CDC, [approximately 10% of the U.S. population self-report being allergic to penicillin, yet 9 out of 10 patients](#) reporting a penicillin allergy are not truly allergic when formally evaluated, such that fewer than 1% of the population is truly allergic to penicillin. In its [2018 Update of Antibiotic Use in the United States: Progress and Opportunities](#), the CDC cited the importance of correctly identifying if patients are penicillin-allergic in decreasing the unnecessary use of broad-spectrum antibiotics. The AAAAI strongly supports more widespread and routine use of penicillin allergy evaluation for patients with a self-reported history of allergy to penicillin. Evaluation can

**(more)**

accurately identify patients who, despite reporting a history of penicillin allergy, can safely receive penicillin. Former AAAAI President, Dr. David Khan, participated in the February 27, 2020 PACCARB meeting. His presentation titled "[Penicillin Allergy Testing as a Component of Antimicrobial Stewardship](#)" was part of a panel on new insights on the changing AMR landscape.

The AAAAI appreciated the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) advancing S. 2434 as part of the *Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Response Act (PAHPARA)* (S. 2333) in July. The legislation would modernize efforts to counter AMR by ensuring continued federal support for PACCARB and by directing the Council to develop an action plan for Congress to combat AMR, including through measurable outcomes.

Thank you for your leadership on advancing policies to combat AMR. The AAAAI looks forward to working with you and your staff as issues related to allergy, asthma, and immunology arise, and would encourage you to contact Sheila Heitzig, JD, MNM, CAE, AAAAI Director of Practice and Policy, at (414) 272-6071 or sheitzig@aaaai.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Bernstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jonathan A. Bernstein, MD FAAAAI  
President, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology