

June 9, 2025

Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

On behalf of 41 organizations, we write to request that the President's Advisory Council on Combatting Antibiotic Resistance (PACCARB) meet as soon as possible. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a growing threat to public health, patient safety and national security. In the US, patients develop more than 2.8 million antibiotic-resistant infections each year and AMR contributes to more than 160,000 deaths each year. Growing antimicrobial resistance jeopardizes the availability of many types of health care that carry a risk of infection, including cancer chemotherapy, organ transplants, hip and knee replacements, Cesarean sections and more.

AMR is a complex problem and addressing AMR requires collaboration across human health, agricultural and environmental sectors and coordination across the federal government. PACCARB is a federal advisory committee that was established in 2014 to address this growing problem. Authorized by the Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019, the committee convenes private sector stakeholders and federal agencies to provide information, advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to help ensure that U.S. government programs and policies to combat antimicrobial resistance are as effective and efficient as possible. Further, many private sector stakeholders utilize PACCARB reports and recommendations to inform strategies to address AMR at their own health care facilities, farms, companies and more.

The PACCARB was scheduled to meet in late January 2025 to develop recommendations for the 2025-2030 National Action Plan for Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria, but the meeting was canceled with the transition in administration. Stakeholder organizations are deeply concerned that the meeting has not yet been rescheduled, slowing the pace of our national response to AMR. We urge HHS to convene a PACCARB meeting as soon as possible.

Thank you,

American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of Avian Pathologists
American Association of Bovine Practitioners
American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners
American Association of Swine Veterinarians
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges
American Gastroenterological Association
American Pharmacists Association
American Society for Microbiology
American Society of Transplant Surgeons
AMR Action Fund

Antibiotic Resistance Action Center, the George Washington University
Association of Public Health Laboratories
bioMerieux Inc.
Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO)
BioVersys AG
Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI)
Danaher Diagnostics
Earthjustice
EpiX Analytics
Food Animal Concerns Trust
Gerontological Society of America
Immune Deficiency Foundation
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Kathera Bioscience Inc
Microbion Corporation
Musculoskeletal Infection Society (MSIS)
National Institute of Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Education
NC Environmental Justice Network
Novo Holdings US Inc.
NTM Info & Research, Inc.
Partnership to Fight Infectious Disease
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society
Peggy Lillis Foundation
Sepsis Alliance
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
Society of Critical Care Medicine
Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists (SIDP)
Treatment Action Group
Trust for America's Health