

February 28, 2018

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Brown:

The undersigned organizations representing health care providers, scientists, public health, patients, industry and advocates offer our support for the Strategies to Address Antimicrobial Resistance (STAAR) Act and thank you for your leadership in re-introducing this important legislation. The STAAR Act would help continue and expand our federal response to the public health crisis of antimicrobial resistance. Antimicrobial resistant infections sicken over two million Americans every year, causing at least tens of thousands of deaths. Globally, over 700,000 people die every year due to antimicrobial resistance. The infections are painful, difficult to treat, frequently recur and cost approximately \$20 billion to the U.S. health care system annually.

Antimicrobial resistance threatens to undo many of the gains of modern medicine, compromising the ability to safely perform complex surgeries, provide cancer chemotherapy and care for immunocompromised individuals. Antimicrobial resistance is a complex problem that requires a multi-faceted solution including investments in surveillance and data collection, antimicrobial stewardship and research. The STAAR Act seeks important advancements in these areas.

The overuse and misuses of antimicrobial drugs drives the development of resistance. Antimicrobial stewardship efforts help optimize antimicrobial drug use and reduce overuse and misuse. The STAAR Act would help advance these important activities. Importantly, the STAAR Act would also strengthen efforts to prevent the transmission of antimicrobial resistant infections. In addition, STAAR would enhance research to deepen our understanding of resistance and the best ways to combat it.

In 2016, the United Nations made a global commitment to combat antimicrobial resistance, which was reaffirmed by the G20 in 2017. The STAAR Act will help strengthen the US position as a leader in protecting patients from this serious threat. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Accelerate Diagnostics
AdvaMedDx
Alliance for Aging Research
Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Gastroenterological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society of Microbiology
American Society of Transplant Surgeons
American Thoracic Society

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American Urological Association
Antimicrobials Working Group (Amplix Pharmaceuticals, Aridis Pharmaceuticals, Arsanis Inc., Cidara Therapeutics Inc., ContraFect Corporation, Iterum Therapeutics Ltd., Melinta Therapeutics Inc., Motif Bio plc, Nabriva Therapeutics US Inc., Paratek Pharmaceuticals Inc., SCYNEXIS Inc., Spero Therapeutics, Inc., T2 Biosystems Inc., Theravance Biopharma U.S. Inc., Viamet, Vical Incorporated, and Zavante Therapeutics Inc.)
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Biotechnology Innovation Organization
Clinician Champions in Comprehensive Antibiotic Stewardship Collaborative
Duke Center for Antimicrobial Stewardship and Infection Prevention
Emory Antibiotic Resistance Center
Health Care Without Harm
Immune Deficiency Foundation
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future
Making-A-Difference in Infectious Diseases
March of Dimes
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Athletic Trainers' Association
National TB Controllers Association
NovaDigm Therapeutics
ONCORD, Inc.
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
The Foundation to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance
The Gerontological Society of America
Trust for America's Health