

Good afternoon.

On behalf of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI), I wanted to see if you would consider signing on to this [Dear Colleague letter](#) addressed to the Senate Appropriations Labor/HHS Subcommittee in support of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) programs in the Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations package. The letter is being led by Senator Blumenthal (D-CT). **The sign-on deadline is Friday, May 28.** I have also attached a PDF of the letter to this email for your reference.

The growing threat of antimicrobial resistance, 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 verifying patient-reported penicillin allergy – the most commonly reported drug allergy. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), [approximately 10 percent of the U.S. population 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 one percent of the population is truly allergic to penicillin. More recently, the CDC cited the importance of correctly identifying if patients are penicillin-allergic in decreasing the unnecessary use of broad-spectrum antibiotics in its [2018 update of Antibiotic Use in the United States: Progress and Opportunities](#). The AAAAI strongly supports more widespread and routine use of penicillin skin testing for patients with a self-reported history of allergy to penicillin. This testing can accurately identify patients who, despite reporting a history of penicillin allergy, can safely receive penicillin.

The attached letter seeks \$100 million for the National Healthcare Safety Network which enables the CDC to target prevention of healthcare acquired and antimicrobial resistant infections and improve antibiotic prescribing. The Antibiotic Resistance Solutions Initiative will benefit from significant new resources to achieve the goals outlined in the National Action Plan for Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria, including strengthening antibiotic stewardship to promote best practices for prescribing antibiotics such as penicillin.

We appreciate Congress previously promoting comprehensive antibiotic stewardship programs that include penicillin allergy testing. Prior appropriations have enabled important gains in efforts to prevent and track resistant infections, improve antibiotic prescribing and develop new antibiotics and diagnostics. But increased investments are urgently needed to support public health efforts and research to prevent a post-antibiotic era.

**If you have any questions or want to sign on to the letter prior to COB on Friday, May 28, please email [alison\\_council@blumenthal.senate.gov](mailto:alison_council@blumenthal.senate.gov).** Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology