

STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (STAAR) ACT

Introduced by Representative Jim Matheson (D-UT)

- ◆ Antimicrobial resistance and the growing shortage of effective antimicrobial drugs are widely regarded by leaders in government, medicine and public health as a crisis that seriously jeopardizes patient safety, public health, and—in the context of a potential H1N1 influenza pandemic and other bioemergency threats—national security.
- ◆ The federal government must increase its efforts to manage antimicrobial resistance by better addressing antimicrobial resistance surveillance, prevention and control, and research and by encouraging the development of new anti-infective drugs.
- ◆ The STAAR Act is supported by a number of organizations including the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics (APUA), American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN), American Dental Association (ADA), American Medical Association (AMA), American Pharmacists Association (APhA), American Public Health Association (APHA), American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC), Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT), International Society of Microbial Resistance (ISMR), Michigan Antibiotic Resistance Reduction Coalition (MARR), National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE), National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA), National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID), National Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (PIDS), Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA), Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists (SIDP), Trust for America's Health (TFAH), Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), and Premier, a healthcare alliance serving 2,100 nonprofit hospitals and 58,000 healthcare sites.
- ◆ IDSA, the Institute of Medicine, Office of Technology Assessment, and other leading experts in public health and infectious diseases have stated that multi-pronged strategies are needed to limit the impact of antibiotic resistance on patients and public health.
- ◆ The proposed legislation, developed with input from infectious diseases experts and leaders in public health, provides authority for the federal government to combat antimicrobial resistance by:
 - 1) Reauthorizing the Antimicrobial Resistance Task Force, establishing an Advisory Board of outside experts and an Antimicrobial Resistance Office reporting to the Secretary of Health and Human Services whose director will coordinate government efforts to combat antimicrobial resistance;
 - 2) Creating an antimicrobial resistance strategic research plan, as well as establish the Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance and Research Network;

- 3) Collecting available and relevant data to allow government to better assess the antimicrobial resistance problem; and
- 4) Establishing demonstration projects to encourage more appropriate use of existing antibiotics.

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Additional information also is available on IDSA's website at www.idsociety.org/STAARAct.htm*