

STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (STAAR) ACT

- ◆ 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 national security. Congress recognized the importance of this issue by providing incentives to stimulate the development of new antimicrobials in the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act (FDASIA). The STAAR Act seeks to complement FDASIA by enhancing efforts to combat the development of resistance and spread of resistant infections.
- ◆ 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 and the appropriate use of these drugs through the adoption of antimicrobial stewardship programs in each of our nation's healthcare settings.
- ◆ The STAAR Act is supported by a number of organizations including: Alliance for Aging Research; Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics (APUA); American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP); American College of Rheumatology (ACR); American Dental Association (ADA); American Gastroenterological Association (AGA); American Public Health Association (APHA); American Society for Microbiology (ASM); American Thoracic Society (ATS); Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE); Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO; First Focus Campaign for Children; Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT); Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA); Michigan Antibiotic Resistance Reduction Coalition (MARR); National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO); National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners; National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA); National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID); Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (PIDS); Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA); Society for Women's Health Research (SWHR); Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM); Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists (SIDP); Trust for America's Health (TFAH).
- ◆ IDSA, the Institute of Medicine, Office of Technology Assessment, World Health Organization, 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, public health and national security.
- ◆ The STAAR Act, 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 in the Department of Health and Human Services whose director will coordinate government efforts to combat antimicrobial resistance;
 - 2) Building upon existing NIH efforts by creating an antimicrobial resistance strategic research plan and authorizing the Clinical Trials Network on Antibacterial Resistance;
 - 3) Building upon CDC's intramural and extramural programs by authorizing the, Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance and Laboratory Network and additional efforts to intensify, strengthen, and expand the national capacity to prevent the transmission of resistant infections and the development of resistance;
 - 4) Intensifying and expanding current efforts to collect antimicrobial resistance and use data;
 - 5) Focusing existing demonstration authority to encourage more appropriate use of existing antibiotics; and
 - 6) Developing and testing quality measures on antimicrobial use.