

The Honorable Erik Paulsen
127 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

The Honorable Mike Thompson
231 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2017

Dear Representatives Paulsen and Thompson:

The undersigned organizations representing healthcare providers, hospitals, pharmacists, scientists and microbiologists, industry, public health experts, patients and advocates write to express our support for the Reinvigorating Antibiotic and Diagnostic Innovation (READI) Act of 2017, H.R. 1840.

We are deeply concerned about the alarming rise of antibiotic resistant infections and the insufficient number of new antibiotics and diagnostics to care for patients. More and more people are contracting serious and life-threatening infections that are difficult and sometimes impossible to treat, resulting in longer hospital stays, complications of other medical treatments such as surgery or chemotherapy, and even deaths. Patients with weakened immune systems, such as those with HIV/AIDS, preterm infants, cancer patients, transplant patients, the elderly, or patients treated in intensive care units are at heightened risk, but even healthy young people are contracting and dying from serious, antibiotic resistant infections. Antibiotic resistant infections are also severely complicating our soldiers' deep combat wounds and burns, leading to increased risk of limb loss and even death.

The President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO) and other expert bodies and individuals have documented the urgent crisis of antibiotic resistance and called for a renewed investment in antibiotic and diagnostics research and development (R&D). Your legislation is an important component of this urgently needed effort.

Antibiotic development has dwindled, with many pharmaceutical companies leaving this market. Significant economic hurdles continue to hamper antibiotic R&D. Antibiotics are typically inexpensive, used for a short duration and held in reserve to protect their utility. Economic experts agree that incentives are needed to stimulate antibiotic R&D.

Equally important, we need new diagnostics to quickly identify the pathogen infecting a patient. This will allow faster, more appropriate treatment, improving patient outcomes, shortening hospital stays, and reducing costs associated with unnecessary treatment. Diagnostics are also critical for guiding the appropriate use of antibiotics. Appropriate use is essential for limiting the development of resistance and protecting patients from adverse events, such as deadly *Clostridium difficile* infections, which claim 29,000 lives annually according to the CDC. Diagnostics are also necessary for quick identification of outbreaks and activation of appropriate public health responses. Lastly, diagnostic tests are critical for identifying patients who are eligible for antibiotic clinical trials.

Unfortunately, diagnostics R&D faces significant challenges, including the high cost of collecting specimens needed to validate new tests, the significant cost of training laboratories to evaluate new tests, and inadequate reimbursement for tests once they reach the market. Your legislation would significantly help reduce this economic barrier and foster the development of needed new diagnostics.

We thank you for your leadership on these important issues.

Sincerely,

Accelerate Diagnostics, Inc.

AdvaMedDx

Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics

American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

American Association of Bovine Practitioners

American College of Rheumatology

American Gastroenterological Association

American Society for Health-System Pharmacists

American Society for Microbiology

American Society of Transplant Surgeons

American Thoracic Society

American Urological Association

Antimicrobial Innovation Alliance (Achaogen, Allergan, Astellas, AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, The Medicines Company, Microbion Corporation, Pfizer, Shionogi, Spero Therapeutics, Tetrphase Pharmaceuticals, Za'ante Therapeutics)

Antimicrobials Working Group (Arsanis, Amplyx, Cempra, Cidara Therapeutics, ContraFect, Iterum Therapeutics, Melinta Therapeutics, Nabriva Therapeutics, Paratek, Scynexis, Theravance, Viamet, Za'ante Therapeutics)

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology

BD

bioMerieux

Center for Foodborne Illness Research and Prevention

Da Volterra

Emory Antibiotic Resistance Center

Fecal Transplant Foundation

Foundation to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance

Gerontological Society of America

HIV Medicine Association

Infectious Diseases Society of America

Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security

Making-A-Difference in Infectious Diseases

March of Dimes

Merck

Microbion Corporation

National Association of County and City Health Officials

National Athletic Trainers' Association

National Foundation for Infectious Diseases
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society
Peggy Lillis Foundation
Research!America
Sepsis Alliance
Society of Critical Care Medicine
Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists
Spero Therapeutics
Trust for America's Health