

Strategies to Address Antimicrobial Resistance (STAAR) Act

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in its report *“Antibiotic Resistance Threats in the United States, 2013,”* estimates that more than two million people in the U.S. are sickened every year with antibiotic-resistant infections, with at least 23,000 dying as a result. Many more die from other conditions that were complicated by an antibiotic-resistant infection.

A 2012 study conducted at Columbia University found that each antibiotic-resistant infection cost, on average, over \$15,000 more to treat than susceptible infections. The CDC reports that estimates of the total economic cost of antibiotic resistance to the U.S. economy have ranged as high as \$20 billion in excess direct health care costs, with additional costs to society for lost productivity as high as \$35 billion a year (2008 dollars).

The **Strategies To Address Antimicrobial Resistance (STAAR) Act** would strengthen the federal response to antimicrobial resistance by:

- **Promoting Prevention**
 - Intensifies and expands academic public health partnerships through the CDC’s current Prevention Epi-Centers to support evaluation of interventions to prevent or limit resistance.
 - Establishes regional prevention collaboratives that partner CDC with state health departments to interrupt and prevent the transmission of significant antibiotic resistant pathogens being transmitted across healthcare settings in a geographic region.
- **Tracking Resistant Bacteria**
 - Improves data collection for human antimicrobial drug consumption and resistance.
 - Directs CDC to report every 2 years on resistance trends, threats and antibiotic use.
 - Builds upon CDC’s existing intramural and extramural programs by authorizing the, Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance and Laboratory Network to intensify, strengthen, and expand the national capacity to monitor the emergence and changes in the patterns of antimicrobial resistant pathogens, support education of the public and providers, and assist local response to outbreaks.
- **Improving Use of Antibiotics**
 - Authorizes grants to health care facilities to study the development and implementation of antimicrobial stewardship programs, and directs the piloting and testing of antibiotic appropriate use quality measures.
- **Enhancing Leadership, Coordination and Accountability**
 - Reauthorizes the Antimicrobial Resistance Task Force and establishes benchmarks to monitor progress of implementing Task Force recommendations.
 - Establishes an Advisory Board of outside experts to provide input from clinicians and others regarding emerging resistance around the country.
 - Identifies a director within the Department of Health and Human Services to oversee the Task Force and coordinate efforts in combatting antimicrobial resistance.
- **Supporting Research**
 - Directs the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to work with other agencies and experts to create a strategic research plan for antimicrobial resistance to provide a detailed path forward for future funding of epidemiological, interventional, clinical, behavioral, translational, and basic research efforts.
 - Codifies in statute the recently created National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) Clinical Trials Network on Antibacterial Resistance.

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SUPPORT: 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)

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