

March 23, 2016

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
The Capitol, Room S-128
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Vice Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
The Capitol, Room S-146A
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Appropriations
United States Senate
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 156
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Appropriations
United States Senate
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 156
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cochran, Vice Chairwoman Mikulski, Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

The undersigned organizations representing patients, public health, providers and industry thank you for the strong investments made in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 to combat the public health crisis of antimicrobial resistance (AR). As you know, these resources are necessary to begin implementation of the [*National Action Plan for Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria*](#) (Action Plan). The Action Plan provides a necessary, comprehensive and well-coordinated federal response to AR. As the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 appropriations process moves forward, we ask that you continue to provide strong support for these activities.

Our constituencies witness firsthand the impact that antimicrobial resistance is having in the United States and around the globe. As an example, outbreaks of the deadly superbug Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) continue to be reported in hospitals across the nation, including last year in California where hundreds were exposed and lives were lost. CRE kill up to half of patients who develop bloodstream infections from them. Overall, we know that each year antibiotic resistance sickens two million Americans and claims the lives of at least 23,000. Further, AR infections annually result in an additional 8 million hospital days and costs in excess of \$20 billion to the U.S. healthcare system. The actual human and financial costs are significantly higher, as our surveillance and data collection capabilities cannot yet capture the full disease burden. While anyone can develop an antibiotic-resistant infection, specific populations are disproportionately impacted—such as our active-duty military and veterans, as well as immunocompromised individuals including chemotherapy and transplant patients, the elderly, preterm infants, and those with HIV/AIDS.

The President's Budget Request (PBR) for FY 2017 supports the Action Plan including prevention and control activities, enhanced data collection and surveillance, antibiotic stewardship, as well as greater investment in research and development for antibiotics, rapid diagnostics and vaccines. These activities are advanced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Department of Agriculture (USDA). Of particular note, much of the resources requested by the administration will be disbursed to state and local government partners, academia and other stakeholders who are on the frontlines of efforts to address AR.

We specifically request that the programs that follow are provided the indicated level of support in the FY17 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. If these programs are not funded, AR will only grow worse to the point where common infections often prove fatal.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- **Antibiotic Resistance Solutions Initiative (\$200 million)**: The CDC Antibiotic Resistance Initiative will expand FY 2016 Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI)/AR prevention efforts from 25 states to up to 50 states, six large cities, and Puerto Rico, investing in direct action to implement proven interventions that reduce emergence and spread of AR pathogens and improve appropriate antibiotic use. CDC plans to award the majority of the FY 2017 increased AR funding to states to effectively address the AR threats facing our country.
- **National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) (\$21 million)**: The requested funding allows CDC to expand the National Healthcare Safety Network to as many as 20,000 facilities across the continuum of care, including acute-care hospitals, dialysis facilities, nursing homes and ambulatory surgical centers. These funds will enable CDC to continue to provide data for national HAI elimination, and guide prevention to targeted healthcare facilities to enhance prevention efforts and decrease HAI rates, NHSN infrastructure and critical user support, and innovative HAI prevention approaches.
- **Advanced Molecular Detection (AMD) Initiative (\$30 million)**: Continuation of this initiative allows CDC to more rapidly determine where emerging diseases come from, whether microbes are resistant to antibiotics, and how microbes are moving through a population. The AMD initiative strengthens CDC's epidemiologic and laboratory expertise to effectively guide public health action.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- **National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (At least \$4.715 billion)**: With requested support, NIAID will continue basic through clinical research to test new ways to treat and prevent resistant infections; develop rapid, point-of-care diagnostics to identify highly resistant bacterial infections; and create a new generation of vaccines aimed at drug-resistant microbes. We ask that NIAID be provided an increase proportionate to NIH as whole in order to expedite these activities.

Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR)

- **Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (At least \$512 million)**: Funding requested for BARDA includes \$192 million dedicated to antimicrobial R&D, which is a step towards the PCAST recommended level of \$800 million annually. BARDA utilizes novel public-private partnerships to address the market failure in antibiotic R&D.

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

- **Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria (\$12 million)**: Funding will support research to develop improved methods and approaches for combating antibiotic resistance and conducting antibiotic stewardship activities in multiple healthcare settings, with a focus on long-term and ambulatory care settings.

Once again, we thank you for the attention given to AR and urge you to place high priority on the continued implementation of the Action Plan as the 2017 appropriations process advances.

Sincerely,

Accelerate Diagnostics, Inc.
AdvaMedDx
Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of Avian Pathologists
American Association of Bovine Practitioners
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Gastroenterological Association
American Medical Association
American Pharmacists Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Microbiology

American Society of Transplant Surgeons
American Thoracic Society
American Veterinary Medical Association
Antibiotic Resistance Action Center, Milken Institute School of Public Health at the George Washington University
Antibiotics Working Group
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of State & Territorial Health Officials
Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO)
Cempra
Center for Foodborne Illness Research & Prevention
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Da Volterra
Emory Antibiotic Resistance Center
HIV Medicine Association
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future
March of Dimes
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Athletic Trainers' Association
NovaDigm Therapeutics, Inc.
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society
Peggy Lillis Foundation
Research!America
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
Society of Critical Care Medicine
Society of Hospital Medicine
Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists
Spero Therapeutics
TB Alliance
The Pew Charitable Trusts
Theravance Biopharma
Treatment Action Group
Trust for America's Health