



The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
Dirksen Senate Office Building 413
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building 331
Washington, DC 20510

February 11, 2015

Dear Senators Collins and Feinstein:

On behalf of the Trust for America's Health (TFAH), I am writing to thank you for introducing the Preventing Antibiotic Resistance Act of 2015. TFAH is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to saving lives by protecting the health of every community and working to make disease prevention a national priority. We appreciate your ongoing efforts to address the growing threat of antibiotic resistance caused by overuse of medically important antimicrobials in animal agriculture. This legislation will help ensure that vital human antimicrobials are used judiciously in food animals to reduce the development of antibiotic resistance.

Antibiotic-resistant infections sicken more than two million Americans and kill 23,000 every year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In addition, antibiotic resistance annually costs this country \$20 billion in direct medical expenses and \$35 billion in lost productivity. The World Health Organization and CDC have already warned that we are nearing a "post-antibiotic era," where existing drugs are ineffective against bacterial threats such as *C. difficile* and MRSA. The CDC also warns that much of the antibiotic use in food animals is unnecessary and inappropriate. As recommended in TFAH's latest [Outbreaks](#) report, part of mitigating the development of resistance means more closely guarding how antibiotics are used in agricultural settings. Your legislation is a critical step in that effort.

The Preventing Antibiotic Resistance Act requires drug sponsors to submit evidence demonstrating that their claims for antimicrobial use in preventing and controlling animal disease are judicious. Evidence would also be required for certain drugs with disease prevention and disease control indications at similar dosage to growth-promotion or without a specified duration of therapy. The bill also empowers the Secretary of Health and Human Services to revise antibiotic drug labels as necessary.

These requirements, which do not affect antibiotics that have no human applications or in situations where a veterinarian determines that an animal or herd is diseased, will reduce the excessive use of antibiotics on farms. This more prudent use of antimicrobials lessens the opportunity for bacteria to develop resistance and affect human health, which will lead to fewer untreatable infections, fewer deaths, and improved health for all Americans.

Thank you again for your leadership in tackling this critical health issue. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to move this bill forward. We also look forward to working with you to ensure the Food and Drug Administration fully implements guidance to industry intended to phase out growth promotion and to bring some therapeutic uses of

antibiotics under the supervision of a veterinarian. If you have any questions, please contact Dara Lieberman, TFAH's Senior Government Relations Manager, at (202)864-5942 or dliberman@tfah.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Levi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "L".

Jeffrey Levi, PhD
Executive Director