

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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H.R. 2182 – Support Life Saving Antibiotics

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Rodgers, Meehan, *Miller(NC)*, *Murphy(CT)*, Myrick, Sullivan, Walden

Dear Colleague,

In the early 1920's, common colds or simple cuts could result in hospitalization or even death. Over 80 years ago, the advent of penicillin – and the host of antibiotic drugs that were soon to follow – changed all of that and transformed U.S. public health in the process. Unfortunately, drug development has not kept up with the pace of bacterial resistance in recent years and patients are paying the price.

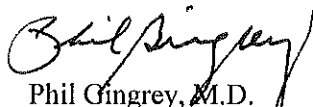
According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the approval of new antibiotics has decreased by 70% since the mid-1980s. A combination of barriers – including the high cost of drug development and small profit margins – has contributed to this problem. The result is a stagnant research and development pipeline for antibiotics that is ill equipped to keep up with evolving threats.


Today, antibiotic-resistant infections cause more deaths annually than AIDS, traffic accidents, or the flu. For example, the recent discovery of the “New Delhi” gene – an enzyme that can create drug-resistance in nearly any bacteria it comes in contact with – is only the latest threat. Given the fact that it takes years to create and get a new drug approved by the FDA, it is imperative that we address this problem now before we are faced with a deadly bug for which no treatment is available.

Therefore, we have joined with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to introduce H.R.2182, the Generating Antibiotic Incentives Now (GAIN) Act of 2011. Among other things, this legislation creates more value for new antibiotic companies by increasing FDA data exclusivity protections for new products while at the same time encouraging greater collaboration between regulators and companies that seek approval for new treatments. Lastly, H.R.2182 encourages companies with new products to develop diagnostic tests for patients so physicians can better identify new bacterial threats.

If you would like more information or would like to become a cosponsor of H.R.2182, please contact Robert Horne (Rep. Gingrey) at Robert.Horne@mail.house.gov or Abigail Pinkele (Rep. Green) at Abigail.Pinkele@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,


Phil Gingrey, M.D.
Member of Congress


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