NAUS Supports Legislation to Fight "Super Bugs"

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NAUS has recently been alerted to legislation that would help fight a growing frequency of bacterial infections that have hit our wounded men and women and now spread to civilian hospitals.

Traditional medicines, including Penicillin and a host of common antibiotic drugs, are proving less effective and in too many cases ineffective at battling these infections. In too many instances, the "*super bugs*" are resistant to known antibiotics.

Unfortunately, drug development has not kept up with the pace of natural bacterial mutation and our wounded and sick are paying the price. The "*super bugs*" are winning and their infection too often results in death.

To address this growing health threat, NAUS is supporting the Generating Antibiotic Incentives Now Act, otherwise known as the *GAIN Act*.

The *GAIN Act* is introduced in the House by Representatives Phil Gingrey (R-GA), a medical doctor, and Gene Green (D-TX). The bill (*H.R. 2182*) at press time has 36 cosponsors. Senators Bob Corker (R-TN) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) recently introduced a companion bill in the Senate (*S.1734*) with 7 cosponsors.

In summary, the *GAIN Act* is bipartisan legislation that seeks to spur development of new antibiotics, without putting federal dollars at stake, yet providing a number of market-driven incentives to advance innovation and development.

Those in military combat medicine have repeatedly adapted and developed new ways to improve the survivability of those they serve. We do not want to lose them to an untreatable, deadly bug for which no treatment is available.

It's a real-life race against the "*super bugs*" and we don't want to lose. We must harness American ingenuity to win and the *GAIN Act* moves us forward.

NAUS encourages its members to express support for the *GAIN Act* to their elected representatives.

For more information on the work of NAUS, visit www.NAUS.org