



National Military and Veterans Alliance
5535 Hempstead Way, Springfield, VA 22151
Phone: (703) 750-1342
Email: naus@naus.org

The Honorable Joe Pitts
Chairman, Subcommittee on Health
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125, Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Health
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2322-A, Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

October 8, 2014

Re: Take Action on National Strategy to Combat Antibiotic Resistance

Dear Chairman Pitts and Ranking Member Pallone:

The National Military and Veterans Alliance, an organization composed of military associations and veterans organizations representing nearly 3.5 million service members, including active duty, National Guard, Reserve, military retirees, veterans, families and survivors, writes to thank you for your leadership in addressing the threat of antibiotic resistant bacteria and to ask you to take immediate action on H.R 3742, the Antibiotic Development to Advance Patient Treatment (ADAPT) Act.

As you know, drug resistant bacteria are infecting our military, veterans and fellow citizens at an alarming rate, and in far too many cases, we do not have the drugs to treat them. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 2,000,000 infections with antibiotic-resistant bacteria occur each year in the United States and 23,000 Americans die as a result.

These dangerous bacteria pose a particular threat to the military. Soldiers who once died from their battlefield wounds are now surviving those injuries but are succumbing to potentially lethal, drug-resistant infections. In fact, more than a third of wounded warriors injured in Iraq and Afghanistan developed a bacterial or fungal infection.

Unfortunately, the pace of development of new antibiotics to fight these superbugs lags far behind the pace of the development of the resistance that makes them so dangerous. Now there is an opportunity to take steps to address this problem.

Recently, the Obama Administration announced a new strategy to combat the growing threat of antibiotic resistance. This strategy includes encouraging the development of new antibiotics. This is an important step, but it will require Congressional action.

As you heard at your Sept. 19, 2014, hearing, "Examining Ways to Combat Antibiotic Resistance and Foster New Drug Development," the time to act is now. The situation is urgent and requires immediate attention. The witnesses agreed that the challenges facing drug developers are complex. However, many also agreed that creating a new regulatory pathway for antibiotics to treat unmet needs, the kind of pathway H.R. 3742, the Antibiotic Development to Advance Patient Treatment (ADAPT) Act, authorizes, would encourage the development of those drugs we need most—the drugs to treat infections for which there are few or no other options.

We encourage you to move this legislation quickly in order to ensure that we have as complete an arsenal of drugs as we can to protect us all against these dangerous pathogens. Too many of our shipmates and soldiers have died already because of untreatable superbugs. Without swift action more will meet the same fate.

We salute your efforts and leadership in addressing this important issue. We urge you to take action and to expedite the passage of H.R. 3742.

Please know you have our continued thanks for your efforts on behalf of America's veterans and their families.

Sincerely,

American Logistics Association	Military Order of Foreign Wars
American Military Retirees Association	Military Order of the World Wars
American Retirees Association	National Association for Uniformed Services
Armed Forces Marketing Council	National Defense Committee
Army Navy Union	Society of Military Widows
Japanese American Veterans Association	The Flag and General Officers Network
Military Order of the Purple Heart	