



3RD CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 6

To preserve the effectiveness of medically important
antimicrobials used in the treatment of human and animal
diseases

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 15, 2015

Ms. GUARINONI introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions for a period to be subsequently determined by the Pro Tempore, for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

A BILL

To preserve the effectiveness of medically important
antimicrobials used in the treatment of human and animal
diseases

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of*
2 *Representatives of the United States of America in Congress*
3 *assembled,*

4 **SECTION 1. Short Title.**

5 This Act may be cited as the "Combatting Antimicrobial
6 Resistance Act."

7 **SEC. 2. Findings**

8 In 2009, Cook County Hospital and the Alliance for
9 Prudent Use of Antibiotics estimated that the total health care
10 cost of antibiotic resistant infections in the United States was

11 between \$16,600,000,000 and \$26,000,000,000 annually, up
12 400+% from 1998.

13 Resistant strains of 3 bacteria that cause foodborne
14 illness (Salmonella, Campylobacter, and E. coli) are linked to
15 the use of antibiotics in animals.

16 Medically important antibiotics should be used in
17 humans to treat serious diseases such as pneumonia, scarlet
18 fever, rheumatic fever, sexually transmitted infections, skin
19 infections, malaria and plagues. However, 70% of medically
20 important antibiotics sold in the US are used in feed and water
21 supply at farms to compensate for overcrowded and unsanitary
22 conditions, not to treat sick animals.

23 Near replicas or identical drugs are administered
24 through feed or water in over 80% of cattle, sheep, and swine
25 farms for health or growth promotion.

26 Many scientific studies confirm that the nontherapeutic
27 use of antibiotics in agricultural animals contribute to the
28 development of antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections in
29 people.

30 In the United States alone, resistant bacteria are
31 responsible for tens of thousands of deaths, hundreds of
32 thousands of hospitalizations, and tens of billions of dollars in
33 health-care costs each year.

34 **SEC. 3. Definitions**

35 Medically important antibiotic: Antibiotic intended for
36 use in humans or food-producing animals and is composed
37 wholly or partly of any kind of penicillin, tetracycline, macrolide,
38 lincosamide, streptogramin, aminoglycoside, sulfonamide, or

39 cephalosporin; or a drug from an antimicrobial class that is
40 listed as 'highly important', 'critically important', or 'important'
41 by the World Health Organization

42 Nontherapeutic use: administration of antibiotics to an
43 animal through feed or water (or, in poultry hatcheries, through
44 any means) for purposes (such as growth promotion, feed
45 efficiency, weight gain, or disease prevention) other than
46 therapeutic use or non-routine disease control; and includes
47 any repeated or regular pattern of use of medically important
48 antimicrobials for purposes other than therapeutic use or non-
49 routine disease control.

50 **SEC. 4. Supply**

51 Upon passage of this bill the Secretary of Health and
52 Human Services shall not approve applications for
53 nontherapeutic use of medically important antibiotics in food-
54 producing animals.

55 **SEC. 5. Exceptions**

56 1. A medically important antibiotic may be used if there is
57 a significant risk that a disease or infection is present on
58 the premises that will be transmitted to the food-
59 producing animal so long as:

60 a) the administration of the medically important
61 antimicrobial to the food-producing animal is
62 necessary to prevent or reduce the risk of
63 transmission of the disease or infection

64 b) the medically important antimicrobial is administered
65 to the food-producing animal for non-routine disease
66 control for the shortest duration possible to prevent

67 or reduce the risk of transmission of the disease or
68 infection to the animal

69 c) and the medically important antimicrobial is
70 administered at a scale no greater than the barn,
71 house, or pen level but the antibiotic shall be
72 stopped as soon as the disease or infection is
73 eradicated.

74 2. Antibiotics may be administered for nontherapeutic use if
75 the antibiotic in question has been demonstrated with
76 reasonable certainty to not cause harm to human health
77 due to the development of antimicrobial resistance that is
78 attributable in whole or in part to the nontherapeutic use
79 in the food-producing animal of the medically important
80 antimicrobial

81 **SEC. 6. Effective Date.**

82 This Act shall take effect one (1) year after its passage.