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November 20, 2024

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) and the over 13,000 infectious diseases physicians and scientists we represent, we are grateful for your cosponsorship of the bipartisan Pioneering Antimicrobial Subscriptions to End Upsurging Resistance (PASTEUR) Act. While there is bipartisan support for the PASTEUR Act, many in Congress have indicated that the funding included in the bill may be a barrier to advancing the bill, so the lead sponsors are pursuing a zero-dollar authorization of the bill as a necessary first step. **Please urge congressional leaders to include a zero-dollar version of the bipartisan PASTEUR Act (H.R. 2940) in an end-of-year package to revitalize antimicrobial innovation and to ensure access to antimicrobials for the patients who need them.**


There is strong, bipartisan support for PASTEUR, as evidenced by over 60 cosponsors, a [bipartisan House Budget Committee roundtable](#) in July and hearings in the [House Energy & Commerce](#) and [Senate HELP](#) subcommittees last year. Without passage this year, we will have to wait even longer for new and more effective tools to treat drug-resistant infections that are killing over 170,000 people in the U.S. every year. Additionally, it is estimated that bacterial antimicrobial resistance (AMR) was directly responsible for 1.27 million global deaths in 2019 and contributed to 4.95 million deaths,ⁱ and AMR could result in \$1 trillion in additional health care costs by 2050 and \$1 trillion to \$3.4 trillion gross domestic product losses per year by 2030.ⁱⁱ

Nearly all modern medical advances carry a risk of infection so a supply of novel antimicrobials is required to safely provide this care. Action is critical to ensure the U.S. does not fall behind other nations that are quickly acting in the wake of the September 2024 United Nations meeting on AMR. The conflict in Ukraine is accelerating AMR and underscoring the need to have novel antimicrobials to support our military readiness.

The PASTEUR Act will support the development of novel, clinically meaningful antibiotics through targeted contracts to small innovator companies in lieu of paying for the volume of antibiotics used. PASTEUR will also improve patient outcomes and prevent resistance by funding antimicrobial stewardship programs at hospitals and long-term care facilities, prioritizing those in rural areas.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope we can count on you to urge congressional leadership to include a zero-dollar version of PASTEUR in any final omnibus package this year. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Lisa Cox, IDSA director of government relations, at lcox@idsociety.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tina Q. Tan MD". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tina Tan, MD, FIDSA, FPIDS, FAAP
President, IDSA

ⁱ Antimicrobial Resistance Collaborators. (2022). Global burden of bacterial antimicrobial resistance in 2019: a systematic analysis. *The Lancet*; 399(10325): P629-655. DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(21\)02724-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(21)02724-0)

ⁱⁱ Drug-Resistant Infections: A Threat to Our Economic future (March 2017) <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/health/publication/drug-resistant-infections-a-threat-to-our-economic-future>