

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

November 16, 2022

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McCarthy, Schumer and McConnell:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing health care providers, public health professionals, scientists, patients, and the pharmaceutical and diagnostics industries, we write to urge you to enact the PASTEUR Act in an end of year package to address the growing crisis of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) by strengthening the antimicrobial pipeline to ensure clinicians have the innovative products they need to treat patients, and ensuring antimicrobials are used appropriately. Every day we wait to address the crisis in the antimicrobial ecosystem is another year patients and providers must wait to have access to life saving medicines.

In 2019, an estimated 1.27 million deaths worldwide were directly caused by AMR, and AMR played a part in nearly 5 million deaths. This makes AMR a leading cause of death globally.¹ It is also clear that the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated AMR. In 2020, the U.S. experienced a 15% increase in AMR infections and deaths due to COVID-19, and experts do not expect a return to pre-pandemic levels without concerted action.² Because antimicrobials enable modern medicine, growing rates of resistance and a shrinking arsenal of products jeopardize our ability to safely provide organ transplants, cancer chemotherapy and surgeries such as hip and knee replacements and cesarean sections. Additionally, AMR is a significant economic burden here in the U.S.; the direct healthcare costs of treating only six of the most threatening multidrug-resistant pathogens is estimated to be \$4.6 billion per year³.

Despite the urgent and increasing need for novel antimicrobials to treat superbugs, the antimicrobial ecosystem is broken and unable to meet patient needs. The current pipeline has only 43 antibacterial therapeutics in clinical development worldwide – only 19 of which are for the most threatening gram-negative pathogens – a critical area of unmet need.⁴ We know that the pipeline is already inadequate to address current resistant threats, let alone those that will come in the future. This reinforces the need to urgently stimulate investment in novel antimicrobials to quickly bolster the pipeline.

¹ [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(21\)02724-0/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)02724-0/fulltext)

² <https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/pdf/covid19-impact-report-508.pdf>

³ National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2022. Combating antimicrobial resistance and protecting the miracle of modern medicine. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/26350>.

⁴ <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/issue-briefs/2021/03/tracking-the-global-pipeline-of-antibiotics-in-development>

Novel antimicrobials must be used judiciously to limit the development of resistance, so payment based on volume fails to drive innovation. PASTEUR's subscription model is an innovative way to pay for novel antimicrobials that will revitalize the pipeline and support appropriate use. Under PASTEUR, the federal government can enter into contracts with innovators to pay for a reliable supply of novel antimicrobials with payments that are decoupled from the volume of antimicrobials used. Importantly, the federal government only pays once – the subscription payment is all-inclusive, and PASTEUR only pays for success. Furthermore, PASTEUR will only pay for FDA approved treatments that are available to patients and meet unmet AMR needs— those that will have a big impact for patients and public health.

The delinked approach is similar to Project Bioshield, which provides multi-year funding to support procurement of medical countermeasures (MCM) for national security. Antimicrobials, like MCM, have a very limited commercial market. PASTEUR will provide novel antimicrobial innovators with a more predictable return on investment necessary to revitalize the antimicrobial pipeline—just like Project Bioshield has done for MCMs.

PASTEUR would also provide new funding for rural, critical access and safety net hospitals to support antimicrobial stewardship, to ensure that antimicrobials are used appropriately to limit the development of resistance, and to ensure that the vulnerable patients served by these hospitals can have access to the benefits of antimicrobial stewardship.

In his September 2022 remarks to the World AMR Congress, Secretary Becerra reiterated the Administration's commitment to this issue, as evidenced by the inclusion of a proposal that aligns with PASTEUR in the President's budget request for 2023, which was endorsed in the Senate released Labor-Health and Human Services appropriations bill for 2023. PASTEUR has over 60 bipartisan cosponsors and the broad support of a diverse array of stakeholders. Delays in the passage of PASTEUR are delays in the development of novel antimicrobials to treat highly resistant, life-threatening infections—delays that many patients, including those particularly susceptible to infections, such as patients with cystic fibrosis, cancer, or organ transplants, cannot afford.

We urge you to enact PASTEUR in an end of year package in 2022.

Thank you,

Organization (as it will read on the letter)

American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

AdvaMedDx

AGILeBiotics BV

Alliance for Aging Research

Alliance for Biosecurity

Alpha-1 Foundation

American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research

American Association of Bovine Practitioners

American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners
American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Association
American Gastroenterological Association
American Kidney Fund
American Liver Foundation
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
American Society for Microbiology
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Society of Transplant Surgeons
American Urological Association
Amputee Coalition
AN2 Therapeutics
Antibiotic Resistance Action Center, George Washington University
Antimicrobial Innovation Alliance
Arizona Medical Association
ArrePath Inc
Arthritis Foundation
Asociación de Oatomizados de Puerto Rico, Inc.
Asociación Puertorriqueña de Diabetes
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Autoimmune Association
BD (Becton, Dickinson and Co.)
BIO
Biomix
BioVersys AG
Black, Gifted & Whole Foundation

Boehringer Ingelheim Venture Fund USA
Boomer Esiason Foundation
Boston College
BUGWORKS
CancerCare
Cancer Support Community
CARB-X
Caregiver Action Network
CircaGene
Clarametyx Biosciences
Coalition for Improving Sepsis and Antibiotic Practices (CISAP)
Coalition of Skin Diseases
Color of Crohn's and Chronic Illness
Colorectal Cancer Alliance
Connecticut Plastic Surgery Society
COPD Foundation
Crestone
CT Association of Ambulatory Surgery Centers
Cūrza, Inc
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Debiopharm International
Duke Margolis Health Policy Center
Entasis Therapeutics
Family Voices
Federation of American Hospitals
FHI Clinical
Florida Academy of Family Physicians
Florida Osteopathic Medical Association
Forge Therapeutics, Inc.

GARDP North America

Genentech

Georgia State Medical Association, Inc.

Global Coalition on Aging

Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC)

GSK

HCA Healthcare

Healthcare Leadership Council

HealthHIV

Healthy Men Inc.

HealthyWomen

Hesed Medical Associates

Hezekiah Beardsley Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

HIV Medicine Association

ICAN, International Cancer Advocacy Network

Immune Deficiency Foundation

Incubate

Infectious Disease Association of California

Infectious Diseases Society of America

International Foundation for AiArthritis

Invitris

Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future

Kathera Bioscience Inc

Kentucky Academy of Family Physicians

Kern Medical

Kineticos Life Sciences

La Jolla Pharmaceuticals/Innoviva

Locus Biosciences

Louisiana Hemophilia Foundation

LUNGevity Foundation
Lymphoma Research Foundation
Making-A-Difference in Infectious Diseases
Marigold Innovation
Medical Association of Georgia
Medical Society of Northern Virginia
Melinta Therapeutics
Merck
Michigan Antibiotic Resistance Reduction Coalition
Michigan State Medical Society
Microbion Corporation
Musculoskeletal Infection Society
Mycovia Pharmaceuticals
Mycoses Study Group Education and Research Consortium (MSGERC)
Nabriva Therapeutics
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship
National Consumers League
National Grange
National Health Council
National Kidney Foundation
National Organization for Rare Disorders
New Mexico Osteopathic Medical Association
Novo Holdings Equity US Inc.
NTM Info & Research
Ohio Osteopathic Association
Oklahoma Academy of Family Physicians
Omniose
Omnix Medical

ONCORD, Inc.

One Health Trust (formerly CDDEP)

Oragenics, Inc.

Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons of California

Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease

Partnership to Fight Infectious Disease

Peggy Lillis Foundation

Peptilogics Inc.

Phare Bio

Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)

Prevent Blindness

Qpex Biopharma

SCYNEXIS

Sepsis Alliance

Seres Therapeutics

Shionogi Inc.

Social Innovation in Drug Resistance, Boston University

Society of Hospital Medicine

Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists (SIDP)

Spexis

Spina Bifida Association

Stuart B. Levy Center for Integrated Management of Antimicrobial Resistance

TB Alliance

The Bonnell Foundation: Living with cystic fibrosis

The Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT

The Gerontological Society of America

The National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

The Pew Charitable Trusts

Triage Cancer

Trust For America's Health

UCSF

United Spinal Association

University of Zurich

Utah Nurse Practitioners

UTILITY therapeutics Ltd

Valanbio Therapeutics

Valley Fever Institute

Venatorx Pharmaceuticals Incorporated

Vizient, Inc.

Vocespr.org