



October 22, 2020

The Honorable Michael Bennet
United States Senate
261 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Todd Young
United States Senate
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Bennet and Young,

On behalf of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, I am writing to support the Pioneering Antimicrobial Subscriptions to End Up Surging Resistance (PASTEUR) Act of 2020. Thank you for your commitment and leadership in introducing this important bill, which seeks to stabilize the antibiotic marketplace by providing sustained payments for access to innovative products aimed at treating devastating and deadly treatment-resistant infections.

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is a national organization actively engaged in the research and development of new therapies for cystic fibrosis – a rare, life-threatening genetic disease that affects more than 30,000 people in the United States. The buildup of thick, sticky mucus in the lungs characteristic of the disease makes people with CF particularly prone to respiratory infections. Unfortunately, infections can lead to losses in lung function, and many people with CF battle difficult-to-treat infections for which there are no effective antimicrobial drugs available. This is not just a problem for people with CF, however. Each year, 2.8 million Americans acquire serious infections caused by antibiotic resistant bacteria, and 35,000 of them die as a result.¹

While we have seen great progress in recent years for those living with cystic fibrosis, we know that infections will continue to pose a serious threat to the health of people with CF. In recognition of the urgency of providing both immediate and long-term solutions, the CF Foundation has dedicated \$100 million over five years to our Infection Research Initiative. This initiative supports a number of research projects aimed at improving detection, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of infections related to CF.

Unfortunately, the antibiotics market is broken, and the pipeline of antibiotics in development is not adequate to address current or future needs. Just last year, two antibiotics companies went bankrupt after FDA approval of their new drugs. The longer we go without putting in place comprehensive solutions, the more the pipeline of new antibiotics will degrade and threaten our chances of developing new antibiotics for people with CF and all Americans.

The PASTUER Act, if enacted, would change the way we pay for high societal value, limited use antibiotics by de-linking sales volume from revenue. Of note, we are pleased to see that priority infections covered under the subscription program in the PASTEUR Act will not be limited to the list created by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) but will also be driven by other unmet infection

¹<https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/index.html#:~:text=Antibiotic%20resistance%20is%20one%20of,more%20than%2035%2C000%20people%20die>

treatment needs, such as those experienced by the CF community. We are also pleased to see that the knowledge of patient advocates and external experts on commercializing antimicrobial drugs will be leveraged in the proposed subscription program.

Thank you again for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to working with you further on this effort to stabilize the antibiotic marketplace and ensure we have the tools to fight off dangerous resistant infections both now and in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary B. Dwight", written in a cursive style.

Mary B. Dwight

Chief Policy and Advocacy Officer
Senior Vice President of Policy and Advocacy
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation