



LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
25TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

October 8, 2015

Governor Jerry Brown
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown,

I write to express my utmost support for a bill recently passed by the California Legislature, SB 27 Livestock: Use of Antimicrobial Drugs. This bill will make real change in agricultural antibiotic use and curb the growth in antibiotic resistance that threatens the health of our country. Every year two million antibiotic resistant infections cause at least 23,000 deaths, eight million additional hospital days and \$20-35 billion in excess direct health care costs in the U.S.

SB 27 would only allow medically important antimicrobial drugs to be used with a prescription from a veterinarian. It also prohibits the prophylactic use of medically important antibiotics in a regular pattern, removing the loophole allowed by the Food and Drug Administration's voluntary guidance #213. Outlawing the regular use of antibiotics at subtherapeutic levels for growth promotion and feed efficiency, while allowing for the treatment of sick animals, is the proper action needed to protect antibiotics for use in human medicine.

I have introduced similar legislation, the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (PAMTA) in every session of Congress since 2007. Federal legislation is essential, but we have faced opposition at every turn from industries more concerned with protecting their bottom line than protecting the health of Americans. It seems that the best chance for change will come from the states, and I am so proud that the California legislature has taken up this fight. Your great state has been a leader in the past and present on environmental and safety issues and now can pave the way for reducing antibiotic overuse in agriculture and stemming the tide of antimicrobial resistance.

PAMTA is supported by over 450 medical, consumer advocacy, and public health groups (62 from California) and 51 cities (10 in California). There is clearly broad support for both PAMTA and SB 27, and the public health and wellbeing of our citizens demands action. I strongly urge you to sign SB 27 into law.

Sincerely,


Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress