



March 18, 2015

RE: Written Testimony in Support of House Bill 2598

Doernbecher Children's
Hospital

School of Medicine

Division of Pediatric
Infectious Diseases

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Judith Guzman-Cottrill, DO
Associate Professor, Pediatrics
Division of Infectious Diseases

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a Pediatric Infectious Disease specialist at OHSU's Doernbecher Children's Hospital. I am submitting written testimony **SUPPORTING House Bill 2598**. If successful, HB 2598 will prohibit administration of medically important antibiotic to food-producing animals for non-therapeutic purposes. It will also require disclosure of how antibiotics are used on factory farms.

Antibiotic resistance has become a national crisis. In September 2014, President Obama's President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) submitted a 78-page *Report to the President on Combating Antibiotic Resistance*. This report highlights the significant problem that healthcare providers are dealing with: Antibiotic resistance. We are literally running out of antibiotic choices for our ill patients. Some of these patients are immune-compromised. It can truly become a "life or death" situation.

The underlying causes of evolving bacterial resistance are several; however, it is established that antibiotic overuse in animal agriculture plays a role in this problem. Antibiotics overuse in animals can lead to the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria in these animals. Eventually, these bacteria can be introduced to humans in retail meat products. In addition, humans who have contact with these animals (such as farm workers, poultry workers) have a higher risk of being colonized with antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria.

At OHSU, we are already challenged with patients who are suffering from infections caused by highly-resistant bacteria. Some are children fighting Cystic Fibrosis who require many antibiotics to treat their chronic lung infections, and some are adults who have been exposed to resistant bacteria in nursing homes or healthcare facilities. We recently treated a pediatric patient with pyelonephritis (a kidney infection) caused by a multi-drug resistant E. coli, and the only option was an IV antibiotic. There were literally no oral antibiotic options that would cure her infection.

As we look to the future, we (as a community) must work together to do *everything* we can to curtail the increasing rates of multi-drug resistant bacteria. It must be a multi-prong approach. Our ultimate strategy should be to decrease the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria in both humans and animals. This bill would help us towards that goal.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judith Guzman-Cottrill".

Judith A. Guzman-Cottrill, DO
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