



September 14, 2016

Bruce Gellin, MD, MPH, Designated Federal Officer  
Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Submitted via email

Dear Dr. Gellin,

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), an organization representing 124,900 physicians and medical students, I write to share our support for the President's Advisory Council to Combat Antibiotic Resistance. The following are comments submitted in association with the September 19 meeting as [announced](#) in the August 18 *Federal Register*.

Antibiotic resistance is a serious public health crisis and addressing it is a priority for family physicians. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) 2013 *Threats Report*, two million people acquire serious infections from bacteria that are resistant to one or more antibiotics. According to CDC's 2014 *Vital Signs* report, more coordination is needed between health systems and public health departments. The AAFP supports these recommendations as necessary to prevent Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) infections, which have spread significantly over the past 15 years.

Family physicians understand that we have an important role to play in stemming antibiotic resistance. In 2015, the AAFP joined the One Health Initiative. The organization has worked to educate members about antibiotic stewardship through the *Get Smart about Antibiotics Week* activities and [Choosing Wisely](#) campaign. As the Council continues to address prevention and stewardship issues, we urge you to consider strategies for increasing participation among primary care physicians. We also urge you to examine ways medical societies can help their members leverage better use health care technology to promote best practices.

We appreciate you considering these comments. For more information, please contact Sonya Clay, Government Relations Representative, at 202-232-9033 or [sclay@aafp.org](mailto:sclay@aafp.org).

Sincerely,

Robert Wergin, MD, FAAFP, Board Chair

[www.aafp.org](http://www.aafp.org)

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