



Kriss Worthington

Councilmember, City of Berkeley, District 7
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CONSENT CALENDAR

September 9, 2014

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Subject: Support HR 1150 Protection of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act/Prevention of Antibiotic Resistance Act

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution calling upon the federal government to: 1) stop the misuse of antibiotics in factory farms; 2) support the Protection of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (PAMTA)/Prevention of Antibiotic Resistance Act (PARA); and 3) send a letter to Congresswoman Barbara Lee and US Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein to thank them for their leadership on calling for a ban on the non-therapeutic use of antibiotics in livestock agriculture and to co-sponsor the PAMTA/PARA.

BACKGROUND:

Antibiotics are widely used by doctors in the medical field. Both animals and humans overuse antibiotics. This results in a loss of its effectiveness because bacteria evolve to become resistant to antibiotics. These traits can be transferred to other bacteria, making bacterial infections more difficult to treat as the few antibiotic medicines that are available for medical use become less effective.

In the United States, over 80% of antibiotics are used on livestock, predominantly on factory farms. Factory farms practice non-therapeutic uses of antibiotics and use these drugs for growth promotion and disease prevention rather than to treat sick animals. Daily low doses of antibiotics create ideal conditions for growth of antibiotic resistant bacteria and allow factory farms to keep animals in crowded and unsanitary conditions that are detrimental to these animals and the environment.

The Protection of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (PAMTA) co-sponsored by Congresswoman Barbara Lee, and the Prevention of Antibiotics Resistance Act (PARA) introduced by Senator Dianne Feinstein and co-sponsored by Senator Barbara Boxer, would require the FDA to reevaluate animal feed approvals with antibiotics. Approved antibiotics that would be viewed as unsafe from resistance would be canceled or eliminated to reduce the promotion of antibiotic resistance.

More information at: <http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/reports/antibiotic-resistance-101-how-antibiotic-misuse-on-factory-farms-can-make-you-sick>

http://www.ucsus.org/assets/documents/food_and_agriculture/pamta-endorsers-by-sector.pdf

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-113hr1150ih/pdf/BILLS-113hr1150ih.pdf>

http://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/files/serve/?File_id=9e4fb788-a775-4758-8945-5216fd726069

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:

Reduction of unsanitary conditions of factory farms that harm the environment.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: Minimal.

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Attachments:

1. Resolution
2. Letter to Congresswoman Barbara Lee
3. Letter to Senators Diane Feinstein and Barbara Boxer

RESOLUTION NO.

STOP THE MISUSE OF ANTIBIOTICS IN FACTORY FARMS AND SUPPORT THE PROTECTION OF ANTIBIOTICS FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT ACT (PAMTA)/PREVENTION OF ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE ACT (PARA)

WHEREAS, eighty percent of the antibiotics sold in the United States are used in livestock production, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that most of those antibiotics are used irresponsibly; and

WHEREAS, low doses of antibiotics are routinely fed to livestock for growth promotion and disease prevention to compensate for crowded, unsanitary conditions, in a practice known as “non-therapeutic use”; and

WHEREAS, “Non-therapeutic use” creates ideal conditions for the development of antibiotic resistant bacteria; and

WHEREAS, antibiotic resistant bacteria on livestock operations are known to spread to retail meat, farmers and farm workers, and rural environments; and

WHEREAS, antibiotic resistance in pathogens due to non-therapeutic use of antibiotics in livestock production has been a public health concern since the 1960s; and

WHEREAS, antibiotic resistant bacteria have been the cause of several food-borne illness outbreaks, including a 2011 outbreak of antibiotic resistant *Salmonella* in ground turkey that sickened 136 people, hospitalized 37, and killed one and led to the third largest meat recall in the USDA’s records and a 2013 outbreak of antibiotic resistant *Salmonella* in chicken that sickened 416 people and hospitalized 162; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that at least two million Americans suffer from antibiotic resistant bacterial infections each year and twenty-three thousand Americans die from those infections; and

WHEREAS, the medical and social costs of antibiotic-resistance infections in just one hospital for one year have been estimated to be between \$13 million and \$18 million; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has limited non-therapeutic uses of two classes of antibiotics, but otherwise largely relied on voluntary guidance to attempt to reduce overuse of antibiotics in livestock production, despite regular acknowledgements that non-therapeutic use and the development of antibiotic resistant bacteria poses a significant public health threat.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Berkeley that on the 9th day of September 2014, the City of Berkeley supports a statewide and national ban on non-therapeutic uses of antibiotics in livestock production.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Berkeley supports the Protection of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (PAMTA)/Prevention of Antibiotic Resistance Act (PARA).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley will send a letter to our State Representatives, Congressional Representative and U.S. Senators calling for a ban on the non-therapeutic use of antibiotics in livestock agriculture and for them to co-sponsor the PAMTA/PARA.

September 10, 2014

Congresswoman Barbara Lee
2267 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Barbara Lee,

The City of Berkeley thanks you for sponsoring the Protection of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act. We appreciate your support of the state-wide and national ban on non-therapeutic uses of antibiotics in livestock production. According to Union of Concerned Scientists, 80% of antibiotics are sold in the United States and used in livestock production irresponsibly. Antibiotics are used to kill or prevent bacteria from spreading, but factory farms abuse these medications for growth promotion. As a result, the overuse of antibiotics contributes to increased bacterial resistance to antibiotics. Antibiotic resistant bacteria are widely spread amongst farms, individuals who work in farms, rural areas, and meat produced in those regions.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention reported that at least two million Americans suffered from bacterial infections each year, and about 23,000 Americans died from those infections. The annual medical and social costs for the antibiotics in a single hospital cost approximately 13 million to 18 million dollars.

This legislation will help in the long-term to slow antibiotic resistance in bacteria and protect the environment. On behalf of the City of Berkeley, we appreciate your leadership on Protection of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act and thank you for your continued leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

The Berkeley City Council

September 10, 2014

Senator Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein,

The City of Berkeley thanks you for sponsoring the Prevention of Antibiotic Resistance Act. We appreciate your support of the state-wide and national ban on non-therapeutic uses of antibiotics in livestock production. According to Union of Concerned Scientists, 80% of antibiotics are sold in the United States and used in livestock production irresponsibly. Antibiotics are used to kill or prevent bacteria from spreading, but factory farms abuse these medications for growth promotion. As a result, the overuse of antibiotics contributes to increased bacterial resistance to antibiotics. Antibiotic resistant bacteria are widely spread amongst farms, individuals who work in farms, rural areas, and meat produced in those regions.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention reported that at least two million Americans suffered from bacterial infections each year, and about twenty-three thousand Americans died from those infections. The annual medical and social costs for the antibiotics in a single hospital cost approximately 13 million to 18 million dollars.

This legislation will help in the long-term to slow antibiotic resistance in bacteria and protect the environment. On behalf of the City of Berkeley, we appreciate your leadership on Prevention of Antibiotic Resistance Act and thank you for your continued leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

The Berkeley City Council