

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 9, 2013

Contact: Katie Andriulli (202) 478-6138
kandriulli@mrss.com

**Keep Antibiotics Working Hails Introduction of Senate Legislation
Aimed at Improving Transparency in Public Reporting of Antibiotics
Used in Farm Animals**

*Bi-Partisan Bill, the Antimicrobial Data Collection Act, Would Help Shed Light on
Growing Public Health Threat of Antibiotic Overuse*

Washington, D.C. – Keep Antibiotics Working, a coalition of health, consumer, agricultural, environmental, animal welfare and other advocacy groups, came out in strong support today for the Antimicrobial Data Collection Act, introduced yesterday by Senators Diane Feinstein, Kirsten Gillibrand and Susan Collins. This important legislation would require the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to improve both the collection and public reporting of information on how antibiotics are used in food animal production. Similar legislation, the Delivering Antimicrobial Transparency in Animals (DATA) Act, was introduced in the House of Representatives by Henry Waxman and Louise Slaughter in February.

Prominent medical and scientific groups have noted that antibiotic resistance is a growing public health crisis that is driven by antibiotic overuse, making better information about how these important drugs are being used all the more vital.

“More and better data are needed to understand how and why antibiotics are being used in such large quantities on farms – 70% of overall use in the U.S.,” said Steven Roach, Public Health Program Manager for the Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT). “This data is also needed to measure the effect of FDA’s efforts to reduce inappropriate antibiotic use in food production. If passed, this legislation will bring some desperately needed transparency to how medically important antibiotics are being used on farms.”

If you’d like to connect with Steven Roach or other members of the Keep Antibiotics Working coalition for comment, please contact Katie Andriulli at kandriulli@mrss.com or (202) 478-6138.

###

Keep Antibiotics Working (KAW) is a coalition of health, consumer, agricultural, environmental, humane, and other advocacy groups with more than 11 million supporters. Learn more at www.keepantibioticsworking.com.