KEEP ANTIBIOTICS WORKING FAULTS SENATE PANEL FOR REJECTING NEW TRANSPARENCY MEASURES ON ANIMAL DRUG SALES

Public health advocates supported new antibiotic sales reporting provisions in Animal Drug User Fee Act

Washington, D.C. – Keep Antibiotics Working (KAW) – a coalition of organizations dedicated to reducing the overuse of antibiotics in food producing animals – today issued the following statement after the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee rejected a proposed provision that would strengthen U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reporting of antibiotic sales. Such reporting would help verify for the public which antibiotics are sold for use in livestock, how many are used, and how they are being used.

“At a time when Americans increasingly are becoming ill from bacteria that cannot be treated with commonly used antibiotics, we need leadership to protect the public health. Today, the Senate HELP Committee failed that leadership test. The Committee had an opportunity to adopt critical, yet very reasonable, accountability and transparency measures that would strengthen how sales data on antibiotics for food animals are collected and reported to the public. Instead, the Committee sided with industry, keeping the public in the dark and unsure of the extent of routine antibiotic use on farms,” said Richard Wood, Chair, Keep Antibiotics Working.

Wood added, “We thank Senators Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) for their leadership on this issue and urge others in Congress to work to curb the routine overuse of antibiotics on farms.”

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

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