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Keep Antibiotics Working Applauds Reintroduction of Delivering Antimicrobial Transparency in Animals (DATA) Act in the House

Bill addresses gaps in FDA reporting on use of medically important antibiotics in food animals

Washington, DC -- Today, Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY) reintroduced the Delivering Antimicrobial Transparency in Animals (DATA) Act, which directs the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to enhance its collection and reporting on antibiotic use in food animals. Medically important antibiotics sold for use in food animals rose by 20% between 2009 and 2013. Limitations in the data FDA currently collects from the drug makers lets us know only that total sales are rising, but not why, or even which species of animal drives those sales.

The DATA Act would close this data gap by requiring corporations that raise large numbers of animals to share information with FDA on antibiotic use that they already collect. This information is needed to better understand why use is going up and to monitor how FDA's efforts to reduce use are working.

Steven Roach, senior analyst for Keep Antibiotics Working (KAW), a coalition of health, consumer, agricultural, environmental, animal welfare, and other advocacy groups, issued the following statement in response:

"In the absence of more effective FDA guidance, stronger action by Congress is essential to address the growing crisis of antibiotic-resistance.

Keep Antibiotics Working applauds Congresswoman Slaughter's continued leadership and urge her colleagues to support the DATA Act, which would do much to improve how FDA collects and reports on antibiotic use in food animals, increasing transparency and the federal government's focus on consumer safety in the process."

If you'd like to connect with members of the Keep Antibiotics Working coalition for further comment, please contact Katie Andriulli at kandriulli@mrss.com or (917) 438-4605.

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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.