



# Vote NO on PAMTA

*Policy Ignores Science in Favor of Politics*



## Problems with the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (PAMTA)

- ▶ PAMTA—HR 1549—claims to address antibiotics resistance, but ignores the complex issues behind the problem and tries to score political points instead of providing real solutions.
- ▶ PAMTA would stop veterinarians and producers from preventing disease in livestock, which would ultimately harm animal welfare, animal health, food safety, and food security.
- ▶ Prevention of disease is a cornerstone in both human and animal medicine. Taking away this tool undermines preventative medicine, and could ultimately lead to increased antibiotic use.

## Antimicrobial Resistance: The Facts

### **Myth: Antibiotic Use in Livestock Causes Human Resistance**

**Fact:** A tremendous amount of international research has been done on the topic and to date there is no scientific evidence that using antimicrobials in livestock causes resistance in humans.

### **Myth: There are No Controls in Place for Animal Antibiotics**

**Fact:** FDA reviews the human health impacts of individual animal drugs based on science and risk assessment. All antibiotics used to keep animals healthy have passed the FDA process and have been shown to be safe and effective. This process includes a safety assessment which is more stringent than that of human antibiotics. They have also undergone review for their potential to cause increased antibiotic resistance. To date all of the risk assessments done have indicated there are no scientific reasons to remove any of the existing approved antimicrobials from the market.

### **Myth: Cattle Producers Use Antibiotics Haphazardly**

**Fact:** Antibiotics are only one tool producers use to keep animals healthy. Good management practices like genetic selection and proper care and nutrition of animals are the first line of defense to prevent and control disease and help minimize the use of antimicrobials. Additionally, for decades cattle producers have followed guidelines for judicious use of antibiotics built upon recommendations from the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Association of Bovine Practitioners and the Academy of Veterinary Consultants.

### **Myth: Animals Need Antibiotics because they are Raised in Crowded, Unsanitary Conditions**

**Fact:** Just like people get sick more often when we are around new people and new germs (for instance, in schools and airports), animals are more vulnerable to diseases when they come into contact with new animals. Cattle producers take pride in raising healthy animals in clean and safe conditions with plenty of space for movement. Preventative medicine helps keep animals healthy and strong.

### **Myth: Banning Animal Antibiotics Proved Successful in Europe**

**Fact:** The result of the non-scientific removal of antibiotics used as growth promoters in Europe is clear: increased animal disease, increased use of therapeutic antibiotics, and no improvement in human antibiotic resistance patterns. What's more, PAMTA would actually remove a broader range of drugs from the market than those banned in Europe. In Denmark, the use of antibiotics to treat animal disease doubled. In The Netherlands, antibiotic use increased in the face of increased animal disease.

### **Myth: Cattle Producers are Unconcerned with Antibiotic Resistance**

**Fact:** Cattle producers take the issue of antimicrobial resistance very seriously, and continually work internationally with veterinarians, animal scientists and researchers to improve our knowledge of this complex question, ensure the safest and judicious use of antimicrobials as one tool to maintain cattle health and to ensure food safety.