

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**KEEP ANTIBIOTICS WORKING HAILS INTRODUCTION OF VITAL
LEGISLATION TO PROTECT ANTIBIOTICS AND OUR HEALTH**

*Bipartisan Senate Bill, the Preventing Antibiotic Resistance Act of 2013, would Amend
the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to Curb Routine Antibiotic Misuse in
Healthy Animals*

Washington, D.C. – Keep Antibiotics Working, a coalition of health, consumer, agricultural, environmental, animal welfare, and other advocacy groups, has come out in strong support of the [Preventing Antibiotic Resistance Act of 2013](#) (PAR) introduced today by Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), and co-sponsored by Sens. Susan Collins (R-ME), Jack Reed (D-RI), Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Barbara Boxer (D-CA). The legislation is needed to address the growing threat of dangerous, antibiotic resistant bacteria, including [foodborne microorganisms](#) such as *Enterococcus* and *Salmonella*, which are found in over 81% of raw ground turkey and 55% of raw ground beef sold in U.S. supermarkets, according to [public interest group analysis](#) of U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) data.

Antibiotics are routinely given to food animals in their feed and water to keep them from getting sick in overcrowded, unsanitary, and high-stress conditions. The PAR Act would require the FDA to phase out the use of medically important antibiotics in food animals that are not sick unless such use is proven to be safe. The legislation covers only those antibiotics that are critically important for human health, many of which were approved for use in animal agriculture decades ago and have never been evaluated for safety with respect to antibiotic resistance. The legislation allows the continued use of antibiotics to treat sick animals.

“We have entered into an age where common bacterial diseases are once again becoming untreatable,” said Steven Roach, Senior Analyst for Keep Antibiotics Working today in a statement. “The PAR Act is desperately needed to reduce the dangerous overuse of antibiotics on farms, which leads to the emergence and spread of superbugs.”

Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (D-NY) introduced [similar legislation](#), the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (PAMTA), in the House in March.

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.

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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.