



The Campaign to End Antibiotic Overuse

www.KeepAntibioticsWorking.org

November 22, 2021

Dear Secretary Becerra,

Thank you for hosting the meeting where we discussed the antibiotic resistance crisis. Keep Antibiotics Working (KAW) appreciates the Agency's commitment to using a One Health approach to mitigate the serious threat of antibiotic resistance, and to address the overuse of antibiotics - the chief driver of resistance. KAW would like to work with you to, as you stated in the meeting, get a grip on the use of these drugs in animals. We have already shared with your staff additional information on the collection of data from feed mills and hope to work with your office more on this in the new year.

More broadly, KAW looks forward to ongoing dialogue and partnership with your office. We urge the continued engagement of you and your leadership team with other federal agencies and with Congress to bolster initiatives to combat antibiotic resistance. We would reiterate the important leadership roles that yourself and HHS might immediately exercise to advance the public health response to the 'slow moving' resistance pandemic, even as you continue to coordinate those efforts with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Your opening of the next PACCARB meeting provides an excellent opportunity to provide this leadership. We also look forward to confirmation of a new Food and Drug Administration Commissioner who can partner with you to ensure that long-overdue action takes place to more robustly track antibiotic use and to more effectively tackle antibiotic overuse in food-animal production.

We would like to reiterate our additional two priority asks that go beyond data collection:

- 1) Announce a numeric and time-bound, national goal to reduce non-human uses of medically important antibiotics, especially in food-animal production. We recommend a 50% reduction in sales of these precious medicines for use in food-producing animals by 2025 from 2009 when the FDA started reporting these sales.
- 2) Ensure more urgent FDA action to curb the routine administration of antibiotics to herds where there are not sick animals, including requiring that all medically important antibiotics administered to animals have limited durations of use that are short enough to protect human health.

We thank you for your commitment to protecting public health and welcome the opportunity to assist your office in actions to combat ABR in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Roach".

Steve Roach, Safe and Healthy Food Program Director, Food Animal Concerns Trust, on behalf of Keep Antibiotics Working