

January 30, 2015

The Honorable Peter Roskam
2246 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Roskam:

On behalf of California Healthcare Institute (CHI) – the statewide public policy organization representing California’s leading biomedical innovators, including over 275 medical device, diagnostic, biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, research universities and private, non-profit institutes, and venture capital firms – I am writing to express our strong support for the *Developing an Innovative Strategy for Antimicrobial Resistant Microorganisms (DISARM) Act* of 2015 to promote research and development into needed new antimicrobial products.

As you know, drug-resistant infections and related morbidity and mortality are on the rise in the United States and around the world. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has defined antimicrobial resistance as a major public health issue, and the World Health Organization (WHO) has identified it as one of the three greatest threats to human health. Alarming, not only is antibiotic resistance on the rise, but emerging pathogens are seen in ever-growing populations. Newly identified pathogens are resistant to a broader panel of drugs and sometimes to entire classes of antibiotic agents. Yet, due to the incredible difficulty and uncertainty the biomedical industry has faced in bringing new therapies to market, the drug development pipeline has not kept pace with demand.

Your legislation follows on the success of the 2012 *Generating Antibiotic Incentives Now (GAIN) Act*, also supported by CHI, which addressed the FDA regulatory framework pertaining to antimicrobials. In order to further encourage and promote needed antimicrobial research, the *DISARM Act* would modify the existing Medicare New Technology Add-On Payment (NTAP) program to target products designed to treat the most dangerous bacterial and fungal pathogens. By addressing payment and delivery mechanisms, the *DISARM Act* compliments GAIN’s FDA-related reforms and enhances the elements key to product development decisions of investors and companies alike.

We applaud your leadership of this legislation which will remove barriers to the research and development of new antibiotics to effectively treat resistant infections. CHI is pleased to join a broad group of stakeholders in endorsing the *DISARM Act* of 2015.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. Please let me know if CHI can be of any assistance to you – I can be reached at gillenwater@chi.org or (202) 974-6313.

Sincerely,



Todd E. Gillenwater
Senior Vice President – Public Policy