

MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 29-16

INTRODUCED BY: Resident & Fellows Section

SUBJECT: Antibiotic Resistance due to Non-therapeutic use of Antibiotics in Agriculture

Whereas, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, each year at least two million Americans contract antibiotic-resistant infections, at least 23,000 of those infections prove fatal, and \$55 billion is lost each year in the U.S. due to excess hospital costs and lost productivity; and

Whereas, the World Health Organization has stated, “A post-antibiotic era – in which common infections and minor injuries can kill – far from being an apocalyptic fantasy, is instead a very real possibility for the 21st Century;” and

Whereas, up to 70% of medically important antibiotics in the U.S. are sold for use in livestock; and

Whereas, antibiotic prescriptions issued for humans in the U.S. dropped by 6% from 2009-2013, while antibiotic use for animals increased by 23% from 2009-2014; and

Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Public Health Association, the Institute of Medicine at the National Academies of Science and the Infectious Diseases Society of America have all expressed concern about the contribution to antibiotic resistance by the use of human antibiotics in agriculture; and

Whereas the American Academy of Pediatrics has stated that antibiotics “should be used in food-producing animals only to treat and control infectious diseases and not to promote growth or to prevent disease routinely;” and

Whereas the World Health Organization has stated the need to “[e]nsure that antibiotics given to animals...are only used to control or treat infectious diseases;” and

Resolved, that MedChi support legislation to combat antimicrobial resistance by curbing routine antibiotic use in food animal production through measures including but not limited to (1) establishing a comprehensive and actionable data collection framework¹ with DHMH collecting and analyzing data; (2) restricting the routine use of antibiotics with very limited or no exemptions and with DHMH providing oversight and enforcement.

Fiscal Note: Included in existing lobbying budget.

¹ This data collection framework should include collection of primary indication of use, resistance, sales, prescribing and geographic (farm, location, etc) data.