

January 13, 2026

Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

On behalf of 65 organizations, we write to request that the President's Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic Resistance (PACCARB) meet as soon as possible. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a growing threat to public health, patient safety and national security. In the US, patients develop more than 2.8 million antibiotic-resistant infections each year and AMR contributes to more than 160,000 deaths each year. Growing antimicrobial resistance jeopardizes the availability of many types of health care that carry a risk of infection, including cancer chemotherapy, organ transplants, hip and knee replacements, Cesarean sections and more.

AMR is a complex problem and addressing AMR requires collaboration across human health, agricultural and environmental sectors and coordination across the federal government. PACCARB is a federal advisory committee that was established in 2014 to address this growing problem. Authorized by the Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019, the committee convenes private sector stakeholders and federal agencies to provide information, advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to help ensure that U.S. government programs and policies to combat antimicrobial resistance are as effective and efficient as possible. Further, many private sector stakeholders utilize PACCARB reports and recommendations to inform strategies to address AMR at their own health care facilities, farms, companies and more.

The PACCARB was scheduled to meet in late January 2025 to develop recommendations for the 2025-2030 National Action Plan for Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria, but the meeting was canceled with the transition in administration. Stakeholder organizations are deeply concerned that the meeting has not yet been rescheduled, slowing the pace of our national response to AMR. We urge HHS to convene a PACCARB meeting as soon as possible.

Thank you,

AdvaMedDx  
Alliance for Aging Research  
Alpha-1 Foundation  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association of Avian Pathologists  
American Association of Bovine Practitioners  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners  
American Association of Swine Veterinarians

American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Institute of Biological Sciences  
American Pharmacists Association  
American Society for Microbiology  
American Society of Transplant Surgeons  
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene  
American Thoracic Society  
AMR Action Fund  
Animal Health Institute  
Antibiotic Resistance Action Center, the George Washington University  
Arizona Bioindustry Association, Inc. (AZBio)  
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology  
Association of Public Health Laboratories  
AVAC  
Biocom  
bioMerieux Inc.  
BioNJ  
Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO)  
BioUtah  
BioVersys AG  
BUGWORKS RESEARCH INC  
Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI)  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Danaher Diagnostics  
Earthjustice  
EpiX Analytics  
Food Animal Concerns Trust  
Gerontological Society of America  
Global AMR R&D Hub  
HealthHIV  
HIV Medicine Association  
Humane Veterinary Medical Alliance (HumaneVMA)  
Immune Deficiency Foundation  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
Kathera Bioscience, Inc  
Lakewood-Amedex Biotherapeutics Inc.  
Life Sciences PA  
Making-A-Difference in Infectious Diseases (MAD-ID)  
Microbion Corporation  
Musculoskeletal Infection Society (MSIS)  
National Institute of Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Education  
NC Environmental Justice Network

NTM Info & Research, Inc.  
One Health Trust  
Partnership to Fight Infectious Disease  
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society  
Peggy Lillis Foundation  
San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Sepsis Alliance  
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America  
Society of Critical Care Medicine  
Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists (SIDP)  
Treatment Action Group  
Trust for America's Health