

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 Combatting 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