

Bill Summary for H.R. 3266
Preservation of Essential Antibiotics for Human Diseases Act of 1999

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Section 1. Short Title. Preservation of Essential Antibiotics for Human Diseases Act of 1999.

Section 2. Findings and Purpose.

Summary of findings:

- Several essential antibiotics that are used in humans to treat infectious diseases, or are related to antibiotics used in humans, are also used in animal feed in subtherapeutic amounts to make animals gain weight more rapidly.
- Recent scientific evidence shows that using those antibiotics in livestock feed fosters the emergence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Infections caused in humans by these bacteria can then be hard to treat.
- In 1997, the World Health Organization recommended that antibiotics used to treat humans should not also be used to promote animal growth, although they could still be used to treat ill animals.
- In 1998, the National Academy of Sciences concluded "there is a link between the use of antibiotics in food animals, the development of bacterial resistance to these drugs, and human disease."
- In April 1999, the General Accounting office reported that resistant strains of three specific organisms that cause illness or disease in humans -- salmonella, campylobacter, and e. coli — are linked to the use of antibiotics in animals.
- Removing selected antibiotics that are essential **to human** health from subtherapeutic use will not hinder the raising of livestock, because non-microbial growth promoters, alternative antibiotics, and alternative husbandry practices are available.

Purpose of this Act: **to ensure that certain antimicrobial drugs essential to human health are not used subtherapeutically in food animals unless there is a reasonable certainty of no harm to human health due to the development of antimicrobial resistance as a result of such use.**

Section 3. Requiring Proof of Safety

(a) This subsection pertains to approval of new antimicrobial drugs for animals. The Act would authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to deny approval of a new antimicrobial animal drug if she/he is unable to determine, based on data submitted by the applicant, that there

is a reasonable certainty of no harm to human health due to the development of antimicrobial resistance which is attributable to the subtherapeutic use of the drug.

(b) This subsection pertains to antimicrobial drugs that have already been approved for subtherapeutic use in livestock. Approval will be withdrawn two years after enactment of this bill unless, based on data submitted by the applicant, the Secretary determines that there is a reasonable certainty of no harm to human health due to the development of antimicrobial resistance which is attributable to the subtherapeutic use of the drug. If necessary, the Secretary may withdraw approval sooner than two years.

(c) Definition:

Subtherapeutic use means any use of an antimicrobial drug in animals other than the high level, short term use to treat ill animals.