



**National Military and Veterans Alliance**  
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March 24, 2015

The Honorable Orrin Hatch  
United States Senate  
104 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Bennet  
United States Senate  
458 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hatch and Senator Bennet:

On behalf of the National Military and Veterans Alliance, a nonpartisan policy and advocacy organization composed of military associations and veterans organizations, we write to thank you for your leadership in addressing the threat of antibiotic resistant bacteria and to commend your introduction of S. 185, the Promise for Antibiotics and Therapeutics for Health (PATH) Act.

Antibiotic-resistant bacteria are infecting our military, veterans and fellow citizens at an alarming rate, and in far too many cases, we do not have the drugs to treat them. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that two million infections with antibiotic-resistant bacteria occur each year in the United States and 23,000 Americans die as a result.

These dangerous bacteria pose a particular threat to the military. Soldiers who once died from their battlefield wounds are now surviving those injuries but are succumbing to potentially lethal, drug-resistant infections. In fact, more than a third of wounded warriors injured in Iraq and Afghanistan developed a bacterial or fungal infection, according to the Department of Defense.

Unfortunately, the pace of development of new antibiotics to fight these superbugs lags far behind the pace of the development of the resistance that makes them so dangerous.

Antibiotic resistance presents a growing threat. Without new antibiotics that combat these bacteria, routine infections eventually could become life-threatening.

The PATH Act is necessary to open new pathways to bring antibiotics to people who desperately need them. It directs the Food and Drug Administration to approve new antibiotics on a more limited, smaller study than other antibiotics to reach patients more quickly and save lives.

The PATH Act also provides several important safeguards. It requires a drug's label to include special designation from FDA indicating that the drug is intended for use only in a limited, high-risk population. It also requires that the Department of Health and Human Services monitor how these approved antibiotics are being used to preserve effectiveness and safety.

We encourage you to press forward in order to ensure that we have as complete an arsenal of drugs as we can to protect us all against these dangerous pathogens. Too many of our service members have died already because of untreatable superbugs. Without swift action more will meet the same fate.

Please know you have our continued thanks for your efforts on behalf of America's veterans, their families and future generations. We commend your commitment to this necessary legislation and urge its passage.

Sincerely,

American Logistics Association

American Military Retirees Association

American Military Society

American Retirees Association

Army Navy Union

Korean War Veterans Foundation

Military Order of Foreign Wars

Military Order Purple Heart

National Association for Uniformed Services

National Defense Committee

The Flag and General Officers' Network

The Retired Enlisted Association

Vietnam Veterans of America