



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

Paul Plummer, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, DECSRHM
Chair
Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria

Dear Dr. Plummer:

Thank you for your commitment to the Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria (PACCARB) as a member, and now, as Chair. The PACCARB's most recent report highlighted the critical need to incorporate antimicrobial resistance (AMR) into pandemic preparedness and our nation's biodefense plans. As we move forward, we must continue to broaden the ways in which we address AMR, looking not just through a U.S.-centric public health lens, but more broadly to understand AMR through a global One Health lens.

While the U.S. government has made meaningful progress as a leader for global health security, many challenges remain to be addressed to minimize global AMR rates and secondary impacts at the intersection of the human, animal, and environmental sectors. The National Action Plan (NAP) for Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria (CARB) seeks to enhance international capacities to address the emergence, spread, and impact of antibiotic resistance in Goal 5. A key part of this goal, as described in Objective 1, is to "enhance U.S. leadership in the global fight against antibiotic resistance." As we begin to envision the vital next steps of our NAP, we must review the progress made, as well as identify new methods and priorities for advancing U.S. leadership in the global exchange of ideas to achieve sustainable change. This is especially important in the context of supporting all partner nations, particularly low- and middle-income countries.

Therefore, I hereby request the PACCARB provide recommendations on how U.S. government agencies can lead global AMR efforts for sustained action domestically and internationally. The Council should examine the NAP objectives described in Goal 5 and recommend ways in which they can be updated to best position the U.S. as a global leader for CARB. The Council should ensure a One Health approach to this task, identifying opportunities for all three domains. To inform your recommendations, the Council should hold a public meeting in 2023 and invite stakeholders and experts in AMR and global health security to provide insight on the issue. Please prepare a report to present your findings and recommendations no later than May 2024.

It is my hope for the U.S. to be a global leader in reducing AMR and to champion global collaboration on this topic. I look forward to reviewing your recommendations that will inform our work and engagement moving forward.

Sincerely,

Xavier Becerra