

May 22, 2001

The Honorable Sherrod Brown  
United States House of Representatives  
2438 RHOB, Independence & S. Capitol St., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Brown:

On behalf of the American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine, I thank you for introducing H.R. 1771, an antibiotic resistance prevention bill. ACP-ASIM is the nation's largest medical specialty society, representing 115,000 physicians who specialize in internal medicine and medical students.

We believe that the Antibiotic Resistance Prevention Act of 2001 represents an important step forward in beginning to develop a response to the problem of antimicrobial resistance. We are pleased to offer ACP-ASIM's endorsement of this important and timely legislation.

In the spring of 2000, ACP-ASIM launched a major campaign to actively work to reduce antibiotic resistance, a global and complex problem with the potential to affect millions. We are committed to working with all stakeholders to develop responsible and appropriate patterns of antibiotic use. We have worked with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) to address the problem of emerging antibiotic resistance, and we intend to educate our physician members, and through them, patients, about this problem.

The College's initiatives include: expanding content on antibiotic resistance in all education courses the College offers to its members; encouraging and assisting ACP-ASIM chapters to present continuing medical education courses on antibiotic resistance; developing clinical practice guidelines for treating diseases prone to overtreatment by antibiotics, accompanied by patient education pieces; research and prevention studies in ACP-ASIM journals; and monitoring federal, regulatory and legislative efforts in surveillance, research, and education. In addition to these efforts, ACP-ASIM issued a comprehensive list of recommendations for physicians, patients, federal and state government, pharmaceutical manufacturers, and the agricultural community, on how to reduce the threat of antibiotic resistance.

We welcome the opportunity to work with you and the other sponsors of the Antimicrobial Resistance Prevention Act of 2001 on getting legislation enacted and signed into law by President Bush to address the emerging threat of antimicrobial resistance.

Sincerely,

William Hall, MD, FACP

President