



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

AUG 27 2018

Martin J. Blaser, MD  
Chair  
Presidential Advisory Council on  
Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Blaser:

Thank you for your leadership of the Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria (Advisory Council). As you know, the emergence and growth of antibiotic resistance is a major public health challenge. The launch of the National Action Plan (NAP) for Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria (CARB) in 2015 led to enhanced coordination among Federal agencies in pursuit of five broad goals encompassing infection prevention and stewardship, surveillance, diagnostic and treatment innovation, research, and international efforts. The U.S. Government, led by the CARB Task Force, has made meaningful progress toward these goals, increasing implementation of antibiotic stewardship programs, ending the use of medically important antibiotics for food animal growth promotion, and supporting a broad foundation of basic and applied research as well as targeted drug product development.

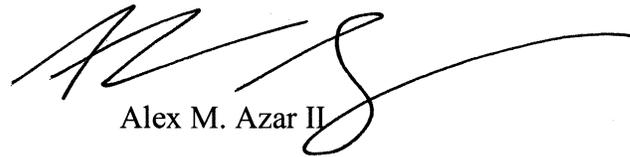
The evolution of antibiotic resistance can be slowed, but it cannot be stopped. While most of the NAP milestones are on target for completion by 2020, opportunities exist to continue this progress. The CARB Task Force will therefore be considering continued and new efforts to address antibiotic resistance beyond 2020. The Task Force plans to renew the NAP for the period 2020-2025, retaining the five major goals while updating the key activities to maximize their achievement. To inform these next steps, the Task Force would benefit from understanding the Advisory Council's views of the current landscape in combating antibiotic resistance. I, therefore, request that the Advisory Council, based on the collective expertise across the sectors you represent, identify significant areas that have emerged since the original NAP was launched in 2015. Please identify between three and five areas within each of the existing five NAP goals and include an appropriate evidence base to support why each area should be considered by the CARB Task Force when developing the next iteration of the NAP. This request does not include a retrospective examination of the existing NAP. Please work with the CARB Task Force to inform the process throughout your assessment.

As the primary external body to inform the Federal government's efforts in this area, your proposed areas should be drawn from a broad range of perspectives, including human, animal, and environmental health sectors. I, therefore, request that you convene a public, in-person stakeholder meeting, as part of a planned Advisory Council meeting, including both invited and open public comments.

By August 1, 2019, the Advisory Council should provide me with a report that concisely summarizes the proceedings and key themes from comments at the public meeting, describes the proposed challenges, and articulates how consideration of these challenges would support further progress toward the NAP's five goals. I look forward to reviewing the report and considering your proposals to inform our work moving forward.

A copy of this letter is being sent to Vice Chair Dr. Lonnie King.

Sincerely,



Alex M. Azar II



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

**AUG 27 2018**

Lonnie J. King, DVM, MS, MPA, ACVPM  
Vice Chair  
Presidential Advisory Council on  
Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. King:

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A copy of this letter is being sent to Chair Dr. Martin Blaser.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex M. Azar II', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alex M. Azar II