

Social Media



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Background



Each year in the United States, more than **two million people** acquire a serious infection that is resistant to one or more of the antibiotics designed to treat such an infection.

As a direct result of these antibiotic-resistant infections, more than **23,000 people die** each year in the United States.

Economic Pressure



Some estimates have shown the cost to the U.S. economy to be as high as \$20 billion in excess direct healthcare costs.

An additional estimate of \$35 billion is charged to society for lost productivity.

Over Prescribing

Even with these alarming statistics, the misuse and overuse of antibiotics continues to drive antibiotic resistance. Up to 50 percent of all antibiotics prescribed for people are not needed or are not optimally effective as prescribed.



If not addressed, antibiotic resistance will result in many antibiotics becoming ineffective, which will jeopardize patients and make routine medical procedures too risky.

International Commitment



The United States has an international commitment to combat antimicrobial resistance after the United Nations set this as a vision, which was reaffirmed in 2017 by the G20.

What is the STAAR Act?



The **Strategies to Address Antimicrobial Resistance Act (the STAAR Act)** takes a multi-faceted approach by strengthening existing federal infrastructure for surveillance, data collection, and research efforts.



Particularly, **it supports the important Prevention Epicenters**, which provides richer opportunities to evaluate new and existing tools, strategies, and evidence-based interventions. Furthermore, the STAAR Act will **facilitate public health research** and assess surveillance strategies for health care settings.



The bill will also further the development and implementation of **antibiotic stewardship initiatives**, which help prescribers know when antibiotics are needed and what the best treatment choices are for a patient. This initiative will help improve the use of the antibiotics and prevent the overuse or misuse of antibiotics.

Where does SHEA stand?

SHEA overwhelmingly endorses the STAAR Act.

The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) strongly believes this legislation will strengthen U.S. efforts to prevent and contain infectious diseases caused by antibiotic resistance while allowing the U.S. to be a leader in addressing antimicrobial resistance.

SHEA continues to urge members of Congress to support the STAAR Act so the U.S. may have the necessary infrastructure to address the critical issue of antimicrobial resistance, which, in the end, will protect patients from life-threatening infections.

What will SHEA do next?

SHEA will continue to track the progress of this legislation and work with other stakeholders to encourage members of Congress to stand behind this important piece of legislation. Now that the STAAR Act has been reintroduced in the 116th Congress, SHEA strongly supports its advancement to be passed by both the Senate and the House and signed by the President so it may be made law.