



September 29, 2014

The Honorable Phil Gingrey  
442 Cannon House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gene Green  
2470 Rayburn House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen Gingrich and Green:

On behalf of the Ambulatory Surgery Center Association (ASCA), representing the interests of the nation's nearly 5,400 Medicare-certified ASCs, we thank you for introducing H.R.3742, the Antibiotic Development to Advance Patient Treatment Act of 2013. As health care providers, we are concerned about the increasing episodes of antibiotic resistance in the community at large and the need to provide very sick patients with potentially lifesaving medications.

While ASCs typically don't treat patients with resistance to antibiotics, we support developing new pathways for antibiotics and antifungals at the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to make it possible to approve drugs aimed at treating emerging threats in limited and specific populations. Encouraging the development of new drug therapies minimizes the risk of spreading these diseases and makes it easier for patients to fight off potentially life-threatening illnesses.

As new antibiotic resistant infections emerge both domestically and internationally, it is imperative that our scientists and manufacturers have the tools they need to address these dangerous infections as soon as possible and that the FDA be enabled to expedite these advancements in medical care to protect public health.

Again, thank you for recognizing the importance of monitoring and addressing the risk of antibiotic-resistant infections. We welcome further discussion on this issue and look forward to working with you both in the future to ensure patients have access to safe and effective medications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Prentice", is written over a thin horizontal line.

William Prentice  
Chief Executive Officer