

NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE, Inc.
Rear Admiral [Ret.] James J. Carey, National Chairman
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30 April 2014

The Honorable Phil Gingrey, M.D.

The Honorable Gene Green

Dear Representatives Gingrey and Green:

The NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE, Inc., an official 501.c.4 Military Veterans Organization of U. S. Armed Forces veterans, now writes to you in strong support of HR 3742, The Antibiotic Development to Advance Patient Treatment Act of 2013 [ADAPT]. American military personnel and military veterans are dying this very day because they have infectious disease superbugs that existing antibiotics will not kill. The impact of these new superbugs on our American population is staggering: the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently estimated that 2,000,000 infections with antibiotic-resistant bacteria occur each year in the USA, and that 23,000 of our military, veterans, and fellow citizens die as a result.

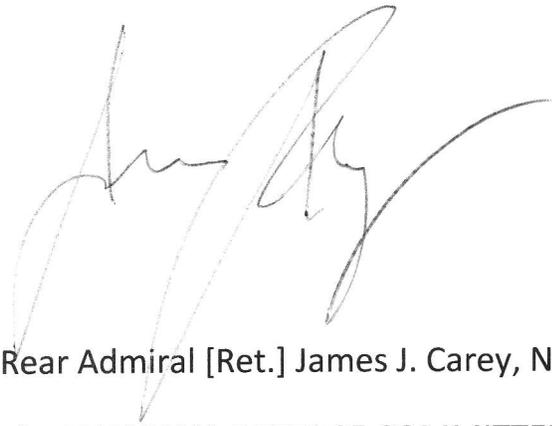
New antibiotics are needed NOW--- TODAY--- so we strongly salute your efforts with HR 3742 to establish a regulatory approval pathway that will expedite these dying patients access to URGENTLY NEEDED new antibacterial medications that are specifically intended to treat serious, life-threatening infections where there exists an immediate unmet medical need. The current-day alarming rise in antibiotic resistance urgently requires a new, multi-prong approach, including streamlining regulatory requirements that now impede approval of treatments in these dying patients, which in addition to U. S. military personnel and military

veterans, now also include our children and grandchildren and our aging parents and grandparents.

As we understand HR 3742, it will direct the Food and Drug Administration [FDA] to establish a regulatory pathway for new antibiotics that treat serious and life threatening infections, meet a currently unmet medical need, and are intended to be used in limited populations of people with no other treatment options. This pathway would target those drugs we need the most. Because the drugs may be studied in smaller populations, clinical trials may be more feasible and development time may be shortened, allowing for potentially faster access to these important treatments. The fact that American military men and women are being saved from their combat wounds of the battlefield only to become the victims of these new untreatable superbugs and die, needs IMMEDIATE ACTION to save those that are not yet dead, and we understand that HR 3742 will help to achieve that.

We salute your efforts and leadership in recognizing that our service men and women and our military war veterans are dying now because HR 3742 is not yet in place as the law, so we strongly and urgently ask your co-sponsors and any other Members of Congress that will join you as co-sponsors once they learn of the urgency of this situation to expedite action on HR 3742, pass it in the House of Representatives, and urge your colleagues in the U. S. Senate to do the same. Way too many of our shipmates and comrades have died already because there is no existing treatment of these new superbugs, and without the passage of HR 3742, they are going to continue to die on a daily basis. That is absolutely unacceptable in the United States of America, where new antibiotics are being researched and developed and need to be used to save the dying today.

With continued thanks for your patriotic efforts on behalf of America's veterans,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James J. Carey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Rear Admiral [Ret.] James J. Carey, National Chairman

The NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE, Inc.

JJC:nbb

Encl: None