

Opening Statement of the Honorable Joseph R. Pitts
Subcommittee on Health
Hearing on “21st Century Cures: Examining Ways to Combat Antibiotic Resistance and
Foster New Drug Development”
September 19, 2014

(As Prepared for Delivery)

According to the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Antimicrobial Resistance: Global Report on Surveillance 2014, “Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is an increasingly serious threat to global public health.”

British Prime Minister David Cameron warned in July that if we do not confront the threat of antibiotic resistance, we could be “cast back into the dark ages of medicine where treatable infections and injuries will kill once again.”

And, just yesterday, the President announced an Executive Order focused on efforts his administration plans to take with regards to the antibiotic resistance issue.

In 2012, this Committee sought to help combat this global threat by passing the GAIN Act as part of the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act of 2012.

The GAIN Act was an important first step in the fight against antibiotic resistance and a great example of how bipartisan collaboration on this committee can save lives.

I want to commend the bipartisan authors that made GAIN possible including Reps. Gingrey, Green, Shimkus, DeGette, Whitfield and Eshoo for their leadership.

I also want to commend the FDA for its role in making GAIN a success since its passage.

But what is clear to many in this room is that GAIN didn’t fully fix the problem and much more is needed if we are to incentivize the type of drug development needed to combat this global threat.

To that end, Congressmen Gingrey and Green have introduced another piece of legislation, the ADAPT Act, which would seek to address problems related to the FDA approval process of antibiotic drugs.

It is one of a series of proposals that warrants serious consideration by this Committee as part of our 21st Century Cures and I want to thank them for their continued efforts in this space.

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