

To: House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
From: Victoria Taylor

March 19, 2015

**RE: Written Testimony in Support of House Bill 2598**

Good Morning,

My name is Victoria Taylor and I'm a sophomore Economics Major at Lewis and Clark College in Portland. Although I'm not originally from Oregon, I have come to view it as my home and I am thrilled to be speaking before you today.

I am fortunate to have only taken antibiotics for minor infections in my lifetime but a close friend of mine, Shanley Mitchell, isn't as lucky. When we were 16 she contracted bacterial meningitis that reached her spinal fluid, forcing the doctors to place her in a medically induced coma and isolation for two weeks. For those two weeks she was given dexamethasone through an IV to fight lethal infection and fortunately—they worked. Now, four years later, dexamethasone is one of many antibiotics that are less effective because of resistant bacteria.

So, I applied for an internship with OSPIRG at the beginning of the semester because I think educating the public on issues they might not be aware of is incredibly important. I also enjoy working on campaigns and talking about politics. I actually first started volunteering for campaigns when I was 11 back in Florida, knocking on doors with clipboards and making phone calls for Representative Clay Shaw.

I was excited to start calling OSPIRG's members a few weeks ago and talk to them about our Save Antibiotics Campaign. The large number of Oregonians who were already aware of this pressing health issue and were willing to act immediately to preserve these life-saving drugs took me by surprise. And when I asked if they would be willing to express their concerns about the future of antibiotics by calling their representatives, they were thrilled. They were excited not only because this is a pressing health issue we can take steps to fix, but also because many of them realized this bill would make Oregon a leader in protecting public health.

This issue will not go away. We need to address it now because if we don't, more people will die every year. The actions of a handful of people are adversely affecting the health of millions of Oregonians. If factory farms continue to administer unnecessary antibiotics to their animals daily, they will stop working for people that actually need them like my friend Shanley.

Luckily, I have not come in contact with any antibiotic resistant bacteria, but that's not to say it's not possible for me, or anyone in this room to. Today I stand before you asking each of you to value the health and future of your constituents and their children over that of special interests and to please pass House Bill 2598. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully Submitted,

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