

Raszka Shelley

From: Gallagher Chuck
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 7:41 AM
To: Raszka Shelley
Subject: FW: [SPAM] testimony on HB 2598 and SB 920 from Oregon Physician/Educator

From: Martin Donohoe [<mailto:martindonohoe@phsj.org>]
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 1:37 AM
To: Gallagher Chuck
Subject: [SPAM] testimony on HB 2598 and SB 920 from Oregon Physician/Educator

Testimony in Favor of Oregon HB 2598 and SB 920 – Protecting Antibiotics

My name is Martin Donohoe. I am a physician, adjunct faculty in the MPH program at PSU, author of a textbook in Public Health, have published numerous articles covering food safety. I am a co-author of the American Public Health Association's policy statement opposing the use of hormones in the meat and milk supply, and frequently lecture on agricultural antibiotic overuse. Most important, I am single father to a delightful toddler. I submit this testimony on behalf of myself, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, and my patients, because I want to preserve the use of antibiotics for human and animal, and not see a continuation of the rise of antibiotic infections, which limits my options as a clinician who frequently treats patients with severe infections.

In the United States, almost 9 billion animals per year are "treated" to "promote growth," even though the evidence for growth promotion is negligible. Seventy one percent of antibiotics are used non-therapeutically in animals, and such use is up 50% over the last 15 years. According to the World Health Organization, the US leads the world in agricultural antibiotic use.

Many of the antibiotics used in agriculture are the same, or structurally and functionally similar to, antibiotics used in humans – these include penicillin, cephalosporins, tetracyclines, aminoglycosides, erythromycin, clindamycin, and sulfonamides.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 2 million Americans become infected with antibiotic-resistant bacteria, and that at least 23,000 of these die of these infections, each year. Antibiotic-resistant food-borne infections are rising dramatically. The CDC states that "antibiotic use in food animals is the dominant source of antibiotic resistance among food-borne pathogens." Examples of antibiotic resistant infections include fluoroquinolone (e.g., ciprofloxacin)-resistant *Campylobacter*, vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus faecium*, methicillin-resistant *Staph aureus*, and gentamycin- and ciprofloxacin-resistant *E. coli*.

Unfortunately, new antibiotic development is dwindling. World Health Organization Director-General Dr Margaret Chan has proclaimed, "In the absence of urgent corrective and protective actions, the world is heading towards a post-antibiotic era, in which many common infections will no longer have a cure and, once again, kill unabated." As a result of concern over increasing antibiotic-resistant infections, and growing limitations in antibiotic choices, the American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, the Infectious Disease Society, Consumers' Union, and the Union of Concerned Scientists, as well as numerous other groups, oppose non-therapeutic antibiotic use in livestock.

I urge our legislators to pass HB 2598 and SB 920 (“Protecting Antibiotics”), for the sake of my patients and future patients, which could be any of us, since we are all potential victims of serious antibiotic-resistant infections.

Thank you.

Martin Donohoe, MD, FACP

Adjunct Associate Professor, School of Community Health

Portland State University

Member, Social Justice Committee, Physicians for Social Responsibility

Member, Board of Advisors, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility

Senior Physician, Internal Medicine, Kaiser Sunnyside Medical Center

<http://www.publichealthandsocialjustice.org>

<http://www.phsj.org>

martindonohoe@phsj.org