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Contact: Angela Pauly, 202-478-6139-w,
619-606-1150-c, apauly@mrss.com

**Keep Antibiotics Working Praises Amendment
Establishing An Antimicrobial Data Collection Program**

*House Energy and Commerce Committee Includes Data Collection Provisions in
ADUFA*

Keep Antibiotics Working — a national coalition of health, consumer, agricultural, environmental, humane, and other advocacy groups with more than ten million supporters — welcomes the inclusion of data collection provisions in H.R. 6432, the Animal Drug User Fee Act of 2008 (ADUFA), which was passed today out of the Energy and Commerce Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Antimicrobial overuse in both animals and humans is speeding the development of diseases impervious to antibiotics. Getting information on the amounts and kinds of antibiotic uses is fundamental to solving the problem. The provisions approved by the committee require collection by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of data on antimicrobial drugs annually by dosage form, listing the target animal (such as cattle) and production class (such as veal calves), and will include the approved indication for use (such as growth promotion or therapy).

“Collection and dissemination of such data will ensure that the FDA and the public health community receive critical information in a timely manner and usable form,” said Rich Wood, Executive Director of Food Animal Concerns Trust.

“Information on the sales of antimicrobials by species and indication will enhance the ability of the public health community to connect use to the appearance of specific diseases. With that kind of information, agencies will be better able to craft effective interventions that will halt the slide in the efficacy of important human drugs,” Wood added.

“Although the amendment does nothing to reduce the enormous, unnecessary use of antibiotics, like penicillin and tetracycline in animal agriculture, it will give the public health community a new and important handle on the problem — and that’s a start,” said Dr. Margaret Mellon, Senior Scientist at the Union of Concerned Scientists.

"KAW is grateful to Health Subcommittee Chairman Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and others on the committee, especially Representatives Henry Waxman (D-CA) and Jim Matheson (D-UT), for their strong leadership on this issue."