

STEERING COMMITTEE

Center for Science
in the Public Interest

Environmental Defense

Food Animal
Concerns Trust

Humane Society
of the United States

Institute for Agriculture
and Trade Policy

Lymphoma Foundation
of America

National Catholic
Rural Life Conference

Natural Resources
Defense Council

Physicians for Social
Responsibility

Safe Tables Our Priority
(S.T.O.P.)

Sierra Club

Union of Concerned
Scientists

Waterkeeper Alliance

MEDIA ADVISORY FOR APRIL 14TH

Media contact: Bob Liff at 917-287-7089 bliff@mrss.com

**OVERUSE OF ANTIBIOTICS ON THE FARM AND THE EFFECT
ON HUMAN HEALTH HIGHLIGHT INFORMATIONAL
BRIEFINGS IN SENATE, HOUSE**

***SEN. TOM HARKIN, REPS. LOUISE SLAUGHTER AND JAN
SCHAKOWSY HONORARY HOSTS OF BRIEFINGS ON DEVELOPMENT
OF ANTIBIOTIC-RESISTANT MICROBES IN ANIMALS AND HUMANS***

SENATE BRIEFING AT 11:30, HOUSE BRIEFING AT 2:30

Medical health professionals, public health experts and the scientific community are increasingly concerned that the routine use of human antibiotics in the food and water of food animals results in antibiotic-resistant diseases in humans that cause extended hospital stays and increase health care costs. Experts agree that antibiotic resistance is a public health crisis that will only worsen if we don't act now. Panelists at the briefing will discuss the alarming increase in human antibiotic-resistant infections and review the state of the science linking this phenomenon to on-farm non-therapeutic antibiotic use. They will discuss the presence of antibiotic-resistant foodborne pathogens in retail meat, and the emergence of a new strain of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in both humans and hogs which poses risks to U.S. hog farmers, their communities, and the public at-large. The panel will also discuss potential trade implications for U.S. farmers associated with antibiotic use.

Speakers include:

Margaret Mellon, Director, Food and Environment Program, Union of Concerned Scientists

James Johnson, MD, Infectious Diseases expert at VA Medical Center-Minneapolis, Professor of Medicine, University of Minnesota

Maryn McKenna, Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy, University of Minnesota; author, *Superbug: The Fatal Menace of MRSA*

David Wallinga, Director, Food and Health Programs, Institute for Agricultural and Trade Policy

Lance Price, PhD, Director, Center for Metagenomics and Human Health, Translational Genomics Research Institute

**SENATE BRIEFING: 11:30 AM
ROOM 430 DIRKSEN**

**HOUSE BRIEFING: 2:00 PM
ROOM 2359 RAYBURN**

Keep Antibiotics Working (KAW) is a coalition of health, consumer, agricultural, environmental, humane, and other advocacy groups, with more than eleven million supporters, dedicated to the preservation of antibiotics for use in human and animal medicine.