

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

1830 '00 NOV -3 P1:46

October 27, 2000

Dr. Jane E. Henney
Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Room 14-71
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Commissioner Henney:

We are writing to express our strong support for the proposal by the FDA to withdraw approval of fluoroquinolones for use in poultry.

We are concerned about the use in agriculture of antibiotics that are also used in human medicine or are closely related to human-use medicines. Research and monitoring have clearly demonstrated that the occurrence of resistant *Campylobacter* has increased dramatically since the approval of fluoroquinolones. Since fluoroquinolones are used to treat *Campylobacter* in humans, the increase in resistance in these bacteria poses a threat to human health. Rather than using these drugs in livestock, we should preserve them for the treatment of human infections.

Proponents of continued agricultural use of fluoroquinolones argue that greater health benefits can be achieved by reducing pathogen load in the transportation and processing of food animals. While we support changing transportation and processing practices, it is highly unlikely that we can achieve pathogen-free poultry in the foreseeable future. Furthermore, antibiotic resistant pathogens can also spread through direct contact with farmers and other agricultural workers and through environmental pathways. Therefore, we support action by FDA to withdraw its approval of fluoroquinolone use in chickens and turkeys. We also applaud Abbott Laboratories for voluntarily requesting withdrawal of the approval the company received for the use of Sara Flox, a fluoroquinolone, in poultry.

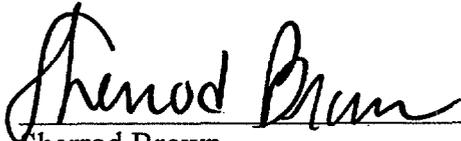
You can be sure we will strongly oppose any legislative attempts to halt FDA's actions to end the use of fluoroquinolones in poultry. Highly effective against a wide range of human diseases, fluoroquinolones are too valuable in human medicine to risk the loss of their effectiveness through use in food animals.

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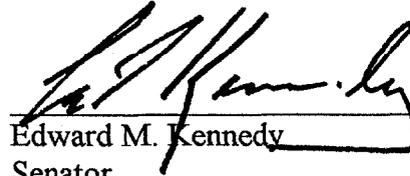
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Thank you for your commitment to public health. We look forward to continuing to work with you to preserve essential antibiotics for human use.

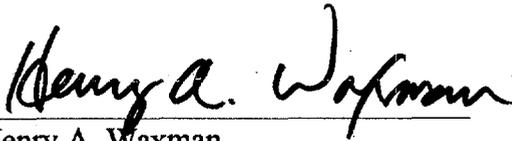
Sincerely,



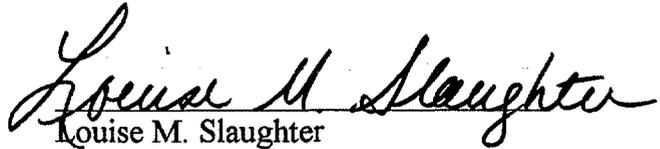
Sherrod Brown
Member of Congress



Edward M. Kennedy
Senator



Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Donna Shalala, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services
Dr. Stephen F. Sundlof, Director, Center for Veterinary Medicine
Mr. Jacob J. Lew, Director, Office of Management and Budget