

CHAPTER 140**(HCR 189)**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION relating to antibiotic resistance awareness.

WHEREAS, antibiotic resistance is emerging as a public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, in 1954, two million pounds of antibiotics were produced in the United States, compared to over 50 million pounds in 2000; and

WHEREAS, despite the extraordinary value of antibiotics, the overuse of these miracle drugs in medicine and agriculture endangers their continued effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, although national clinical practice guidelines do not recommend the use of an antibiotic for viral infections, 50 to 66 percent of doctors' office visits for colds, upper respiratory tract infections, and bronchitis culminated in an antibiotic prescription; and

WHEREAS, patients contribute to the drug-resistant infections by asking for antibiotics when they are not needed, or by not completing the entire course of antibiotics prescribed; and

WHEREAS, each year in the United States, humans consume over 235 million doses of antibiotics, with 20 to 50 percent of the use being unnecessary; and

WHEREAS, while the use of antibiotics among humans is probably the major contributor to the emergence of antibiotic resistance, agricultural uses also pose a problem since over 50 percent of antibiotics produced in the United States are used in livestock production; and

WHEREAS, every time a person takes an antibiotic, sensitive bacteria are killed, but some bacteria may become resistant to the medication and multiply, resulting in the drug becoming ineffective for treating infections caused by that strain of bacteria; and

WHEREAS, antibiotic-resistant microorganisms are becoming an increasing problem for Kentucky residents, especially children; and

WHEREAS, antibiotic-resistant microorganisms cause illness in day-care centers, schools, hospitals, and long-term care facilities; and

WHEREAS, there have been outbreaks of multidrug resistant strains of staphylococcal aureus among football players in Kentucky schools; and

WHEREAS, individuals infected with drug-resistant organisms are more likely to have longer hospital stays and require treatment with more potent antibiotics that may cause severe side effects and be more expensive; and

WHEREAS, the Institutes of Medicine estimated that the annual cost of infections caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria to be four to five billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, antibiotic resistance is a growing menace to all people because the spread means that treatments for common infection will become increasingly limited and expensive or nonexistent; and

WHEREAS, antibiotic-resistant microorganisms present challenges to health care providers and infection control practitioners; and

WHEREAS, the average cost of developing and bring a new prescription drug to market is about \$802 million and usually takes between 10 to 15 years; and

WHEREAS, by teaching the public and health care providers to use antibiotics appropriately, the risk of antibiotic-resistant microorganisms may be reduced; and

WHEREAS, through educational campaigns, the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, hospitals, health care providers, managed care plans, and pharmaceutical companies should unite to prevent the spread of antibiotic-resistant microorganisms in Kentucky;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:

Section 1. This honorable body declares October, 2006 as antibiotic resistance awareness month.

Section 2. The Interim Joint Committee on Health and Welfare is urged to hold hearings at its October, 2006 meeting on topics relating to the use and misuse of antibiotics in the Commonwealth, the emergence of antibiotic resistance, the effect of antibiotic resistance on the cost of health care in the Commonwealth, and recommendations to prevent antibiotic resistance from becoming a public health crisis.

Approved April 4, 2006.