



# Action Alert

**Legislative Alert #112-6: SUPPORT H.R. 2182 and S. 1734,  
Generating Antibiotics Incentives Now Act  
HEALTHCARE**

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**Issue Background:** Men and Women, when they sign up to join the U.S. Military, make the ultimate sacrifice and commitment to our country. They know they may be wounded in the line of duty; however what they don't expect is if they sustain injury, they may contract even a simple infection where there may not be specific drugs that can help them. There's a problem in the field with antibiotic resistance, as new strains of infection have caused popular treatments to have little to no effect.

**Action Required:** Contact your Senators and Representatives and urge them to support H.R. 2182, introduced by Representative Phil Gingrey (R-GA-11) on 15 June 2011 and S. 1734, introduced by Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) on 19 October 2011, the Generating Antibiotics Incentives Now (GAIN) Act. The bills would provide incentives for the development of qualified infectious disease products.

**Details (To Be Put Into Letter):**

The GAIN Act focuses attention on development of new antibiotics desperately needed by our warfighters and veterans.

Our service members and veterans are at risk, because of the wounds they may receive while on active duty, or deployed to contingency operations. According to data from the Department of Defense, about 3,000 service members treated in military health facilities between 2004 and 2009 had Acinetobacter infections. While Acinetobacter (sometimes referred to as "Iraqibacter") is the pathogen most closely associated with the military, it is not the only superbug that afflicts our modern-day military. Multi-drug resistant bacteria, pathogens such as E. Coli, Klebsiella and Pseudomonas, can infect the lungs, bloodstream, bones, heart and other vital organs and systems and are often fatal. These resistant infections tend to be more difficult and more costly to treat, and their numbers are growing. However, in the past 30 years, innovation in antibiotic treatment has been waning with the FDA approving 29 systemic treatments in the 1980's, 23 in the 1990's and only 9 in the 2000's.

To meet our responsibility of caring for our uniformed services, we must ensure that we have effective drugs to treat them. The GAIN Act represents an important first step in leveling economic factors and incentivizing the research and development of these urgently needed antibiotic drugs.

**Take Action:** You can e-mail the ‘Details’ section or edit as you desire. This is the quickest and most effective method of expressing your views to Congress. Also, contact friends and family and urge them to use Contact Congress as well. Please direct any questions concerning this issue to our Director of Legislation, Anthony Wallis, at 703-548-5800 or at [Anthony.Wallis@ausn.org](mailto:Anthony.Wallis@ausn.org).