REQUESTING THAT THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REFER TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR THIS
PROPOSAL TO ENCOURAGE ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT
THE STATE.

WHEREAS, antibiotic stewardship refers to systematic efforts to
optimize the use of antibiotics in order to maximize the benefits to patients
and minimize the rise of antibiotic resistance and adverse effects to
patients from unnecessary antibiotic therapy; and

WHEREAS, antibiotic stewardship involves identifying the microbe
responsible for a disease, selecting the appropriate antibiotic, dosing,
route, and duration of the antibiotic therapy, and discontinuing the
antibiotics when antibiotics are no longer needed; and

WHEREAS, several studies have found that antibiotic stewardship
programs reduce the percentage of antibiotic-resistant organisms in a
facility, reduce the occurrence of C. difficile infections, improve patient
outcomes, decrease toxicity, and reduce pharmacy costs; and

WHEREAS, antibiotic stewardship programs are not widespread throughout
the United States, with only fifty percent (50%) of hospitals in the United
States implementing antibiotic stewardship programs, and few states have
statewide implementation of antibiotic stewardship programs; and

WHEREAS, only one (1) state, California, has enacted legislation to
require each general acute care hospital to adopt and implement an
antimicrobial stewardship policy that includes the judicious use of
antibiotics; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Public Health has established the
Georgia Honor Roll for Antibiotic Stewardship for facilities that participate
in efforts to encourage and promote antibiotic stewardship; and
WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas does not have an antibiotic stewardship program throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas should support efforts to improve patient outcomes, reduce antibiotic-resistance, and reduce healthcare costs,

NOW THEREFORE,
BE IT PROPOSED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Arkansas Legislative Council refer to the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor this proposal to encourage antibiotic stewardship programs throughout the state.

BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED THAT, upon request, the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services provide assistance to the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor to encourage antibiotic stewardship programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative David Whitaker
District 85

By: JMB/JMB