

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2015-030

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

1 WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas does not have an antibiotic stewardship
2 program throughout the state; and
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4 WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas should support efforts to improve
5 patient outcomes, reduce antibiotic-resistance, and reduce healthcare costs,
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7 NOW THEREFORE,

8 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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11 THAT the Arkansas Legislative Council refer to the House Committee on
12 Public Health, Welfare, and Labor this proposal to encourage antibiotic
13 stewardship programs throughout the state.
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15 BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED THAT, upon request, the Department of Health and
16 the Department of Human Services provide assistance to the House Committee on
17 Public Health, Welfare, and Labor to encourage antibiotic stewardship
18 programs.
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20 Respectfully submitted,
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24 Representative David Whitaker
25 District 85
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28 By: JMB/JMB
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