

Welcome to the Champion's Digest for all the new Champions! This digest is a benefit exclusively for our Champions — the highest tier of our [Member Advocacy Program](#) — where we take a deep dive into IDSA and HIVMA policy priorities and present an exclusive behind-the-scenes view of how to advance issues important to our community on Capitol Hill and in the Administration.

In this month's edition, we provide an update on our new strategy to advance the PASTEUR Act — a bill developed by IDSA to strengthen the antibiotic/antifungal pipeline and antimicrobial stewardship.

## What is PASTEUR?

The Pioneering Antimicrobial Subscriptions to End Upsurging Resistance (PASTEUR) Act would address AMR in two ways:



Incentivize pharmaceutical companies to develop novel antibiotics/antifungals through a federally funded subscription program that delinks antibiotic/antifungal payments from use, providing a predictable return on investment;



Provide new funding for antimicrobial stewardship programs to improve appropriate use of antimicrobials, with priority given to rural, critical access and safety net hospitals, and long-term care facilities, which may partner with larger hospitals and academic medical centers.

## Where Are We Now?

The PASTEUR Act was first introduced during the 116th Congress and, in the current 118th Congress, was reintroduced by Senators Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Todd Young (R-IN) and Representatives Drew Ferguson (R-GA), Scott Peters (D-CA), Mike Levin (D-CA) and Jake LaTurner (R-KS) in April 2023.

When it was first introduced, the bill included \$11 billion in funding for federal contracts — that number was reduced to \$6 billion with the reintroduction in 2023 in response to concerns over the cost from some congressional offices.

Despite greatly reducing the funding level, several congressional offices have still expressed concerns that the funding level prohibits them from co-sponsoring the bill, and congressional committees and leadership have indicated that the funding is a barrier to advancing PASTEUR. This feedback has prompted the sponsors to remove a funding level from the bill. Now, sponsors are pushing for authorization of the bill without funding — a common strategy to get bills passed in Congress.

Once the bill is authorized, IDSA and our partners will advocate for funding to implement the program, a common approach for new federal initiatives.

## How Can You Help Advance PASTEUR?

The House sponsors are currently circulating a congressional [sign-on letter](#) to House leadership asking them to advance the bill as authorization only. You can urge your House representative to sign onto the letter by completing this [action alert](#).

While action alerts may not seem like much because they only take a minute to complete, they are an important advocacy tool. Many IDSA and HIVMA staff are former congressional staffers, and it was our job to read, record and share these messages with our bosses on the Hill. There is someone in Congress who is taking your message seriously!

The more congressional offices hear from their constituents, the more likely they are to take action. **Please share the action alert with your networks and urge your colleagues to contact their representatives as well.**

IDSA will continue to advocate for PASTEUR and more federal efforts to accelerate our responses to AMR. We thank you for being Champions and helping us come this far, and we hope to have your continued support as we try to get PASTEUR across the finish line!