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Rochester, NY – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28), the only microbiologist in Congress, today released the following statement after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [filed an appeal](#) to [overturn a March ruling](#) that the FDA must act to limit the overuse of antibiotics in farm animals.

"I'm extremely disappointed in the FDA's decision to appeal the March ruling. I suppose it's not much of a surprise. They've buried their heads in the sand and ignored the threat of antibiotic resistance for well over 30 years. But avoiding this problem won't make it go away. In fact, it only increases the threat to our public health.

"Today, antibiotic-resistant infections kill more Americans than AIDS. The FDA is tasked with protecting the health and well-being of the American people. So as far as I'm concerned, FDA's decision to appeal the March ruling is nothing short of a dereliction of duty."

Since 2007, Congresswoman Slaughter has been the author of legislation titled The Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (PAMTA), designed to ensure that we preserve the effectiveness of antibiotics for the treatment of human disease. The legislation would prevent the overuse of seven classes of antibiotics and has been endorsed by over 350 organizations.

[For more on her work to protect public health, click here.](#)