Lawsuit comes after FDA report to Slaughter shows 90% of antibiotics for livestock sold for use in feed or water

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28), the only microbiologist in Congress, today released the following statement after a coalition of consumer advocacy groups sued the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to force it to limit the overuse of antibiotics in farm animals.

The lawsuit comes on the heels of a recent FDA report released to Slaughter confirming that 80 percent of antibiotics are sold for use in agriculture. The report provided data revealing that 90 percent of antibiotics for livestock are dispensed through feed or water.

“The growth of potentially deadly antibiotic-resistant bacteria is a looming public health crisis in America,” said Slaughter. “Today’s lawsuit is an indication of the growing concern about the overuse of antibiotics in agriculture. We should be able to buy our food without worrying that eating it will expose our families to bacteria no longer responsive to medical treatments. The FDA needs to take common sense steps to reduce the needless use of antibiotics in healthy animals, and protect human beings.”

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.

For more on her work to protect public health, click here .

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