

Report on Hill visit to Representative Brown Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Jeff Bender, Marsha Mabey and I went to Representative Brown's office in the Raeburn Building. Since Rep. Brown was delayed, we met with two staffers. Also present were representatives of ASM, APIC, APHV, Doctors of Indian Origin. The first issue discussed was sub-therapeutic antibiotics being used for prophylaxis and/or growth enhancement. The proposed bill (modification of last year's bill that didn't go anywhere) would mandate that any antibiotic used in this arena would have to prove, within two years of use, its safety (i.e. that it has no interference with antibiotics used in humans.) If this was not proved, FDA could pull it off the market. There was agreement on this. Side issues were discussed on the need to have more information about this type of use and its impact on humans and the environment and the industry. The joint CSTE and APHV position statement on the use of antibiotics in animals was provided.

The discussion then went on to the various concerns in the area of antibiotic resistant bacteria affects on humans. Basically defined the areas where more research was needed (practices that would decrease resistance), where there was concern (the need for more education of the public about when antibiotics should not be used, like viral infections), the use of antimicrobials and antibiotic-like chemicals in household products. The need for funding in these and other areas was also discussed. The CSTE position statement on antibiotic resistance was provided, as well as copies of pamphlets made for parents, some of the national publications (like the CDC guidelines), and the Report of the Iowa Taskforce on Antibiotic Resistance.

Representative Brown joined the group late and was given a quick summary of the prior discussion, and joined in the discussion on the human issues.

We met for about one hour.