

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6—SENATORS RAWSON, AMODEI, CARE, CARLTON, CEGAVSKE, COFFIN, HARDY, MATHEWS, MCGINNESS, NEAL, NOLAN, O’CONNELL, RAGGIO, RHOADS, SCHNEIDER, SHAFFER, TIFFANY, TITUS, TOWNSEND, WASHINGTON AND WIENER

FEBRUARY 10, 2003

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN KOIVISTO, ANDERSON, ANDONOV, ANGLE, ARBERRY, ATKINSON, BEERS, BROWN, BUCKLEY, CARPENTER, CHOWNING, CHRISTENSEN, CLABORN, COLLINS, CONKLIN, GEDDES, GIBBONS, GIUNCHIGLIANI, GOICOECHEA, GOLDWATER, GRADY, GRIFFIN, GUSTAVSON, HARDY, HETTRICK, HORNE, KNECHT, LESLIE, MABEY, MANENDO, MARVEL, MCCLAIN, MCCLEARY, MORTENSON, OCEGUERA, OHRENSCHALL, PARKS, PERKINS, PIERCE, SHERER, WEBER AND WILLIAMS

Read and Adopted

SUMMARY—Commends Nevadans for Antibiotic Awareness for its work on preventing abuse of antibiotics and urges public and private health agencies to work to prevent abuse of antibiotics in this state. (BDR R-681)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Commending Nevadans for Antibiotic Awareness for its work on preventing the abuse of antibiotics, and urging public and private health agencies to continue to work together to prevent the abuse of antibiotics in this state.

- 1 WHEREAS, Antibiotics are strong medicines used to treat
- 2 infections caused by bacteria, and they have been responsible since
- 3 their discovery in the 1940s for dramatically reducing illness and
- 4 death caused by infectious diseases and for revolutionizing medical
- 5 care in the 20th century; and



* S C R 6 *

1 WHEREAS, In the United States and throughout the world many
2 bacteria are becoming resistant to antibiotics, thereby reducing the
3 ability of antibiotics to effectively control bacterial growth and treat
4 infectious diseases; and

5 WHEREAS, Antibiotics are only effective against bacterial
6 infections and thus should only be used to treat bacterial infections
7 and not to treat viral infections such as the common cold, cough,
8 most sore throats and the flu; and

9 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control, up to
10 50 percent of antibiotic use may be inappropriate; and

11 WHEREAS, The widespread overuse and abuse of antibiotics
12 promotes the spread of antibiotic resistance thus jeopardizing the
13 usefulness of essential medicines; and

14 WHEREAS, Antibiotic resistance can cause significant danger
15 and suffering for children and adults who have common infections
16 which were at one time easily treatable with antibiotics, making
17 antibiotic resistance one of the world's most pressing public health
18 problems as well as one of the top concerns of the Centers for
19 Disease Control; and

20 WHEREAS, The consequences of larger numbers of bacteria
21 becoming resistant to antibiotics include extra visits to health care
22 providers, hospitalization and extended hospital stays, the need for
23 more expensive antibiotics to replace the ineffective antibiotics, lost
24 time at school or work, and sometimes death; and

25 WHEREAS, Persons who are ill and the parents of ill children can
26 prevent the development of antibiotic-resistant infections by
27 ensuring that antibiotics are only taken for bacterial infections and
28 not for viral infections, that antibiotics are taken exactly as directed,
29 that the entire regimen is completed as directed by a health care
30 provider and that antibiotics are taken only by the person for whom
31 they were prescribed; and

32 WHEREAS, Health care providers can prevent the development
33 of antibiotic-resistant infections by prescribing antibiotic therapy
34 only when it is likely to be beneficial to the patient and by
35 prescribing antibiotic therapy in the proper dose and for the correct
36 amount of time using an agent that targets the bacteria that are likely
37 causing the illness; and

38 WHEREAS, By promoting and practicing good hygiene,
39 including washing hands often and thoroughly, cooking meat
40 properly, washing fruits and vegetables thoroughly, and handling
41 food hygienically, people can prevent many infections and thus
42 lessen the need for antibiotics; and

43 WHEREAS, Nevadans for Antibiotic Awareness is a statewide
44 task force of over 40 state and local public and private agencies and
45 companies committed to addressing the problem of antibiotic



1 resistance by educating the public about the consequences of the
2 inappropriate use of antibiotics, training health care providers
3 concerning the appropriate use of antibiotics, decreasing the
4 inappropriate use of antibiotics and improving the control and
5 surveillance of infections; and

6 WHEREAS, Nevadans for Antibiotic Awareness has partnered
7 with the Centers for Disease Control and 31 other states to develop
8 programs to increase awareness of the public health dangers of
9 antibiotic resistance; and

10 WHEREAS, Nevadans for Antibiotic Awareness has addressed
11 the serious public health issue of antibiotic resistance in the State of
12 Nevada by developing and distributing statewide guidelines for the
13 use of antibiotics, developing and delivering a comprehensive
14 educational program for health care providers, establishing a
15 bilingual media campaign with the support of its partners,
16 conducting surveillance of antibiotic resistance rates for certain
17 bacteria, and distributing educational materials throughout
18 emergency rooms, pharmacies, health care facilities, doctor's
19 offices, school nurse offices and childcare facilities in this state; and

20 WHEREAS, The effectiveness of the work done by Nevadans for
21 Antibiotic Awareness is evidenced by a decrease in the use of
22 common antibiotics by outpatients in Nevada and its recognition by
23 the Centers for Disease Control as having one of the best programs
24 in the United States addressing the abuse of antibiotics and the
25 development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria; now, therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE
27 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the Nevada Legislature is
28 committed to creating a greater public understanding of the abuse of
29 antibiotics and to supporting the need for educating the public and
30 health care providers on the consequences of abusing antibiotics;
31 and be it further

32 RESOLVED, That the Nevada Legislature commends Nevadans
33 for Antibiotic Awareness for its efforts in educating the public and
34 health care providers in this state about the harm that results from
35 the abuse of antibiotics and the actions that residents of this state
36 can take to address this serious public health issue; and be it further

37 RESOLVED, That the Health Division of the Department of
38 Human Resources and the local health authorities in this state are
39 urged to continue to work with Nevadans for Antibiotic Awareness
40 to take actions to prevent the abuse of antibiotics in Nevada,
41 including, without limitation, working with the medical community
42 and health care providers to educate the public concerning antibiotic
43 resistance, its causes and the steps that can be taken to reduce and
44 inhibit its spread; and be it further



1 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
2 transmit a copy of this resolution to Nevadans for Antibiotic
3 Awareness, and to the Health Division of the Department of Human
4 Resources for transmittal to all local health authorities in Nevada.

