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**NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES**

Number: 14-103

**RESOLUTION**

**SUBJECT:** Nontherapeutic Use of Antibiotics in Livestock

**INTRODUCED BY:** Environmental Health Task Force

**APPROVED:** August 6, 2014

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WHEREAS, Livestock routinely receive low doses of antibiotics for growth promotion or disease prevention, a practice known as nontherapeutic use, contributing to the development and spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria

WHEREAS, in the fall of 2013, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a report on the growing threat of antibiotic resistance. According to the report, 2 million people contract antibiotic resistant infections every year, and at least 23,000 people die from them

WHEREAS, Food and Drug Administration's National Antibiotics Resistance Monitoring System reports that antibiotic-resistant bacteria have become a common fixture in retail meat

WHEREAS, World Health Organization warns that unless we act soon, these drugs will no longer work when we need them

WHEREAS, Food and Drug Administration's inconsistent policies, banning nontherapeutic uses of some antibiotics while relying on voluntary measures for others, prevent the necessary restrictions on all improper uses of antibiotics.

THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the NMA warn that continued widespread nontherapeutic use of antibiotics in livestock will hasten antibiotic resistance in humans, thereby making them ineffective in treating certain human diseases

RESOLVED, that the NMA supports restricting the use of human antibiotics in food production and banning their use in nontherapeutic use in livestock in order to maintain the effectiveness of these drugs in treating human diseases.

**Fiscal Impact:** None.