Stop The Overuse Of Antibiotics

More Progress On Antibiotics

This fall in New York City, we came together to urge the United Nations (U.N.) to take strong action to stop the overuse of antibiotics on factory farms.

The U.N. held high-level meetings at their New York headquarters, where they called the growing antibiotics problem a “fundamental threat” to global health and safety.

Experts estimate that more than 700,000 people worldwide die from antibiotic-resistant infections each year—a number that could grow to 10 million globally by 2050.

Your Voices Heard In NYC
Volunteers, members and staff drew attention to the topic by handing out educational information outside U.N. headquarters. Then, U.S. PIRG delivered a letter to the U.S. Delegation to the U.N., signed by leaders in the medical community and members of the public, pushing them to take international action.

Later that week, the U.N. General Assembly passed a declaration requiring countries to create action plans to address the global public health crisis of antibiotic resistance.

Members like you have already helped restaurants like McDonald’s, Subway and Wendy’s to stop serving meat raised on antibiotics. Now, after more than 350,000 of you made your voices heard by urging KFC to stop overusing our life-saving medicines, we’re hopeful that KFC and other companies will hear your call to action.

U.S. PIRG is also calling on Olive Garden to join the others who have committed to stop the overuse of antibiotics in their supply chains. We’ve made some significant progress, and we’re looking forward to what we can achieve in the upcoming year.

Your Voices Heard In NYC

Protecting Our Families From Harmful Chemicals

In August, Walmart announced that they’re asking their suppliers to remove eight chemicals of concern from household goods, including formaldehyde, a known carcinogen. Then in December, the Environmental Protection Agency proposed a ban on trichloroethylene, a degreaser and spot removal agent used in dry cleaning. This is the first proposed federal chemical ban in 27 years. Each of these moves is an important step in the right direction. We’ll keep working to make sure we get toxics out of everyday products, and win a toxic-free future.

Member Resources

HELP SAVE OUR ANTIBIOTICS
Sign our petition calling on KFC to stop serving meat raised on routine antibiotics. www.uspirg.org
Trouble In Toyland

Thirty Years And Counting, Toy Safety A Top Concern

We should know if the toys we buy for our children and our families are safe—whether we buy them at stores or online. That’s why, for 31 years, U.S. PIRG Education Fund has released the “Trouble in Toyland” report, looking at safety hazards including toxic toys, choking hazards and more to make sure your family has the resources they need to avoid dangerous toys.

That’s why last summer, U.S. PIRG, together with our friends at the National Resources Defense Council, submitted more than 80,000 public comments to call on the Obama administration to reduce carbon pollution from the nation’s transportation system, and promote cleaner and smarter options.

With help from our members, we can continue making different traveling methods more available and efficient, like bike sharing, walking and public transportation.

Consumer Protection

Top Grassroots Lobbyist, Seventh Year Running

For 35 years, U.S. PIRG Consumer Program Director Ed Mierzwinski has been a tireless advocate for consumers like you, having a hand in many consumer advocacy projects from the creation of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to giving people access to free annual credit reports.

This fall, Ed was recognized for his efforts when he was named one of the top grassroots lobbyists in the country by The Hill for the seventh year in a row.

Consumers are also reaping the rewards of his work to help create the CFPB—the agency has returned nearly $12 billion in relief and refunds to consumers. Having a director like Ed Mierzwiinski on our team at U.S. PIRG ensures that we’ll have the right people on the ground and in the room, ready to stand up for consumers like you.

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Big Money Still Dominates Election Spending

U.S. PIRG knows members like you deserve to have your voices heard, and with a new administration in Washington, D.C., we won’t stop working to make important improvements to our election process.

Up through November 8th, we watched as Super PAC donors and the super wealthy pushed more than $5 billion into the process, more than double the cost of the 2012 presidential elections. We’ve seen time and again what happens when big money gets a stronghold on processes that should belong to the people.

Elections Should Be For The People, Not Big Money

In a recent U.S. PIRG Education Fund report, “Outside Influence: Out-of-State Money in the 2016 Senate Elections,” we raised serious questions about to whom elected officials are accountable—voters or wealthy special interests from out-of-state.

“Our elections should be about the voters making a decision on who they want to represent their voice in Congress,” said Andre Delattre, executive director of U.S. PIRG Education Fund. “When three out of every four campaign dollars comes from out-of-state interests, you’ve got a real problem on your hands. Big money is an all of us problem and that’s why millions of Americans have spoken out calling for a solution.”

Empowering Voters Across The Country

Polling has shown that a large majority of Americans, like you, believe that fundamental changes are needed to empower voters over large donors and special interests.

We saw this at the polls last year, when states like Washington, South Dakota and Maryland successful-ly jumped on board to enact citizen-funded election reforms.

Empowering residents and voters over wealthy interests is within reach, and knowing we have our members to back us up gets us that much closer to ending big money in politics. From Maryland to Washington state, we know this is a top priority for people like you. That’s why U.S. PIRG will continue to work toward a more democratic process for all.

Thanks To You

Dear U.S. PIRG member,

A safe, healthy environment, effective consumer protections in our financial lives, a strong voice for citizens in our democracy—these aren’t controversial ideas. They’re the hallmarks of a great country.

But from consumer protection to a democracy of, by and for the people, many of our proudest achievements may soon be at risk.

We’re ready to defend them. But we can only do that if we stand together.

That’s why your support is so important. And in the weeks and months ahead, we’ll face some of our toughest challenges yet.

How well we meet these challenges will decide whether the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau stays strong or exists at all, whether more companies agree to get antibiotics out of our food supply, and whether less of America’s most popular herbicide, Roundup, shows up in our land, water and food.

Our work is only possible because of you. I’m looking forward to what we can achieve with members like you and all your support.

Thanks for standing with us,

Andre Delattre, Executive Director
info@uspirg.org
It’s Time To Ban Roundup

We shouldn’t be worried that the grass our children play on or the food we eat is full of harmful chemicals. But as the use of the weed killer Roundup increases, the safety of our health and environment face an uncertain future. New research, including some done by the World Health Organization (WHO), has found that Monsanto’s Roundup and other glyphosate-based herbicides could pose significant risks to human health across the country.

One study by the WHO linked glyphosate—the main chemical ingredient in Roundup—to cancer at high levels of exposure. However, Roundup is not just glyphosate, it’s a cocktail of different chemicals and there’s mounting evidence that this cocktail could be a dangerous one for our health. On top of that, Roundup has become the most widely-used agricultural chemical in U.S. history, and it is showing up in our rivers and in our food supply. This is a staggering reality we need to change. But with members like you we can protect our families from Monsanto’s dangerous herbicide. We’re calling on the Environmental Protection Agency to ban Roundup unless and until it’s proven safe. Visit www.BanRoundupNow.org to learn more, and sign our petition to get the EPA to ban Roundup.