Dear Representative Roskam:

On behalf of the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE), I am writing to express our support for the Developing an Innovative Strategy for Antimicrobial Resistant Microorganisms (DISARM) Act of 2015 (H.R. 512) to promote research and development for new antimicrobial products.

Since its founding in 1941, ASGE has been dedicated to advancing patient care and digestive health by promoting excellence and innovation in gastrointestinal endoscopy. ASGE, with more than 13,000 members worldwide, fosters endoscopic research, promotes the highest standards for endoscopic training and practice, and is the foremost resource for endoscopic education.

Antibiotic resistance is one of the most pressing public health issues facing the world today and puts at risk patients who are often the most vulnerable, including those in need of surgery, organ transplant, or chemotherapy. In fact, all procedures carry risk of infection, including procedures performed by gastroenterologists. In addition to educating patients and providers on the judicious and appropriate use of antibiotics, we need newer antibiotics that can effectively treat infections caused by drug-resistant organisms. We believe your bill would complement the Administration’s recent Executive Order launching federal efforts to combat the rise in antibiotic-resistant bacteria and hope that Congress will increase Federal funding for antibiotic resistance initiatives.

The ASGE thanks you for your leadership in this critical effort, which promises to greatly improve the pace in the essential development of new and more effective antibiotics.

Sincerely,

Colleen M. Schmitt, MD, MHS, FASGE
President
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy