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## In Memoriam: Edward Kennedy

Senator Kennedy understood the need to preserve the power of antibiotics through more encouraging more prudent antibiotic use. When the anthrax attacks happened in 2001, Senator wrote us:” Without effective antibiotics, the attacks would have claimed more innocent lives.” The Senator then suggested a strategy to move the drug resistance issue to the top of the nation’s Congressional agenda where it belonged. To get Congress’ attention, he told us to: “Put a dollar sign on it!”

Another key strategy which accounted for Senator Kennedy’s legislative success was the art of engaging those on both sides of the aisle to move health legislation forward. He called APUA to testify at the first bipartisan Congressional Hearing focused on drug resistance with republican Senator Bill Frist.

He was a strong champion of the need to improve antibiotic use both in human medicine and in food animal production. APUA will sorely miss his championing but will long remember the legislative strategies he advised. In fact, APUA is engaged in studies to evaluate the cost implications of drug resistance in US hospitals. A study scheduled to be published in *Clinical Infectious Diseases* in October 2009 will delineate the hospital costs of antibiotic resistant infections.

Hopefully these studies will gain the attention of healthcare providers, administrators and payers to engage in appropriate drug resistance interventions to prevent and control resistant infections. We are grateful to the Senator for his healthcare advocacy and championing the cause of prudent use of antibiotics to ensure effective infectious disease treatments for generations to come.