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September 16, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

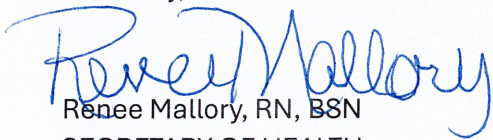
We are writing to affirm the Arkansas Department of Health's (ADH) commitment to the Healthcare Associated Infections/Antibiotic Resistance (HAI/AR) section's Antibiotic Stewardship Program for the ongoing efforts related to stewardship in our state. ADH recognizes the importance of responsible antibiotic use in the prevention of antibiotic resistance which poses a significant and growing threat to public health in Arkansas.

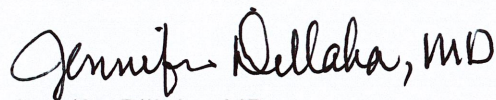
Antibiotic stewardship is "the effort to measure and improve how antibiotic medications are prescribed by clinicians and used by patients" (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship*). Stewardship programs are critical to ensuring that these vital medications are used appropriately, thereby preserving their effectiveness for future generations. These programs help reduce unnecessary usage which minimizes adverse drug events and improves patient outcomes by promoting evidence-based practices for prescribing and administering antibiotics. They also play a crucial role in protecting public health by preventing the spread of antibiotic-resistant infections.

The HAI/AR stewardship program is making a difference in Arkansas by implementing best practices as described by the Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship for Health Departments. The program remains committed to supporting healthcare facilities, clinicians, and communities with leadership, guidance, and partnerships across the state. This is in line with national and global efforts to prevent and counteract antibiotic resistance and ensure that antibiotics continue to serve their essential purpose.

The ADH supports the antibiotic stewardship program's invaluable work in our state. We look forward to continued progress in safeguarding Arkansans against the growing threat of antibiotic resistance and promoting appropriate antibiotic use.

Sincerely,


Renee Mallory, RN, BSN
SECRETARY OF HEALTH


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