

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 23, 2022

The Honorable Xavier Becerra  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
200 Independence Ave.  
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Robert Califf, MD, MACC  
Commissioner of Food and Drugs  
U.S. Food & Drug Administration  
10903 New Hampshire Ave  
Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002

Dear Secretary Becerra and Commissioner Califf:

We write to express our strong concern regarding the shortage of amoxicillin<sup>1</sup> and the serious threat that this and other medical shortages pose to our nation's patients and public health.<sup>2</sup> Parents, patients, and health providers across the country have shared how this shortage has adversely impacted patient care.

As you know, amoxicillin is used to treat bacterial infections, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends<sup>3</sup> its use as a "first line therapy" for multiple pediatric illnesses. The record high levels of respiratory illnesses have spiked demand for amoxicillin and other essential medicines, and patients and providers continue to experience disruptive shortages, which have led to delays in care and compromised health outcomes.

We urge the Department of Health and Human Services and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to convene the Drug Shortage Task Force and work with stakeholders, including providers, on identifying factors and potential solutions to mitigating the amoxicillin shortage. Further, we request an update on FDA initiatives to prevent and mitigate drug<sup>4</sup> shortages.

We look forward to working with the Department and its agencies in continuing to address medical shortages as the manufacturing and health care landscape evolve.

Sincerely,

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1 <https://www.ashp.org/drug-shortages/current-shortages/drug-shortage-detail.aspx?id=875&loginreturnUrl=SSOCheckOnly>

2 <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/100-day-supply-chain-review-report.pdf>

3 <https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/clinicians/pediatric-treatment-rec.html>

4 <https://www.fda.gov/media/86907/download>

*Amy Klobuchar*

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Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

*Bill Cassidy, M.D.*

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Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
United States Senator

*Sherrod Brown*

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United States Senator

*Edward J. Markey*

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