

Dear Representative Dingell,

I am writing to you out of deep concern for the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and its exacerbation in conflict zones. My interest in countering this threat began with *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys, a haunting depiction of human suffering during historical conflicts. In the novel, the resilience of the human spirit shines against the backdrop of forced labor camps, where poor living conditions foster disease and suffering.

War zones today echo the conditions of disease and suffering in *Between Shades of Gray*, as they have become breeding grounds for AMR superbugs due to the scarcity of medical resources, misuse of antibiotics, and global neglect. Pulitzer Center's article *Could a Conflict-Borne Superbug Bring on Our Next Pandemic?* highlights how war zones like Ukraine have become breeding grounds for superbugs due to the scarcity of medical resources, misuse of antibiotics, and global neglect. Without swift intervention, AMR could lead to a crisis rivaling or even surpassing the devastation of pandemics we've faced.

Acinetobacter's spread from its origins in Iraq throughout the world makes clear that AMR's potential spread across international borders is not a distant problem but one with direct implications for Michigan and beyond. For instance, Michigan's significant healthcare sector, which serves as a national hub for medical innovation, may face increased challenges from rising antibiotic resistance. Further, as a community that values diversity and offers sanctuary to immigrants and refugees, we must recognize the dual responsibility and opportunity to advocate for equitable global health solutions.

To address this urgent problem, I urge you to advocate for increased U.S. funding and support for international organizations combating AMR, such as the World Health Organization. Specifically, Congress should back initiatives to improve infection control in conflict zones, promote research into novel antibiotics, and ensure equitable access to medical resources for displaced populations. Furthermore, U.S. leadership in AMR surveillance and global antibiotic stewardship programs can prevent the spread of these superbugs. As a leader in addressing public health challenges, your voice could inspire bipartisan support to include AMR mitigation as a critical pillar in U.S. foreign aid policies.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing issue. I trust that your commitment to public health and global collaboration will guide your efforts to make a meaningful impact.

Sincerely,
Jayden Song

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jayden Song". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with the first name "Jayden" being more prominent than the last name "Song".