

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) has secured \$1.6 million in congressionally-directed funding in legislation passed by House of Representatives and the Senate to continue a federal research program demonstrating the effectiveness of copper alloys to kill dangerous pathogens on frequently touched surfaces in healthcare facilities.

“Our military hospitals treat thousands of wounded soldiers every day, who face an even higher risk of infection because of their injuries,” **Arcuri said**. “Installing copper alloys on touch surfaces has the potential to substantially reduce risk of infection in health care settings, save lives and cut down on costs. Once proven in a military setting, we can transition to general health care facilities and save even more lives. Over time, the installation of copper alloys in health care settings will increase demand and benefit domestic companies like Revere Copper through additional business opportunities.”

According to Brian O'Shaughnessy, Chairman of Revere Copper Products, “Revere is committed to work on developing this new application for copper not only for the well being of Revere and our people but also because it is such a good example of pursuing corporate social responsibility. Revere appreciates the good work by Congressman Arcuri to secure these funds to continue this research.”

The \$1.6 million for The Copper Antimicrobial Research Program (CARP) secured by Arcuri is included in the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2009 (H.R. 2638), which has been passed by the House and Senate, and is expected to be signed into law this week. Arcuri also secured \$2.8 million in the Fiscal Year 2008 Department of Defense Appropriations Bill for CARP.

The CARP is conducted through the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command's Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center in Fort Detrick, Maryland. This program demonstrates the effectiveness of copper alloys in killing dangerous pathogens on frequently-touched surfaces in healthcare and other high-risk facilities.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), hospital-acquired infections affect about 2 million Americans every year, with estimates of over 100,000 deaths annually – more than AIDS, breast cancer and automobile accident fatalities combined. Estimated U.S. hospital costs to treat such infections have reached an annual sum of more than \$30 billion. A recent study

found that nearly 19,000 people died from MRSA (Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus) infections in 2005 out of 94,000 cases; 85% of these were acquired in a healthcare facility.

In April, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated copper, brass and bronze as being capable of killing harmful and potentially deadly bacteria. Copper is the first solid surface material to receive this type of EPA registration. Copper and its alloys possess an intrinsic capability to quickly inactivate common disease-causing bacteria that thrive in hospital settings. Traditional surfaces, such as stainless steel, do not possess this antimicrobial property.

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