

ACTION SHEET ([Word version](#))

Use media to help pass critical TB legislation

Congress has returned to Washington to wrap up its work for the year. While most of the attention will be focused on passing a budget, there is a vital issue that needs immediate action.

For decades, tuberculosis has been the world's deadliest infectious disease. In only the last two years has its death rate been eclipsed by COVID-19. But the two diseases are inexorably intertwined. The fight against COVID-19 around the world has made the fight against TB harder. With resources diverted to fight the pandemic, TB infections and deaths are on the rise again after a decade of decline. A [new report from the World Health Organization](#) shows that:

- TB mortality increased again in 2021 to 1.6 million people
- New cases are up for the first time in years, even with some recovery in diagnosis and treatment as COVID cases have dropped
- The number of people who are “missing” from treatment has increased to 4 million, up from 3 million in 2019.

Fortunately, we can turn the tide with the [End TB Now Act](#) (S.3386/H.R. 8654). This bill requires the U.S. to establish bold goals for reaching the most vulnerable populations to detect, cure, and prevent all forms of TB. It supports research to better fight the disease, promotes partnerships and coordination across allied groups fighting TB, and embeds accountability and reporting into our TB strategy. This bill helps us get back on track toward eliminating TB once and for all.

Legislation like the End TB Now Act has enjoyed strong bipartisan support in the past. This makes it easy to pass quickly. We want Congress to pass this bill by the end of the year. But it is going to take pressure from constituents to make it happen. Letters to the editor this month are an ideal pressure point to get it done.

Write letters to the editor about the End TB Now Act

Be sure to check your local paper's website for the word limit on letters to the editor as well as how to submit them.

1. Choose a title for your letter and put it in the subject line of your e-mail or media submission form. Also, start your letter with “Dear Editor.”
2. Tell readers that the recent spread of RSV in the U.S. is a reminder that millions around the world still suffer from history's most infectious respiratory disease – tuberculosis.

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3. Inform them that despite progress in reducing global TB cases over the last decade, because of COVID-19, TB cases are on the rise again.
4. Tell them a new WHO report shows that 1.6 million people worldwide died of TB in 2021 and the number of people “missing”, i.e. not seeking treatment, has increased to 4 million people.
5. Explain that the End TB Now Act would help us get back on track. It requires the U.S. to target existing TB resources to those countries and populations who need it most. It would foster more public-private partnerships in the TB fight and increase accountability and reporting to Congress on our efforts.
6. Remind them that COVID-19 showed that when we focus our ingenuity, resources, and energy, we can solve seemingly insurmountable problems. It’s time to do that for TB.
7. Urge your representatives and senators *by name* to support the End TB Now Act (S.3386/H.R. 8654) and push congressional leadership to pass it before the end of this year.

Tips for getting letters published

- If you have personal experience with TB, consider sharing it in your letter
- See our [Fall 2022 Campaign Resources](#)
- Keep your letter short and direct with a clear call to action
- Check the word limit for LTEs in your local paper and abide by it
- When you get published, forward your letter to the tax aide in your House and Senate offices with a request to pass the End TB Now Act this year
- When you get published, please let RESULTS know by completing our [Media Report Form](#)

Also, continue to urge others to write LTEs as well. Use our [Action Workshop Agenda \(Word version\)](#) to host a letter-writing meeting. If you have questions about writing or submitting letters, or hosting an LTE-writing meeting, please contact [Jos Linn](#).