

## ACTION SHEET

### Media Action: Co-sponsor the End Tuberculosis Now Act!

Tuberculosis (TB) is the second leading infectious disease killer in the world after COVID-19. It disproportionately affects impoverished and marginalized communities. TB is often thought of as a disease of the past, but unfortunately it remains a major global health threat and is a key driver of poverty.

Last year, the World Health Organization released its annual tuberculosis (TB) report. The news was bleak. TB mortality increased in 2020 and again in 2021, up to 1.6 million deaths last year. Additionally, new cases are up for the first time in years, and over 10.5 million people fell ill in 2021. Over 98 percent of TB cases and deaths are in low- and middle-income countries. Most TB cases are curable, but in resource-poor areas, treatment often comes too late.

We are moving in the wrong direction on the TB pandemic, and we are way off the global TB targets set in 2018 at the United Nations General Assembly. We must do better. The Stop TB Partnership estimates that delaying or failing to implement the UN End TB Strategy goals will mean 43 million people developing TB, leading to 6.6 million deaths by 2030.

One way we can make a difference is strong co-sponsorship of the End Tuberculosis Now Act. This legislation is open in both the Senate (S.288) and the House (H.R.1776). This bicameral, bipartisan legislation directs the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to set bold targets to reach and treat the most vulnerable populations for all forms of TB. The bill also addresses the impact COVID-19 has had on global TB control efforts. We must build a crescendo of support for weakening tuberculosis' grip on the world.

At a September United Nations High-Level Meeting on tuberculosis, a [declaration](#) was made that the TB epidemic would be addressed, and the [United States made its own commitments](#) as well. The passage of this legislation is one way the United State can be part of helping fulfill these promises.

**Will you write a letter to the editor and ask for co-sponsorship of the End Tuberculosis Now Act? Read on for support in your advocacy.**

## Sample Letter to the Editor in EPIC Format

Consider organizing a group outreach activity by inviting RESULTS group members, Action Network members, expansion leads, and others who care about these issues each to write a letter to the editor. You can find a [sample letter-writing meeting agenda here](#).

### **Subject: Co-sponsors needed on the End Tuberculosis Now Act**

**Engage:** Tuberculosis (TB) is often thought of as a disease in the history bin. Unfortunately, it is still here with us wreaking havoc.

**State Problem:** The Stop TB Partnership estimates that delaying or failing to implement the UN End TB Strategy goals will mean 43 million people developing TB, leading to 6.6 million deaths by 2030.

**Inform:** We ignore this setback in the fight against TB at our peril. This disease drives and exacerbates global poverty, and it targets vulnerable populations. But the End Tuberculosis Act (S. 288 and H.R.1776) can make the difference. Bold U.S. goals to reach those most vulnerable to the disease. Better coordination with such entities as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. These are some of the things the legislation will address.

**Call to Action:** I'm asking XXXX to co-sponsor the End Tuberculosis Now Act. Will you show this crucial leadership?