**SAMPLE LETTER/ DRAFT LANGUAGE**

**Urging the Leadership of Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations to Support House Funding Level for the Global Fight Against Tuberculosis (TB) in FY19**

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| SENATE: Chairman: Lindsey Graham (R-SC)Ranking Member: Patrick Leahy (D-VT)  | HOUSE: Chairman: Hal Rogers (R-KY)Ranking Member: Nita Lowey (D-NY) |

Dear Honorable Chairs and Ranking Members:

Thank you for your leadership on the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittees and your dedication to global health. I deeply appreciate the increase recently approved by the subcommittee for the US Agency for International Development’s (USAID) Tuberculosis (TB) program.

**As you consider the FY 2019 State and Foreign Operations appropriations measure, I urge you to support $302 million for the USAID TB program, as approved by the House Appropriations Committee.**

TB causes more deaths than any other single infectious disease agent, with 10.4 million new illnesses and 1.7 million deaths in 2016. This often forgotten disease now kills more people annually than HIV/AIDS and malaria combined.

Of the 10 million sickened, over 40 percent of the TB cases are never even found by the health system. Globally, there are about 600,000 people with multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB) each year, but only about a quarter of these individuals are being identified and successfully treated. If we are not finding and treating active cases of the disease, we will not get ahead in the fight against it.

Increased USAID-TB program funding is needed to achieve the goals outlined the National Action Plan for Combatting Drug Resistant TB for detecting and treating multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB, build country capacity to diagnose, treat and prevent all forms of TB, including latent infection, and to increase USAID’s investment in the development of new TB diagnostic, treatment and prevention tools.

Globally, too often we are failing to deliver quality treatment to people who are sick with TB. With new, better data showing country by country where missing TB cases are, the world now has an opportunity to find these individuals and cure them. **I urge you to support the higher FY19 House level funding to fight global TB in any final conference bill.**

Sincerely,

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