Support FY24 Funding to Eliminate Tuberculosis

**Deadline COB March 22**


Dear Colleague:

Please join us in supporting the fight against tuberculosis globally by supporting $225 million to eliminate tuberculosis (TB) in the U.S., and $1 billion for the global fight against TB, as part of the Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations process.

In October, the World Health Organization reported the first increase of tuberculosis sickness and death in decades with almost 11 million sickened and 1.6 million killed by the disease around the world in 2021. TB kills more people globally than HIV and malaria combined and has alternated with COVID-19 as the leading infectious disease killer over the past 3 years. While TB cases are found annually in all 50 states, 32 states saw an increase in active cases in 2021. This resurgence of TB must be met with increased resources to strengthen our domestic and global efforts to identify, treat, and prevent tuberculosis, including drug resistant TB and TB infection. Strong funding is critical for research, including efforts to develop new diagnostic, treatment, and prevention tools.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and US Agency for International Development’s (USAID) TB programs were at the frontlines for respiratory disease response during COVID-19. The pandemic had a severe effect on both U.S. and global TB programs, with many TB program staff and resources diverted to focus almost exclusively on the COVID-19 response. As a result, we have lost over a decade of progress in the fight against TB, putting communities and health systems at risk.

TB backsliding is further complicated when delays or incomplete treatment for TB lead to drug resistance; drug resistant TB is the leading cause of death from antimicrobial resistance (AMR) globally, including multidrug resistant (MDR) and extensively drug resistant (XDR) TB which are significantly more difficult and expensive to treat, with higher rates of treatment failure. The current Russian invasion of Ukraine is of particular concern, given that Ukraine has one of the highest burdens of MDR-TB in the world and is currently experiencing shortages of health supplies and care during the humanitarian crisis.

Many believe TB is a disease of the past, but that is not the case. TB continues to be a public health concern due to a lack of resources to properly identify, treat, and prevent all forms of the disease and develop new, more effective tools to fight TB. TB anywhere is TB everywhere and a coordinated and
comprehensive approach for supporting global and domestic TB challenges is needed to address the TB pandemic.

USAID and the CDC are leading the global and U.S. response to this debilitating and deadly disease. In order to put the U.S. back on the path to TB elimination, and to make significant progress towards ending TB globally, the CDC’s domestic TB program must be funded at $225 million and USAID’s TB program must be funded at $1 billion in FY 2024.

To join, please sign on via Quill by **Wednesday, March 22nd**. If you have questions, please contact Emma Bruce at Emma.Bruce@mail.house.gov (Bera) or Molly Joseph at Molly.Joseph@mail.house.gov (Wagner).

Sincerely,

Ami Bera, M.D. Ann Wagner
Member of Congress Member of Congress

Dear Chairman Aderholt, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Diaz-Balart, and Ranking Member Lee,

As you craft legislation making appropriations for fiscal year (FY) 2024, we respectfully ask that you prioritize investments in the fight to eliminate tuberculosis (TB) which again is the leading infectious disease killer globally. Thanks to your support, Congress has year on year increased resources for the fight against TB, a clear demonstration of the strong bipartisan support for these programs. With the historic strain on TB programs as the frontline response against airborne infectious diseases, we respectfully request $1 billion for bilateral TB programming at USAID and $225 million need for TB programs at the CDC. We again urge you to increase TB funding for fighting this debilitating disease globally and in the U.S., in addition to maintaining your ongoing support for a robust U.S. contribution to the Global Fund on AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria—some 20 percent of which supports work on TB.

Many believe TB is a disease of the past, but that is not the case. TB continues to be a public health concern due to a lack of resources to properly identify, treat, and prevent all forms of the disease and develop new, more effective tools to fight TB. In fact, recent years have seen the first increase of tuberculosis sickness and death in decades, with almost 11 million sickened and 1.6 million killed by the disease around the world in 2021. TB kills more people globally than HIV and malaria combined and has alternated with COVID-19 as the leading infectious disease killer over the past 3 years. While TB cases are found annually in all 50 states, 32 states saw an increase in active cases in 2021. Currently, one-quarter of all people worldwide live with latent TB infection.

We have lost over a decade of progress in the fight against TB, putting communities and health systems at risk. This resurgence of TB must be met with redoubled efforts to strengthen our domestic and global efforts to identify, treat, and prevent tuberculosis, including drug resistant TB and TB infection. TB backsliding is further exacerbated when delays or incomplete treatment for TB lead to drug resistance; drug resistant TB is the leading cause of death from antimicrobial resistance (AMR) globally, including multidrug resistant (MDR) and extensively drug resistant (XDR) TB which are significantly more difficult
and expensive to treat, with higher rates of treatment failure. The current Russian invasion of Ukraine is of particular concern, given that Ukraine has one of the highest burdens of MDR-TB in the world and is currently experiencing shortages of health supplies and care during the humanitarian crisis. Strong funding is critical for research, including efforts to develop new diagnostic, treatment, and prevention tools.

USAID and the CDC are leading the global and U.S. response to this debilitating and deadly disease, and we are proud that Congress has consistently supported their efforts on a bipartisan basis. In order to put the U.S. back on the path to TB elimination, and to make significant progress towards ending TB globally, we ask you to again support full funding for domestic and international TB programs. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,