

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 22, 2025

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Brian Schatz
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Graham and Ranking Member Schatz:

We write to request that you continue to show support for international tuberculosis (TB) elimination by providing increased funding for bilateral TB control in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs (SFOP) Appropriations bill. We encourage this as a priority in addition to maintaining our full one-third support for the U.S. contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, some 20 percent of which supports work on TB.

TB is the leading infectious disease killer, and disproportionately affects people in the poorest and most vulnerable communities around the world. Often thought of as a disease of the past, the 2024 Global TB Report found that TB sickened almost 11 million people and killed 1.25 million in 2023. In addition to the burden of preventable deaths, TB is a driver of poverty. TB is frequently economically devastating for individuals and families, and health care personnel are disproportionately at risk.

Anyone who breathes is at risk of tuberculosis, but the immunocompromised, the elderly, and our youngest children are much more susceptible to the disease. For a decade, TB has killed more people every year than HIV/AIDS and malaria combined. But still, TB programs continue to receive far less development assistance. Delays or incomplete treatment for TB can have severe consequences. Drug resistant TB is a leading cause of death from antimicrobial resistance (AMR) globally; multidrug resistant (MDR) and extensively drug resistant (XDR) TB are significantly more difficult and expensive to treat. Over 400,000 people developed MDR TB in 2023, but only two in five were diagnosed and treated.

Over the past decade, Congress has almost annually increased resources for the fight against TB, a clear demonstration of the strong bipartisan support for these programs across multiple administrations. In 2017 and again in 2023, the U.S. led the charge to build global consensus around specific, measurable targets in the fight against TB. World leaders, including the U.S., committed to reaching 45 million people with TB testing and treatment by 2027. Additionally, the U.S. unveiled a new TB initiative with lower drug costs, funding for conflict settings, and a localization pledge.

We are at a critical moment in the fight against tuberculosis; the gains we have made are fragile, but we are moving in the right direction. With appropriate resources and renewed global commitment, we can still end this disease by the end of this decade.


We cannot afford the risk of increased rates of transmission or a rise in drug-resistance. We can vastly accelerate the pace of TB elimination by supporting new technologies, like a much-needed point-of-care test and vaccine. Programs like these can save more lives, provided they reach patients in time. We must also promote comprehensive interventions, including active case finding, treatment of all forms of TB disease, and preventive treatment for close contacts of people with TB disease. When coupled with infection control, this approach has been shown to bring down rates of TB rapidly.


Momentum has been building in recent years, with significant advances in diagnosis, treatment, and prevention, as well as growing political will and community engagement. Promising new technologies and the development of rapid molecular diagnostics have the potential to save more lives, provided they are accessible and affordable enough to reach patients in time. Thanks to U.S. research and investment, we now have shorter, more tolerable antibiotic regimens that can prevent TB infection from progressing to active disease.

We urge you to commit to funding levels that will ensure that the U.S. can seize this momentum to end TB as a global security threat. With increased funding, U.S. government implementers can help each country reach its own prevention and treatment goals and ensure the continued development and implementation of new, more effective treatments.

With the historic strain on TB programs as the frontline response against airborne infectious diseases, and as rates and deaths continue to rise, we respectfully request that these programs be prioritized and protected in the FY26 funding bill. In order to meet the goals the U.S. set for ending TB in this decade, increased resources are needed for bilateral TB programming. We thank you for your consistent support of TB programming, and urge you to make combatting TB a top priority in the FY26 appropriations bill.

Sincerely,


Jacky Rosen
United States Senator


Todd Young
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



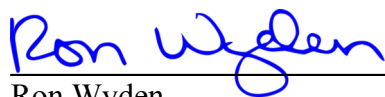
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United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
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Christopher S. Murphy
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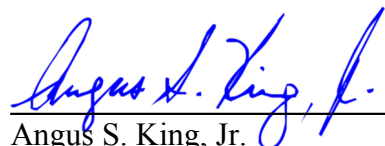
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United States Senator



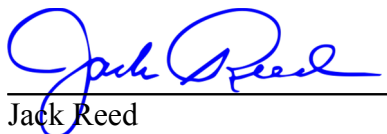
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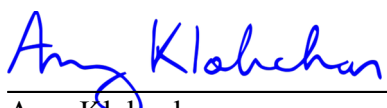
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United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



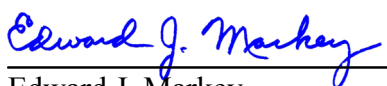
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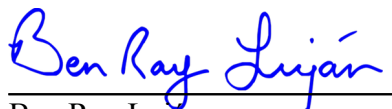
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