

Support Robust Funding to End the Global TB Pandemic

This is a programmatic request

DUE: COB Friday, March 22

Dear Colleague:

Please join us in the effort to combat the growing tuberculosis (TB) pandemic by signing the letter below to Chairwoman Nita Lowey and Ranking Member Hal Rogers of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs. **The letter requests that appropriators increase global TB control funding to \$400 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020.**

TB is a curable airborne infection that kills more people worldwide than any other infectious disease. Children are especially vulnerable, and women face an increased risk of developing TB during pregnancy. TB is frequently economically devastating for individuals and families.

In 2017, 10 million people became ill with TB, 10 percent of whom were children. In the same year, 1.6 million people died from TB. As the top killer of people living with HIV/AIDS, TB is also undermining the substantial gains we have made through PEPFAR.

Tremendous progress has been made, including declining TB incidence, thanks to U.S. support as well as growing capacity and political will in affected countries. At last year's UN High Level Meeting on TB, 120 countries agreed to ambitious new detection, treatment and prevention targets. With growing engagement at all levels in key countries, the U.S. has a major opportunity to lead the world in ending TB as a global health security threat. New medications for multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB), along with rapid diagnostics, are also enabling much faster progress against drug resistant forms of the disease. We must work harder to scale them up, otherwise the growing TB pandemic could erase decades of achievements in the global effort to defeat both TB and HIV/AIDS, many of which have been achieved through U.S. support.

Please join us in asking appropriators to increase global TB control funding in FY 2020. To sign on, please contact Katy Crosby with Rep. Engel at Katy.Crosby@mail.house.gov or Jesse von Stein with Rep. Young at Jesse.vonStein@mail.house.gov

Sincerely,

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

Don Young
Member of Congress

March XX, 2019

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
HT-2, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
2406 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Rogers:

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to global health. We write to request that you provide \$400 million in funding for bilateral tuberculosis (TB) control in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations bill.

TB is a curable, airborne infection that now kills more people worldwide than any other infectious disease. In 2017, 10 million people became ill with TB, 10 percent of whom were children. In the same year, 1.6 million people died from TB. TB is frequently economically devastating for individuals and families, and health care personnel are disproportionately at risk.

Of particular concern is drug-resistant TB, which is significantly costlier and more difficult to treat than drug-sensitive TB. Unfortunately, most people with drug-resistant TB are still going undiagnosed and untreated.

TB is the leading killer of people living with HIV/AIDS, and of the 10.4 million people who became ill with tuberculosis in 2016, one-in-ten live with HIV/AIDS. Failure to invest in TB, and integrated TB and HIV responses, threatens the substantial gains we have made in the fight against HIV/AIDS, and broader development successes.

Funding for USAID's TB program helps build capacity to prevent, diagnose and treat this curable disease, using the latest methods, and it supports the development and implementation of new technologies to end TB. With USAID support, countries have significantly reduced the rate of new cases, strengthened the capacity of countries to respond on their own, and developed simpler, more efficient, and cost-effective treatment.

Momentum is building to end TB, with important advances in diagnosis and treatment, as well as growing political will and community engagement. At last year's UN High Level Meeting on TB, 120 countries agreed to ambitious new detection, treatment and prevention targets. With growing engagement at all levels in key countries, the U.S. has a major opportunity to lead the world in ending TB as a global health security threat.

We acknowledge the difficulty you face in determining the best allocation of precious foreign assistance dollars. We thank you for your continued support of USAID's TB control program and urge you to prioritize TB as you finalize the FY 2020 appropriations bill.

Sincerely,