

## Support Robust Funding to Address the Global TB Pandemic

**\*This is a programmatic request\***

*Deadline: Friday, March 9th COB*

[Please use this form to sign](#)

Dear Colleague:

Please join us in the effort to combat the growing tuberculosis (TB) pandemic by signing the letter below to Chairman Hal Rogers and Ranking Member Nita Lowey 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) 2019.**

TB is a curable airborne infection that kills more people worldwide than any other infectious disease. In 2016, 10.4 million people became ill with TB, 10 percent of whom were children. In the same year, 1.7 million people died from TB. Pregnant women are especially vulnerable to TB – in fact, the chance of developing the disease doubles during pregnancy. 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, thanks largely to U.S. support. TB incidence in the priority countries that receive U.S. bilateral assistance for TB control has fallen by nearly one-fifth since 2000 – more than twice as quickly when compared with countries that do not receive U.S. bilateral assistance. New medications for multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB), along with rapid diagnostics, are also enabling much faster progress against the disease. Yet these new technologies are underutilized.

If we fail to scale up our efforts and accelerate the progress that has been made, 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 2019. If you have any questions, please contact:

Catherine Rowland with Rep. Engel at [Catherine.Rowland@mail.house.gov](mailto:Catherine.Rowland@mail.house.gov),

Jesse von Stein with Rep. Young at [Jesse.vonStein@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jesse.vonStein@mail.house.gov), or

Sergio Espinosa with Rep. Green at [Sergio.Espinosa@mail.house.gov](mailto:Sergio.Espinosa@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

---

Eliot L. Engel

---

Don Young

---

Gene Green

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey:

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) 2019 State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations bill.

TB is a curable airborne infection that kills more people worldwide than any other infectious disease. In 2016, 10.4 million people became ill with TB, 10 percent of whom were children. In the same year, 1.7 million people died from TB.

Of particular concern are increasingly frequent cases of drug-resistant TB, which is significantly costlier to treat than drug-sensitive TB. Most drug-resistant TB cases are now caused by transmission from person to person, not by inappropriate treatment, making it considerably easier for drug-resistant TB to spread to new geographic areas. New medications for multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB), along with rapid diagnostics, are enabling much faster progress against the disease. But these new technologies are still underutilized.

Failure to invest in TB control also threatens the substantial gains we have made in the fight against HIV/AIDS. 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.

As the Subcommittee works to maximize the impact of our global health investments, we urge you to consider the devastating effects that an unchecked TB epidemic might have on decades of progress in the global effort to defeat both TB and HIV/AIDS, much of which has been achieved with bipartisan U.S. support.

Funding for USAID's TB control program will help countries highly-burdened by TB enhance their capacity to prevent, diagnose and treat this curable disease. This funding would also support the development and implementation of shorter, less toxic treatments, which will facilitate patient adherence to treatment regimens, reduce program costs, and mitigate the growing threat of drug-resistant TB.

We thank you for your consistent support of USAID's TB control program, and urge you to prioritize TB as you finalize the FY 2019 appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

---

ELIOT L. ENGEL  
Member of Congress

---

DON YOUNG  
Member of Congress

---

GENE GREEN  
Member of Congress