

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2018

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
HT-2, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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.

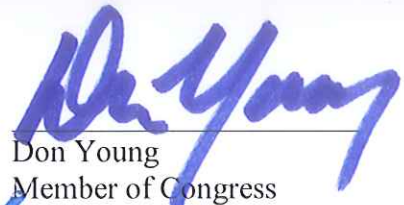
Sincerely,



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



Gene Green
Member of Congress




Don Young
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

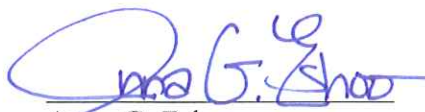
 

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress

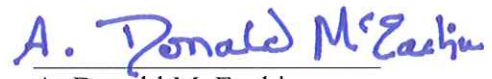
David Scott
Member of Congress



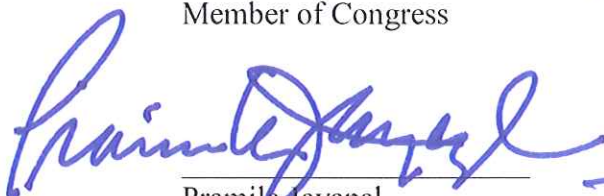
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



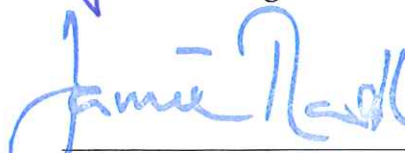
John Lewis
Member of Congress



Colleen Hanabusa
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Denny Heck
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

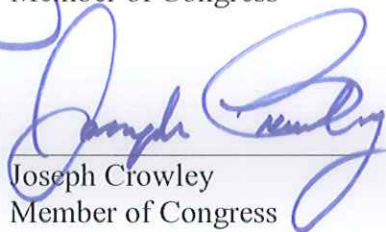


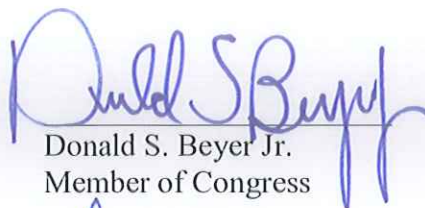
Filemon Vela
Member of Congress


James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

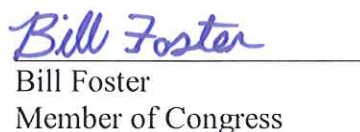

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

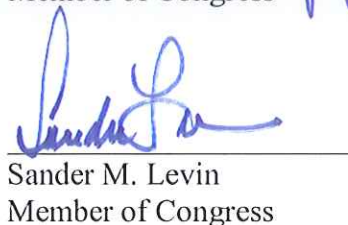

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

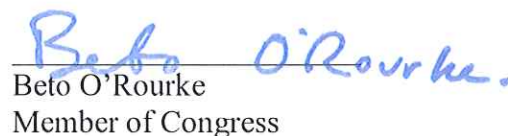

Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress

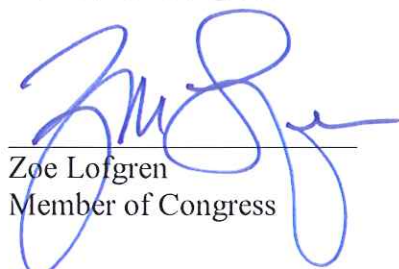

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

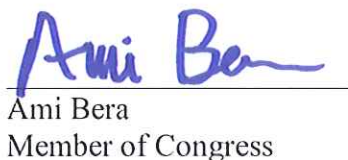

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

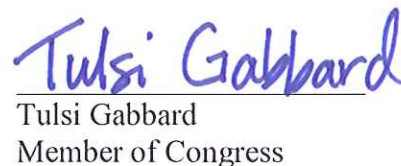

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

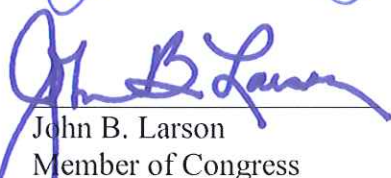

Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress

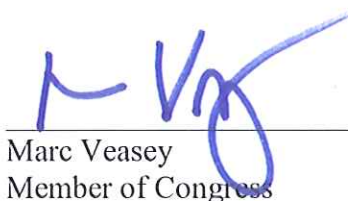

Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress


Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

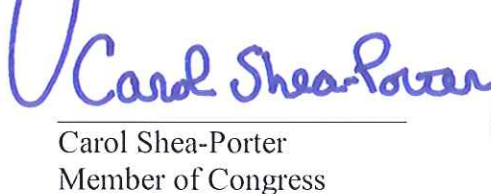

Ami Bera
Member of Congress

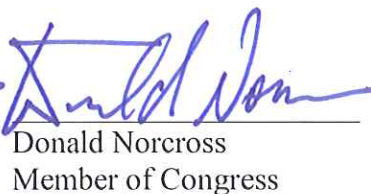

Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress


John B. Larson
Member of Congress


Marc Veasey
Member of Congress

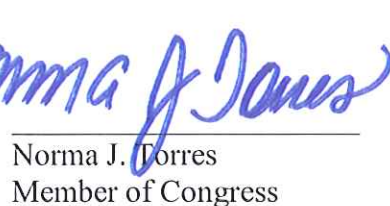

Dave Loebsack
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Bonnie Watson Coleman
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Norma J. Torres
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Michael T. McCaul
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Kathy Castor
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Yvette D. Clarke
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Diana DeGette
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Peter A. DeFazio
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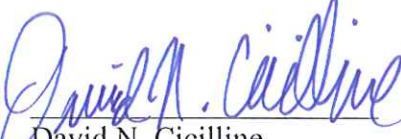

Andre Carson
Member of Congress

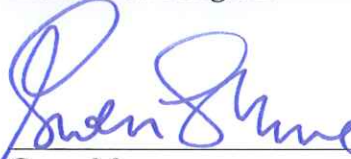

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress


Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

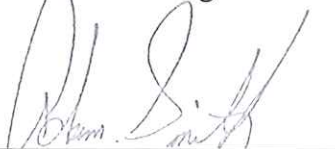

Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress

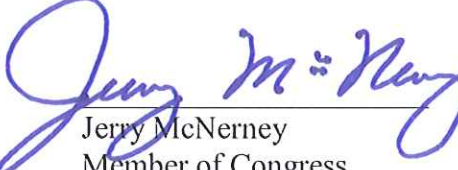

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress


David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

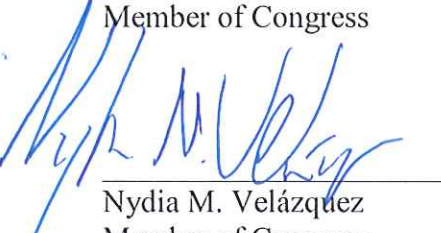

Gwen Moore
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Keith Ellison
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Adam Smith
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Jerry McNerney
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Stephen F. Lynch
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Nydia M. Velázquez
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Lloyd Doggett
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Albio Sires
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Al Green
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William R. Keating
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Leonard Lance
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Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress


Steve Cohen
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Rosa L. DeLauro
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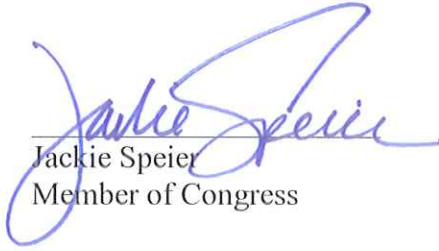

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress


Suzan K. DelBene
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Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
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Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
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