

May 3, 2011

The Honorable Dennis Rehberg
Chairman, Labor-HH-ED Subcm.
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Labor-HHS Subc.
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rehberg and Ranking Member DeLauro:

Thank you for your ongoing leadership in supporting important public health programs through the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (L-HHS) Appropriations Subcommittee. The undersigned organizations recommend a funding level of \$231 million for CDC's tuberculosis (TB) program in FY2012, as authorized by the Comprehensive TB Elimination Act (CTEA). The global TB pandemic, including the spread of drug resistant TB, poses a serious public health threat to the U.S.

TB is the second leading infectious disease in the world, killing 1.7 million people a year. Outbreaks of TB continue to occur throughout the U.S. and the disease is a significant public health problem for border states such as California, Texas, Florida and others. Drug resistant TB poses a particular challenge to state and local public health departments due to the high costs of treatment and intensive health care resources required. Treatment costs for multidrug-resistant (MDR) TB range from \$100,000 to \$300,000 per case, which can cause a significant strain on state and local public health budgets. The U.S. had 113 cases of multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB in 2009.

The CTEA (P.L. 110-392), enacted in 2008, reauthorized TB programs at CDC with the goal of putting the U.S. back on the path to eliminating the disease. The law provides targeted support to federal, state, and local health authorities to detect, treat, and prevent TB, including drug-resistant TB, in the foreign-born population, among U.S. minorities, and along the U.S.-Mexico border. The CTEA as introduced also included a separate authorization, through CDC's TB elimination program, for the development of new TB diagnostics, drugs and vaccines to ease the global pandemic. We hope that this unique area of need can be considered in the final FY2012 funding levels.

We urge you to put the U.S. back on the path towards TB elimination by providing the \$231 million needed for CDC's TB program through FY2012 Labor-HHS Appropriations. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Aeras
AIDS United
American Lung Association
American Thoracic Society
Association of Public Health Laboratories

Global Alliance for TB Drug Development
Infectious Disease Society of America
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
Population Services International
RESULTS
Stop TB USA
The AIDS Institute
The Alliance of Border Collaboratives
Treatment Action Group