

April 29, 2013

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Chairman,
Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairman Kingston 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 \$243 million for CDC's tuberculosis (TB) program in FY2014, as authorized by the Comprehensive TB Elimination Act (CTEA). The global TB pandemic, including the spread of drug resistant TB, poses a serious health threat to the U.S.

TB is the second leading infectious disease in the world, killing 1.4 million people a year, and it poses a serious risk to people with impaired immune systems, including those with diabetes and people living with HIV/AIDS. In the U.S., every state reports cases of TB annually. Outbreaks of TB continue to occur across the country in schools, workplaces and prisons and the disease is a serious problem for border states such as California, Texas, Florida, New York and others. Drug resistant TB, which is on the rise in the U.S., poses a particular challenge to TB control 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 and cost over \$1 million for treatment of extensively drug resistant (XDR) TB, which can cause a significant strain on state and local public health budgets. In 2011, the U.S. had 127 cases of multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB and 6 cases of XDR -TB.

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. If fully funded, 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 FY2014 funding levels.

We urge you to put the U.S. back on the path towards TB elimination by providing \$243 million for CDC's TB program through FY2014 Labor-HHS Appropriations. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Aeras

American Lung Association

American Thoracic Society

Association of Public Health Laboratories

Council of State & Territorial Epidemiologists

Infectious Diseases Society of America

League of United Latin American Citizens

Management Sciences for Health

Migrant Clinicians Network

National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors

National Association of County and City Health Officials

National Tuberculosis Controllers Association

PATH

Partners In Health

Public Health Institute

TB Alliance

Treatment Action Group

Washington Global Health Alliance