

February 2010

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

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

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt:

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 \$220 million for CDC's tuberculosis (TB) program in FY2011, as authorized by the Comprehensive TB Elimination Act (CTEA).

TB is the second leading global infectious disease killer, behind HIV/AIDS. The global TB pandemic, including the rapid spread of drug resistant TB, continues to pose a serious public health threat to the U.S. Eroded state program budgets over the last decade and rising numbers of drug resistant TB cases have significantly undermined our nation's progress against TB. Drug resistant TB poses a particular challenge to state public health budgets due to the high costs of treatment and intensive health care resources required.

The CTEA, signed into law in October 2008, provided a historic reauthorization of CDC's national TB program, including updating the program to the changes in TB epidemiology in the U.S. over this decade. The new 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 of \$100 million 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 FY2011 funding levels.

We urge you to put the U.S. back on the path towards TB elimination by providing \$220 million for CDC's TB program through FY2011 Labor-HHS Appropriations. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Aeras Global TB Vaccine Foundation
American Lung Association
American Public Health Association
American Thoracic Society
Association of State and Territorial Health Organizations
Infectious Diseases Society of America

National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
National Association of County and City Health Officials
The AIDS Institute
Treatment Action Group