

March 2010

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chair
State-Foreign Ops. Subc.
Capitol HB-26
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
State-Foreign Ops. Subc.
Capitol HB-26
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger:

Thank you for your continued leadership in supporting important global health programs through the State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Subcommittee, in particular, your strong support for building USAID's global tuberculosis program. The Administration's Global Health Initiative commits to reducing TB prevalence by 50 percent. The undersigned organizations recommend that the FY2011 State-Foreign Operations Appropriations bill provide \$650 million for USAID's global tuberculosis program, as authorized under the Lantos-Hyde Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria Act and \$1.45 billion for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Tuberculosis (TB) is the second leading infectious disease killer behind HIV/AIDS, taking over 1.8 million lives per year. The emergence and spread of drug-resistant strains of TB, including extensively drug-resistant (XDR) TB, has created a global health crisis. While we urge immediate action in response to the spread of drug-resistant TB, we know that the best way to prevent the future development of other resistant strains of tuberculosis is by establishing and supporting effective TB control programs and laboratories throughout the globe. The USAID TB program provides financial and technical assistance to TB programs in nearly 40 highly-burdened countries.

As you know, the historic Lantos-Hyde Act committed the U.S. to implementation of the Global Plan to Stop TB through the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) global TB program. The Stop TB Strategy expands efforts to detect and treat all forms of TB, including TB in people with HIV/AIDS. The Act also authorized support for the development of urgently needed new TB diagnostic, treatment and prevention tools, including vaccines.

The Lantos-Hyde Act authorized \$4 billion over five years for global TB programs through USAID. We recommend that the FY2011 State-Foreign Operations Appropriations bill provide \$650 million for USAID's global tuberculosis program, to begin a five-year scale up to the funding authorized under Lantos-Hyde. The appropriation of an additional \$50 million for CDC's global TB activities through the FY11 Labor-HHS Appropriations legislation will provide the coordinated global TB investment envisioned under the Lantos-Hyde Act.

Over two-thirds of international funding for global TB control is provided through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, so it is critical that the U.S. provide an increased investment, particularly at this time when the Fund is projecting a significantly increased need to combat these diseases of poverty. To date, the Global Fund has committed approximately \$3.2 billion in 112 countries, treated 6 million people for TB, including MDR-TB and financed 1.8 million HIV/TB services. We recommend a funding level of \$1.75 billion for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria in FY2011, with \$1.45 billion allocated in the State -Foreign Operations Appropriations legislation. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Aeras Global TB Vaccine Foundation
American Lung Association
American Public Health Association
American Thoracic Society
Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, TB and Malaria
Global AIDS Alliance
Infectious Disease Society of America
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
The AIDS Institute
Treatment Action Group