

Co-sign Letter to Appropriators Supporting Funding to Fight Against Domestic Tuberculosis

Sending Office: Honorable Eliot L. Engel
Sent By: Ned.Michalek@mail.house.gov

Request for Signature(s)

Support Funding for the Fight Against Domestic Tuberculosis

Deadline: COB, March 25

Dear Colleague,

Please join us in supporting \$195.7 million for the fight to eliminate Tuberculosis (TB) in the U.S., as part of the Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations process.

This funding is needed to strengthen our national efforts to identify, treat and prevent TB infection, prevent shortages of TB drugs, and intensify research into this disease, including efforts to develop new diagnostic, treatment and prevention tools.

According to the World Health Organization, TB is the leading infectious disease killer worldwide, ahead of HIV/AIDS, with 1.7 million individuals dying from the disease annually. In the U.S., every state continues to report cases of TB each year and the disease is a significant public health problem for states like California, Texas, New York, Florida and others. According to CDC, there are up to 13 million individuals in the U.S. with latent TB infection.

Many believe TB is a disease of the past, but it is still a real public health threat due to a lack of resources to properly treat the disease and develop new, more effective tools to fight TB.

In order to put the U.S. back on the path to TB elimination, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's domestic TB program must be funded at \$195.7 million in FY 2020. If you are interested in signing the letter to support this request, please contact Ned Michalek with Congressman Eliot Engel at ned.michalek@mail.house.gov or at x5.2464 or Jesse Von Stein at jesse.vonstein@mail.house.gov or at x5.5765.

Sincerely,

Eliot L. Engel

Member of Congress

Don Young

Member of Congress

March XX, 2019

Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro

Ranking Member Tom Cole

Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, & Education

Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, & Education

House Committee on Appropriations

House Committee on Appropriations

Washington, DC 20515

Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As you craft legislation making appropriations for fiscal year (FY) 2020, we respectfully request \$195.7 million in funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) domestic tuberculosis (TB) program in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

TB is a curable disease, but is the leading infectious disease killer worldwide, ahead of HIV/AIDS. In its 2013 report on antibiotic resistance, the CDC identified drug resistant TB as a serious health threat to the United States. Many state and local public health departments are struggling with the high costs of treating drug resistant TB, which can cost between \$154,000 and \$250,000 to treat per case. In addition, according to the CDC, there are up to 13 million individuals in the U.S. with latent TB infection who are at risk of developing TB disease. A national prevention initiative, focused on those who are infected and are at greatest risk for progressing to disease, would bring the U.S. significantly closer to wiping out this curable disease for good.

A positive step occurred in December 2015 when an interagency National Action Plan to Combat Multi-Drug Resistant TB (NAP) was released, providing a comprehensive framework for addressing TB globally and in the U.S. Unfortunately, this plan was not funded. Adequately funding the NAP is essential to combating TB, both in the United States and abroad.

Many believe TB is a disease of the past, but it is still a real public health threat due to a lack of resources to properly treat the disease and develop new, more effective tools to fight TB. There is an urgent need to implement a nationwide prevention initiative, as well as develop shorter treatment regimens, faster diagnostics and vaccines to prevent children and adults from all forms of TB.

We ask that the FY 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill provide \$195.7 million to put the U.S. back on the path to TB elimination.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,