

October 25, 2005

Representative Henry Waxman
8436 West Third Street, Suite 600
Los Angeles, CA 90048

Dear Representative Waxman,

The American Lung Association of Los Angeles County (ALALAC) urges you to provide adequate funding for public health by opposing any appropriations bills that cut funding for public health agencies and programs. Specifically, if Tuberculosis (TB) Programs were to be reduced, the influx of TB cases in Los Angeles County will go to unprecedented heights.

Programs aimed at Tuberculosis Control and Prevention have been effective in reducing the number of cases associated with this disease. Last year alone, there were 930 cases of tuberculosis reported in Los Angeles County. This was the lowest amount compared to the number of cases reported four years ago. The decrease in this disease is largely due to the success of control and prevention related programs. These programs rely heavily on public health funding and would be affected if legislators decide to cut funding.

The net effect of any appropriations bill that includes cuts in public health funding would be higher expenses associated with health care in the long term. And in the short-term, while there may be cost savings, there likely would be higher rates of death and disability resulting from Tuberculosis and other diseases that could be prevented. For these reasons, I urge you to oppose any appropriations bill that cuts public health funding.

Thank you for taking this issue into consideration.

Sincerely,

Enrique Chiock

President & CEO
American Lung Association of Los Angeles County (ALALAC)