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Roberta Lawson

RDH, MPH

Executive Administrator

April 25, 2006

Delegation from California

Honorable Delegation from California,

I am writing on behalf of the California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO). CCLHO is comprised of all legally appointed physician Health Officers from California's 58 counties and the cities of Berkeley, Long Beach and Pasadena. It was created by the legislature in 1947 to advise government on local public health practice. CCLHO provides a forum for the discussion of significant health issues in order to develop recommendations for appropriate health policy. This includes legislative and regulatory review.

CCLHO respectfully requests your support of two current efforts to maintain and increase our successes in national tuberculosis (TB) control. Without these proposed enhancements, we will lose the ground we have gained, and will face much greater costs in regaining control over TB in future years.

Multiple drug resistant (MDR – TB) and extensively drug resistant (XDR) strains of TB, are becoming increasingly problematic both globally and domestically and cannot be managed or controlled with current public health funding allocated for TB. Level funding, or even worse, decreased funding, from federal, state and local sources leave our nation and county and local health departments on the verge of utter vulnerability from this virulent, airborne, bacterial infection.

The National Coalition to Eliminate Tuberculosis (NCET) recommends an increase of \$115 million to \$252.4 million to adequately fund the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Tuberculosis Elimination efforts to maintain control over the spread of tuberculosis in the U.S.

Additionally, representatives Heather Wilson (R-NM), Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) have recently introduced S 2465 and H.R.5022 to bolster U.S. involvement in international tuberculosis control efforts.

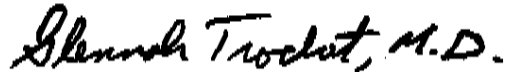
The legislation, called the Stop TB Now Act (S. 2465/H.R. 5022) would:

- Rationalize the U.S. participation in international TB control efforts
- Support international TB control activities at the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Centers for Disease Control
- Increase U.S. funding for international TB control
- Take steps to implement the WHO Global Plan to Stop TB

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Without federal enhancements, we in California, more so than any other state, will bear the burden of the resulting cost shift to our county and local health departments from this global public health threat.

Sincerely,



Glennah Trochet, MD
President, CCLHO

cc: Sarah Royce, M.D., M.P.H., Chief, California Department of Health Services TB Control Branch
Karen Furst, MD, MPH, Chair, CCLHO Communicable Disease Control and Prevention Committee
Judith Thigpen, Executive Administrator, California Tuberculosis Controllers Association