

ADDITIONAL UPDATE FROM THE AMERICAN THORACIC SOCIETY: FY 2009 TB APPROPRIATIONS

In follow up to yesterday's **TB WIRE** update on FY 2009 Appropriations (below), we have been asked to pass on this additional ACTION ALERT from **STOP TB USA** Partner, the American Thoracic Society:

To clarify on the message from 1/27 on the economic stimulus, the most important overall message to get across to Sens. Feinstein, Murray, Landrieu and Hutchison is that the final stimulus package should provide funding, whether it is the \$335 in the House bill or the \$400 million in the Senate bill, for the National Center HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention overall, rather than just HIV/AIDS and STD's. At this point in the progress of the bill, it is better not to advocate for a specific funding number, but just the request that the House language applying the funding to the center as a whole is our preference. If congressional staff specifically ask you for a number, the recommendation for TB out of the \$400 million Senate package is \$170 million, but the priority at this point is ensuring that National Center gets the funding, rather than just specific disease areas.

**FROM YESTERDAY:
UPDATE FROM THE AMERICAN THORACIC SOCIETY: FY 2009 TB APPROPRIATIONS**

Details of the Senate economic stimulus bill were released today. Although the bill includes \$400 million for HIV/AIDS and STD testing, the language does not include TB as the House bill language did. (The House bill provides \$355 million for the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD's and TB). Senate committees are finalizing the bill and will send it to the Senate floor within the next week or so. Following this step, members of the House and Senate Appropriations and Finance and Ways and Means committee's will work out the differences between the 2 bills. It is during this process that we may be able to ensure that TB is included in the final bill and that the DTBE will get some of this funding.

Advocates in the states of CA, WA, LA and TX are asked to contact Sens. Feinstein, Murray, Landrieu and Hutchison to request that the final economic stimulus bill include the House bill language which directs funding to the Center for HIV/AIDS, STD's and TB, and if possible, if a specific allocation of \$60 million can be provided for domestic TB. Reference the FY09 authorization level of \$200 million for domestic TB authorized under the Comprehensive TB Elimination Act, enacted in October 2008. The FY08 funding level was \$140 million, so an allocation of \$60 million in the stimulus package would bring us to this level.

If you wish to receive the **STOP TB USA** messages at a different e-mail address, or if you no longer wish to receive these messages, please reply to jsegerson@tbcoalition.com

STOP TB USA
1911 Olde Village Run
Dunwoody, GA 30338
Tel: 202-494-2448