



3/21/09 TB ADVOCACY ALERTS

STOP TB USA was formerly known as the National Coalition for Elimination of Tuberculosis (NCET). Please pass this information on to your colleagues who are interested in TB elimination.

FROM ATS: DOMESTIC APPROPRIATIONS ALERT - Action Needed by 3/25

We have been asked to pass this on from STOP TB USA Partner, the American Thoracic Society (ATS):

Attached is a Dear Colleague and letter from Reps. Green (D-TX) and Brady (R-TX) to the House Appropriations Committee requesting the \$210 million in FY2010 for domestic TB as authorized under the Comprehensive TB Elimination Act. Reps. Green and Brady have circulated this letter to the entire House and are trying to get as many signatures as possible to support this effort. NTCA advocates are asked to contact their House Representatives and request their signature on the letter. The more signatures we get for this letter, the better the chance that we will get the \$210 million for TB in FY2010. The deadline for sign-ons to the letter is 3/26, so you need to make calls by 3/25.

Call your Representative’s office in DC using the Capitol Switchboard number – 202.224.3121 and ask for your Representative’s office or give your zipcode if you don’t know their name. When connected, ask for the Health LA. Sample message: “I am calling to ask Rep __ to sign on to a letter to the House Labor-HHS Appropriations subcommittee sponsored by Reps. Green and Brady requesting a funding level of \$210 million for domestic TB control, as authorized under the Comprehensive TB Elimination Act, which the Congress passed last year. A Dear Colleague letter has been circulated by Reps. Green and Brady. This funding level will strengthen domestic TB control and protect our communities from outbreaks of drug resistant TB.”

Supplement the above message with talking points about TB in your state, like numbers of drug resistant cases, rises in overall cases, etc. Include your name and number in voicemail messages so that staff can call you back. **Be prepared that you will need to e-mail the (attached) letter to the staff because they may not have seen it (even though it has been e-mailed to all House Health LA’s).** The contacts in Reps. Green and Brady’s for sign on are listed in the letter – your Representative’s office must contact one of these 2 people for confirmed sign-on. Thanks for your action.

FROM RESULTS: GLOBAL APPROPRIATIONS ALERT

This information is being passed on from STOP TB USA Partner, RESULTS:

An economic disaster is unfolding in poorer nations, almost unnoticed, with the crisis pushing an additional 45-90 million people below the \$1.25 poverty threshold according to the World Bank. This is not the time for the U.S. and other developed nations to forget the world’s poorest. We must keep our promises to fund effective development programs like the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. President Obama has committed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, which includes a commitment to abate the destruction caused by AIDS, TB, and malaria, but the U.S. did not

provide its fair share of funding in 2009. In 2010, the Global Fund needs \$8 billion for new and continuing programs. The U.S. share of the \$8 billion gap is one-third, or \$2.7 billion, based on the size of our economy. That \$2.7 billion equals about one-seventh of the amount paid in bonuses last year by Wall Street firms. President Obama and Congress will soon be making decisions about 2010. The U.S. must lead by providing the full \$2.7 billion for 2010. If we lead, other nations will follow.

Our newspapers are filled with daily accounts of economic decline, but with little attention given to those who will be hit hardest. **Help call attention to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria by writing a letter to the editor.** You can access the RESULTS Global TB Fund alert page at: <http://capwiz.com/results/issues/alert/?alertid=12895386> **Take the message that follows it, tailor and personalize it, and send it to your local paper.** Follow the guidelines for letters to the editor provided by your local papers. Always include your address and phone number with your submission. Make your letter short (150-250 words). If your letter gets published, amplify its impact by sending a copy of your published letter to your members of Congress.

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 jseggerson@tbcoalition.com
