



5/9/09 TB ADVOCACY UPDATE!

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.

We have been asked to pass this on by STOP TB USA Partner, the American Thoracic Society:

Contact All House Representatives May 8 - May 22 to Urge Support for Full TB Funding

TB advocates and friends are urged to contact all House Representatives between May 8 and May 22 to urge support for full funding for domestic TB in the FY2010 health spending bill, known as the Labor-Health and Human Services Appropriations bill. The House Labor-HHS Subcommittee is drafting the health and education spending bill this month and will be finalizing it by the end of this month. The subcommittee is expected to vote on the bill by mid-June. TB advocates must contact members of the Labor-HHS subcommittee and all members of the House of Representatives (in order to build broad support in the House) to urge support for the full funding level of \$210 million as authorized under the Comprehensive TB Elimination Act for FY2010.

The President's proposed FY2010 provides a small increase for the TB program, from \$143.8 million in FY09 to \$144.2 million in FY2010. Although this number provides a guideline for Congress, the House and Senate Appropriations committees decide final funding levels and can significantly increase or decrease program spending levels. It is critical that TB advocates contact Labor-HHS Subcommittee members and all House members within the next 2 weeks before the House Appropriations bill is finalized.

How to contact your House Representatives

The members and key staff e-mail addresses of the House Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee are listed below. If you are in one of these states, please call and e-mail them. You may need to make several contacts to get through to congressional staff at this time. Call the Capitol Switchboard at 1-202-224-3121 and ask for your Rep. or give your zip code if you do not know their name. When you are connected to an office, ask for the Appropriations/Health Legislative Assistant. If you leave a voicemail message, include your name and phone number so that they can call you back.

The following is a sample phone/e-mail message: " I am a constituent and a healthcare provider from (your town) and I am calling to ask Rep. _____ to strengthen domestic TB control and spur the development of new TB diagnostic,

treatment and prevention tools by providing the full funding level of \$210 million for CDC's TB program, as authorized under the recently enacted Comprehensive TB Elimination Act, in the FY10 Labor-Health and Human Services Appropriations bill. The Federal TB Task Force (link below), co-chaired by NIH and CDC, published the Action to Combat XDR-TB, in February 2009. This report, which calls for increased federal funding, provides a comprehensive US government response to combating drug resistant TB in the US (Supplement your message with state TB facts such as number of drug resistant cases, etc)."

(Federal TB Task Force report:
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5803a1.htm>)

Talking Points:

- * TB is the one of the leading infectious disease killers in the world, taking over 1.7 million lives per year.
- * The 2006 case of the drug resistant TB patient who traveled between the U.S. and Europe, illustrated that the U.S. is vulnerable to drug resistant TB.
- * The current funding level for CDC's Division of TB Elimination represents a more than 20% decrease over the past decade when adjusted for inflation. As a result of the lack of funding, state TB programs are ill-equipped to respond to drug resistant TB and to eliminate TB in their states.
- * New tools are needed to more effectively prevent, diagnose, and treat TB. The standard method of diagnosing TB is over 100 years old and fails to adequately detect TB in children and those co-infected with HIV/AIDS.
- * The newest class of TB drugs is over 40 years old and is inadequate for combating drug resistant TB.

Nuala S. Moore
Sr. Legislative Representative
American Thoracic Society
1150 18th St., NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20036-3816
(202) 296 - 9770
Nmoore@thoracic.org

House Appropriations Committee, Labor, Health, and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee:

Representative David R. Obey (Chairman) (D,WI, Wausau, Superior, 202.225.3365) Nicole Kunko,
Nicole.kunko@appro.house.gov.

Representative Nita M. Lowey (D,NY-18, White Plains, 202.225.6506) Jean Doyle
jean.doyle@mail.house.gov

Representative Rosa L. DeLauro (D,CT-3, New Haven, 202.225.3661) Leticia Mederos
Leticia.mederos@mail.house.gov

Representative Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. (D,IL-2, Homewood, Chicago, 202.225.0773) Charles Dujon.
charles.dujon@mail.house.gov

Representative Patrick J. Kennedy (D,RI, Pawtucket, 202.225.4911) Dan Murphy
daniel.murphy@mail.house.gov

Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard (D,CA-34, Los Angeles, 202.225.1766) Debbie Jessup
debbie.jessup@mail.house.gov

Representative Barbara Lee (D,CA-9, Oakland, 202.225.2661) Christos Tsentas.
Christos.Tsentas@mail.house.gov.

Representative Michael Honda (D,CA-15, Campbell, 202.225.2631) Bernardette Arellano
bernardette.arellano@mail.house.gov

Representative Betty McCollum (D,MN-4, St. Paul, 202.225.6631) Emily Lawrence
emily.lawrence@mail.house.gov

Representative Tim Ryan (D,OH-17, Youngstown, Warren, Akron, 202.225.5261) Ryan Keating
ryan.keating@mail.house.gov

Representative Todd Tiahrt (Ranking Member) (R-KS, Wichita) Steve Crane –
steve.crane@mail.house.gov

Representative Dennis Rehburg (R-MT) 202.225.3211) Kristin Smith kristin.smith@mail.house.gov

Representative Rodney Alexander (R-LA), Meyer Seligman, 225 – 8490.
meyer.seligman@mail.house.gov

Representative Jo Bonner (R-AL) Luke Strange. 225 – 4931. Luke.strange@mail.house.gov

Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK) Joshua Grogis, 225 – 6156. Joshua.grogis@mail.house.gov

Senate Appropriations Committee, Labor, Health, and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee:

Senator Tom Harkin (Chairman) (D, IA, 202.224.3254), Adrienne Hallett:
Adrienne_Hallett@appro.senate.gov

Senator Daniel Inouye (D,HI, 202.224.3934) Robin Squellati robin_squellati@inouye.senate.gov

Senator Herb Kohl (D,WI, 202.224.5656)

Senator Patty Murray (D,WA, 202.224.2621) Paula Burg paula_burg@murray.senate.gov

Senator Mary Landrieu (D,LA, 202.224.5824) Sarada Peri : Sarada_peri@landrieu.senate.gov

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
