



## 7/13/09 TB ADVOCACY UPDATE!

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**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.

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

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### Contact All Senators July 10 - 24 to Urge Support for Full TB Funding

TB advocates and friends are urged to contact all Senators between July 10 - 24 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 Senate Labor-HHS Subcommittee is drafting their bill this month and is expected to vote on it by the end of the month. **TB advocates must contact members of the Senate Labor-HHS subcommittee and your two Senators (in order to build broad support in the Senate) to urge support for the full funding level of \$210 million in FY2010 as authorized under the Comprehensive TB Elimination Act.**

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 Senators within the next 2 weeks before the Appropriations bills are finalized.**

#### **Senators (members of the Labor-HHS Subcommittee):**

<b>Harkin (D-IA)</b>	<b>Inouye (D-HI)</b>
<b>Kohl (D-WI)</b>	<b>Murray (D-WA)</b>
<b>Landrieu (D-LA)</b>	<b>Durbin (D-IL)</b>
<b>Reed (D-RI)</b>	<b>Pryor (D-AK)</b>
<b>Specter (D-PA)</b>	
<b>Cochran (R-MS)</b>	<b>Gregg (R-NH)</b>
<b>Hutchison (R-TX)</b>	<b>Shelby (R-AL)</b>
<b>Alexander (R-TN)</b>	

#### **How to contact your Senators**

If you are in one of the states listed above, please call 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 Sen. or give your state 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 Sen. \_\_\_\_\_ 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, or as close to this number as possible, in the FY10 Labor-Health and Human Services Appropriations bill. The Federal TB Task Force, 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 25% 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.

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