

December 14, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

The Tuberculosis (TB) Roundtable and the undersigned research, public health and health professional associations working to support global and domestic TB control and research urge Congress to include S. 3386/H.R. 8654, *The End Tuberculosis Now Act*, in any agreed upon omnibus legislation to pass before the end of the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress. *The End TB Now Act* is bipartisan, bicameral, committee-passed legislation that authorizes USAID to establish new goals and strategies to prevent, treat, and cure all forms of TB globally by updating the U.S. Government Tuberculosis Strategy (2015-2019) and the National Action Plan for Combating Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis. The Act also requires rigorous monitoring and evaluation efforts, as well as greater transparency and accountability to Congress.

We thank the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Chair Bob Menendez and Ranking Member Jim Risch, as well as House Foreign Relations Committee Chair Gregory Meeks and Ranking Member Michael McCaul for their bipartisan work to pass this legislation out of committee. We also thank Chair Menendez and Senator Todd Young, as well as Representatives Ami Bera and Maria Salazar for their leadership on this important legislation.

TB is the leading infectious disease killer in the world – resuming its place at the top of the list as COVID-19 deaths have continued to drop. TB disproportionately affects impoverished and marginalized communities – particularly in Africa and southeast Asia. 2021 saw an increase in both TB cases and death rates according to the WHO for the first time in decades, with 10.6 million people falling ill with TB and 1.6 million people dying from this disease. Additionally, TB continues to drive drug-resistance globally with an estimated 450,000 cases of multi-drug resistant (MDR) or rifampicin-resistant (RR) TB. MDR-TB is responsible for nearly one-third of all global deaths related to drug resistance.

The COVID-19 pandemic has strained an already under-funded global TB system, reversing years of progress. The Stop TB Partnership estimates that failing to implement ambitious goals will mean an additional 43 million people would develop TB between 2023 and 2030, leading to an additional 6.6 million TB deaths. This will cost upwards of \$1 trillion in economic loss and a projected 234 million disability adjusted life-years.

In our interconnected world, global health programs benefit us all. Strengthening USAID's TB policies will promote U.S. foreign policy goals, demonstrate our global leadership, and accelerate economic growth around the world. As such, we urge you to include S. 3386/H.R. 8654, *The End TB Now Act*, in any FY2023 omnibus package. If you have any questions about *The End TB Now Act*, please do not hesitate to contact Crickett Nicovich of RESULTS at [cnicovich@results.org](mailto:cnicovich@results.org).

Thank you for consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

American Lung Association

American Thoracic Society

America's TB Coalition

AVAC

Christian Connections for International Health

Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation

Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Georgia AIDS Coalition

Global Health Council

Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC)

IAVI

Infectious Disease Society of America

JSI

National TB Controllers Association

ONE Campaign

Partners in Health

R2H Action

RESULTS

Stop TB USA

TB Alliance

Treatment Action Group

We Are TB

CC: Chairman Bob Menendez, Ranking Member Jim Risch, Chairman Gregory Meeks, Ranking Member Michael McCaul