

April 2, 2009

The Honorable David Obey  
Chairman, Labor-HH-ED Subcm.  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiaht  
Ranking Member, Labor-HHS Subc.  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiaht:

Thank you for your ongoing leadership in supporting important programs in public health through the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (L-HHS) Appropriations Subcommittee.

As you may be aware, the President signed the *Comprehensive Tuberculosis Elimination Act* (P.L. 110-392) into law on October 13, 2008. This historic legislation was based on the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine and revitalized programs at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), emphasizing:

1. Continued strong support for CDC's basic tuberculosis elimination activities;
2. The development of new tools for the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis, including multidrug-resistant and extensively drug-resistant strains;
3. Intensification and coordination of basic and clinical research activities with the goal of tuberculosis elimination.

P.L.110-392 authorizes \$210 million for CDC's tuberculosis elimination program for FY10. We recommend that the FY10 Labor-HHS Appropriations bill provide this increased authorization level of \$210 million to strengthen domestic TB control and protect our communities from outbreaks of drug resistant TB.

The Comprehensive Tuberculosis Elimination Act as introduced included a separate authorization of \$100 million through CDC's TB elimination program for the development of urgently needed new TB diagnostic, treatment and prevention tools to ease the global TB pandemic, and we hope that this unique area of need can be considered in the final FY10 funding levels.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Aeras Global TB Vaccine Foundation  
American Lung Association

American Public Health Association  
American Thoracic Society  
Association of Public Health Laboratories  
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists  
Families USA  
Global Alliance for TB Drug Development  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
Stop TB USA  
RESULTS  
The AIDS Institute  
Treatment Action Group