BILATERAL TUBERCULOSIS APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

Partners In Health (PIH), an international nonprofit, has treated & prevented TB in some of the poorest and most vulnerable communities in the world. PIH Engage is a grassroots network of thousands of advocates across the US organizing for the right to health.

Why is Investing in TB Important?

Tuberculosis (TB) is the leading infectious killer in the world today. In 2017, there were 4,900 TB deaths globally each day. In the same year, 234,000 children died of TB. TB is also a leading cause of death among people living with HIV. TB is highly infectious, spreading mainly by cough, sneeze or saliva. However, TB is preventable and curable – no one should die of TB in the 21st century. Effective treatments have existed for close to 50 years, yet the disease remains one of the top 10 causes of death worldwide.

According to the WHO, without treatment, TB mortality rates may be as high as 70% within 10 years of diagnosis.

1.8 million people die from TB each year

The Power of Investments

The brunt of the medical, social and economic impacts of TB is largely felt in low- and middle-income countries, particularly in 22 countries where the rates of TB are the highest. While the low rates of TB found in wealthy nations serve as a testament to humanity’s ability to control the spread of the epidemic, proven tools and techniques- including new technologies- are often not available where they are needed most. There are several obstacles to a comprehensive approach to driving down rates of TB, including: (a) weak or under-resourced health systems; (b) lack of patient social support, making treatment less effective and harder for people with TB to continue; and (c) improper treatment regimens inadvertently creating resistant strains for which first-line drugs are not effective. Investments in USAID TB programs can help close these gaps.
What is needed to close the gap between burden & interventions?

History of US Support

Comprehensive TB prevention, detection, treatment, and social supports for those affected must be scaled up, particularly in countries or regions with high rates of TB. Bilateral USAID TB programs support and strengthen local health systems to ensure that laboratories are equipped to accurately diagnose new cases and people with TB have access to proper treatment.

Since the late 1990s, the U.S. has been one of the largest donors to global TB funding. USAID supports efforts to address TB in more than 50 countries (including at least 20 of the 30 high burden countries where newest cases are occurring). USAID also works in concert with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, helping countries develop and manage Global Fund grants.

Opportunity for Leadership

World leaders have adopted the goal to end the tuberculosis epidemic by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals and reiterated this commitment during last year’s UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis. The US can be a leader in this global effort by investing in the scaling-up of TB prevention, diagnosis, and treatment efforts. We request, along with other advocates, for Congress to allocate $400 million in TB funding in the FY21 budget. Every dollar invested in finding and treating people with TB has an estimated return on investment of $85 USD in social and economic impact. By increasing global TB investments, we would dramatically decrease new cases and thus reduce long-term costs.

To support this effort, please submit an appropriations request form to Senators Graham and Leahy or Representatives Lowey and Rogers as Chairs and Ranking Members of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittees of Appropriations.

<table>
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<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
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<td>Bilateral TB Appropriations</td>
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<td>$306 million</td>
<td>$310 million</td>
<td>$400 million</td>
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References

https://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/newsroom/topics/tb/index.html
https://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/newsroom/topics/tb/index.html
https://www.thefacts.org/deaths_from_tb/
https://www.thefacts.org/fact_sheets/detail/tuberculosis
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BUILDING THE RIGHT TO HEALTH MOVEMENT

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