

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 25, 2015

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,  
and Related Programs  
HT-2, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,  
and Related Programs  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Lowey:

Thank you for your leadership on the Foreign Operations Subcommittee and your dedication to global health and development efforts. We write to request that you provide \$400 million in funding for bilateral tuberculosis (TB) control in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations bill to build global capacity to stop this terrible disease.

Although usually treatable with a course of inexpensive drugs (\$16–\$20), TB is the leading curable infectious killer in the world, claiming 1.5 million lives per year. Worldwide, TB is a leading cause of death among women of reproductive age and it is under-recognized health problem in children. The reality is that in 2013, an estimated 550,000 children became ill with TB and 80,000 HIV-negative children died of TB.

As the leading infectious killer of people with HIV/AIDS, TB is undermining the substantial gains we have made through PEPFAR. In some sub-Saharan African countries, the proportion of TB patients living with HIV exceeds 50 percent, and one in four AIDS deaths is related to TB. As the Subcommittee considers maximizing the impact of our global health dollars, we urge you to protect our PEPFAR investments by supporting funding to prevent, detect, and treat TB.

Antimicrobial resistant pathogens are a growing problem worldwide, and drug resistant tuberculosis is one of the most concerning since it is airborne and very costly to treat. Caused by improper or incomplete treatment, it poses an extreme risk to patients, their families and health care personnel. The US Centers for Disease Control has classified drug resistant tuberculosis as a "serious" public health threat in the US. Globally, there are about 480,000 multi-drug resistant tuberculosis cases each year. In the U.S., these cases often cost an estimated \$100,000 - \$300,000 per patient to treat.

Scientific advances have led to progress in the development of new and better diagnostic tools that will help transform the fight against TB, but research must be accelerated to develop shorter treatment regimens and a more effective vaccine. Most TB drugs were developed more than 40

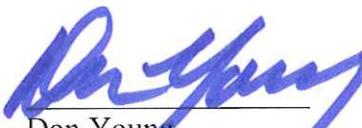
years old and must be taken for 6 - 9 months. The TB vaccine, which is more than 85 years old, provides some protection against severe forms of TB in children, but is unreliable against adult pulmonary TB, which accounts for most of the worldwide disease burden. U.S. investments can help bring technology to scale and provide continued support for new tools to fight TB.

In 2008, Congress passed into law the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act. An allocation of \$400 million in FY 2016 would be consistent with this authorization and commensurate with the global burden of TB. Funding for USAID's TB control program helps build capacity in 23 countries highly-burdened by TB and supports the development of new diagnostic and treatment tools, and is also authorized to support research to develop new vaccines to combat TB.

We recognize that you face difficult choices in deciding how to best fund the many foreign assistance programs that require support in FY 2016. We thank you for your continued leadership, and urge you consider TB as an important priority in your FY 2016 appropriations bill.

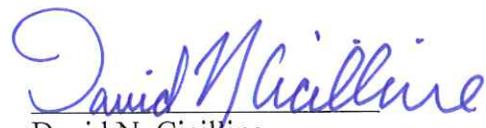
Sincerely,

  
Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress

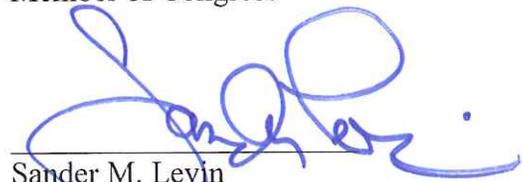
  
Don Young  
Member of Congress

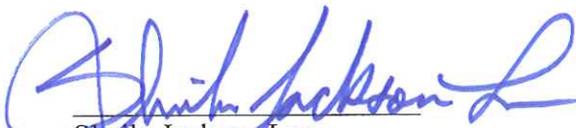
  
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Alcee L. Hastings  
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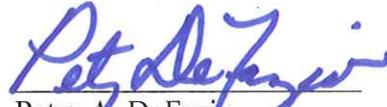
Keith Ellison  
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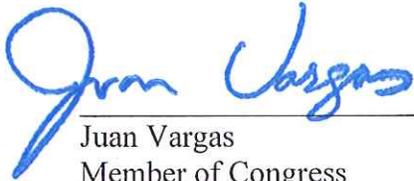
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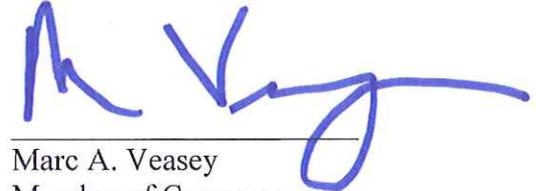
Ted Lieu  
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Peter A. DeFazio  
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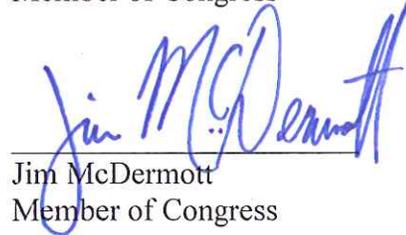
Juan Vargas  
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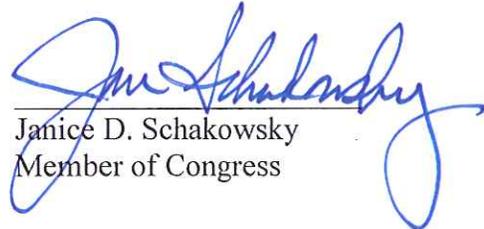
Filemon Vela  
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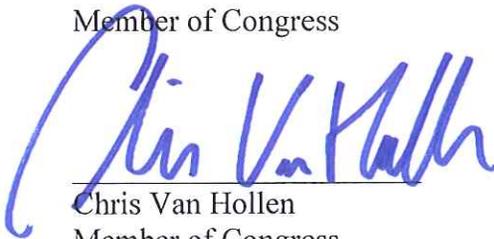
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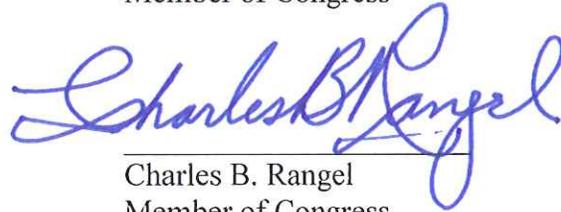
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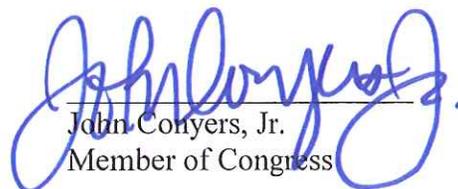
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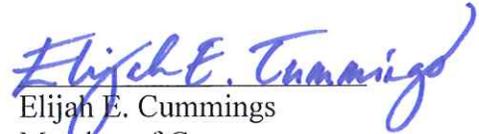
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Danny K. Davis  
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Elijah E. Cummings  
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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
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André Carson  
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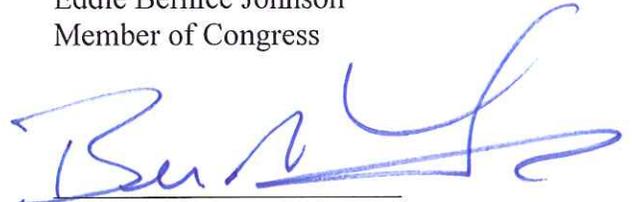
Zoe Lofgren  
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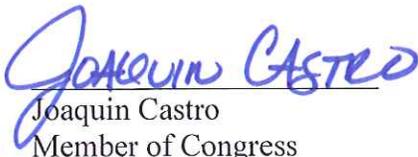
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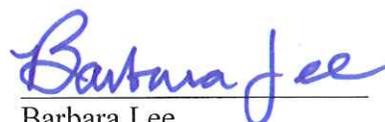
Tulsi Gabbard  
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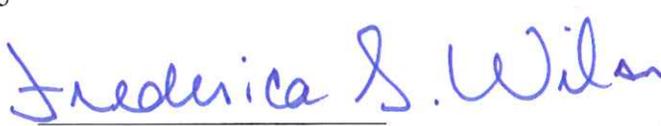
Donna F. Edwards  
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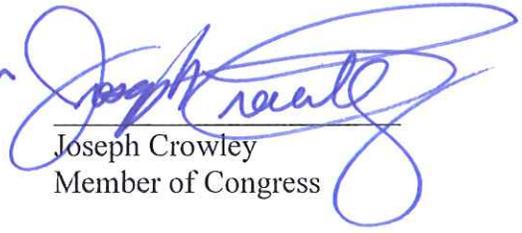
Bonnie Watson Coleman  
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Barbara Lee  
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Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



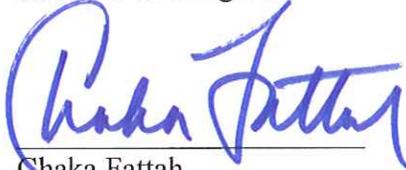
Joseph Crowley  
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Donald Norcross  
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Albio Sires  
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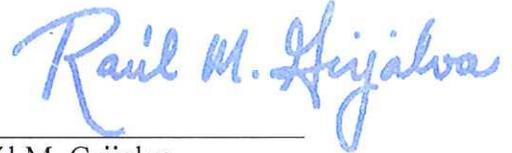
Chaka Fattah  
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