

## **ACTION ALERT**

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### **2011 TB Funding – Contact Your Members of Congress Now!**

*Urge your Representatives to prevent a cut to CDC's TB program and instead provide an urgently needed investment into eliminating TB in the US!* Congress passed the bipartisan Comprehensive TB Elimination Act in October 2008. This new law recommended a funding level of \$220 million for CDC's domestic TB program in FY2011.

TB advocates must educate their members of Congress, particularly members of the House and Senate Labor-HHS subcommittees, about this funding level and the reasons why TB programs need this increased funding.

#### **How to Contact Your Representative/Senators**

Call the Capitol Switchboard at 1-202-224-3121 and ask for your Rep/Sen. or give your zip code if you do not know their name. When you are connected to an office, ask for the Appropriations/Health Legislative Assistant.

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 Rep/Sen. \_\_\_\_\_ to prevent a recommended cut to CDC's domestic TB program recommended under the President's FY2011 budget. I am concerned that if the TB program is cut that states will be vulnerable to resurgences of TB, including outbreaks of drug resistant TB. Due to severe budget cuts at the state-level, many states are struggling to maintain their program capacity and treat steady cases of drug resistant TB, which is very expensive and complicated to treat.

The Comprehensive TB Elimination Act, passed in 2008, authorized \$220 million for CDC's TB program for FY2011. I understand that the 2011 health budget is very tight, but I ask you to prevent the recommended cut to CDC's TB program and provide a needed funding increase. This funding will also support CDC research into new tools to help reduce the global TB pandemic. Thank you."

(Supplement your message with state TB data such as number of drug resistant cases, etc).

Leave your name & phone number on voicemails so that staffers can call you back.